

liberty that is in Jesus Christ. "If two of you shall agree touching anything they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

Mission Bands.

PAPER READ BY MRS. MUTCH, TORONTO, AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 17TH, 1895.

The importance of Mission Bands cannot well be overestimated. To them we must look for the replenishing of this Society with women filled with missionary zeal, with knowledge; women familiar with our fields and methods of conducting them; women capable of carrying on the present organization with ability and efficiency. The basis of this Society, the source of its supply, is the Mission Band, and I hesitate not to say that it will have much to do with the missionary character of the future Church.

Are we fully impressed with the grave responsibility of having such a power in our hands; of the glorious opportunity, ours now, but passing on swift wing? The Roman Catholic Church is fully convinced of the necessity and utility of indoctrinating the young in those principles they wish them to exhibit in later life, and act accordingly.

We have 335 Auxiliaries which have no Mission Band in connection with them, besides congregations which have no Auxiliary and no Band. I am well aware that this does not necessarily mean that there are 335 auxiliaries which have no practical regard for and interest in the young within their reach. A Mission Band is in some places an impossibility on account of distance, etc., and some, reported as having no Band, are doing a good work in influencing Sabbath Schools, which is within the reach of all. But there is a question which we may all very properly ask ourselves: Are we to the utmost of our ability discharging our duty to the Church, to this Society, to the young? One function of any prudent, zealous Auxiliary should be to have in training those who are to come after them. One cannot see how any Auxiliary, alive to the object of its formation, can be practically regardless of the young. Surely if the Presbyterian machinery in operation is considered necessary for the development and fostering of societies of women much more is it necessary and should it be used for the nourishing of the young. It is a sad sight to see in many of our congregations so many intelligent, energetic, sympathetic young women going to waste as far as the ennobling and absorbing work of missions is concerned. In our Presbyterian reports we see at times this written of societies: "Disbanded for want of a leader." Let us hope that through the efficiency of our Mission Bands such will be less frequent in the future.