

have decided to qualify for the Presidency myself."

Belle joined in the laugh, but she said, "There again, you are mistaken, Amy. I want no monopoly. I would like half a dozen of you to study the duties of the President this year—and then—'fair field and no favor.'"

"I could never be a President," said Nellie Smith, "but with plenty of practice I know I could be a good Recording Secretary."

"Bravo," said Belle, "Who else?"

"I could be a Cor.-Secretary," said Gertie Brown, "I just love to write letters."

"I like to count money and add up figures," said Kate Fellows, "I would study to be a Treasurer."

"I like to know whether people's accounts are right or wrong?" laughed her friend Gertrude, "I will be the Auditor."

"Well, girls, I think we stand a good chance of having all our offices filled next year," said Belle pleasantly.

"We are out in the cold," said one of the girls who had not spoken, "there seems to be nothing left for us to do."

"Yes, indeed, there will be lots of important committees to form, for which you can begin to qualify. There will be the Programme Committee, the Watch Tower and others. There will be no drones in next year's hive."

"I think, perhaps, my work will be to help the Mission Band Leader," said sweet Mary Green, "She asked me at the beginning of the year, but I told her I hadn't time. I think now that perhaps I might find time."

"And wont she be delighted," said Belle, "Poor thing, she needs help with the children. And then, Mary, you can give them this idea of training; it will be grand for the Mission Band. We ought to help them with our ideas, for we know how it is ourselves."

"Belle, you promised, remember, to tell us how this idea came to you."

"I think I know already," said Amy, slyly.

"Of course you do, said Belle," "now let us go on with our work while we talk, for we must finish this today. To tell you the truth the idea originated in our meeting for the election of officers."

"I knew it!" said Amy.

"Girls, I never was so mortified in all my life! You know we had visitors at that meeting—the minister's wife, among them, of all others. I have not had the face to call at the parsonage since. Each one of us as she was elected, you remember, utterly refused to act, most of us pleading ignorance and incompetency as an excuse. We actually allowed poor, little Mrs.

Stevens, who really had an excuse, having three small children and being much of the time without a servant, to fill the chief place that you or I ought to hold. I cried over it when I went home, I felt so ashamed of myself."

"Why didn't you accept the Presidency *then* if you felt so much about it?" said Jennie Green.

"I couldn't—I did not know enough to have confidence in myself and I cannot do good work without it.

That night I thought it all out. Here were we, a lot of sensible girls—we are sensible, most of us, are we not, girls?" asked Belle with a little laugh. "We know quite a good deal about some things—domestic affairs, for instance—we can all do fancy work and take quite a large share in bazaars and tea-meetings—we are glad to do that, you know, but when it comes to the most important part of God's work, when He expects willing-hearted service from us to have us all refuse—Oh, I thought, suppose He should refuse *me* someday"—Here Belle's eyes filled with tears, but she hurried on. "So I determined that if there is such a thing as qualifying for office I would begin at once. I chose the President's because it seemed the hardest to fill, not from a wrong kind of ambition, as you suggested."

"Forgive us for that piece of injustice, Belle," said Amy, "it was only fun, you know, after all."

"O yes, I understand that Amy. But I want you all to know that this is not a matter of fun with me but dead earnest. 'The King's business requireth haste'—I think that means all the energy that love can bring to it."

"Belle, would you mind explaining to us exactly what you mean by 'qualifying for office?' How are you going to do it?"

"Well, in the first place, I am going to read up all I can find in our Home field and the Foreign field. I believe that nothing gives one confidence like knowledge. Then I am going to keep my eyes and ears open all through the year, in the meetings and out, not to criticize others but to watch them, to learn by their successes and failures. Then, as there is no teacher like experience, I am going to practice at presiding, so that any time when you visit me through the year you may generally find me conducting a missionary meeting with the chairs and tables as audience." They all laughed, but soon grew serious again.

"I think we all feel much as you do Belle," said Mary Green. "Suppose we change our name and call ourselves The Willing-hearted Circle.—It will have a new meaning for us after this."

St. John.

S. E. S.