

YOU NEVER CAN TELL.

BY ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

You never can tell when you send a word,
Like an arrow shot from a bow
By an archer blind, be it cruel or kind,
Just where it may chance to go.
It may pierce the heart of your dearest friend,
Tipped with its poison or balm;
To a stranger's heart in life's great mart
It may carry its pain or its calm.

You never can tell when you do an act
Just what the result will be;
But with every deed you are sowing a seed,
Though the harvest you may not see.
Each kindly act is an acorn dropped
In God's productive soil;
You may not know, but the tree shall grow,
With shelter for those who toil.

You never can tell what your tongue will do
In bringing you hate or love;
For thoughts are things, and their airy wings
Are swifter than carrier-dove.
They follow the law of the universe—
Each thing must create its kind,
And they speed o'er the track to bring you back
Whatever went out from your mind.

FIELD STUDY FOR SEPTEMBER.

Another year for Jesus, Retrospect and Prospect.
How rapidly the months have slipped away since
we last wrote this heading to our study!

We pause to ask if our outlook is wider, our spiritual life deeper? Are we ready to give more effective service in our Lord's vineyard?

One of the rewards that always follows the faithful performance of duty is the ability to do more. If we are the channels through which spiritual blessings are carried to others, we cannot fail to be blessed ourselves. And then the other side. "I believe," says one, "in the spiritual race, half our punishment is in opportunities lost and capacity undeveloped."

We need to keep the first object of our society in view. A band that does not promote a missionary spirit is a failure, no matter how much money it raises. Aim to make the monthly meeting attractive.

Those who have not tried the Watch Tower had better try one for the coming year.

Appoint a leader for each field, then let everyone choose which leader they will serve under. A wholesome rivalry in keeping their leader supplied with the latest news will see everyone at work.

How many are willing this year to try a little personal work? Tell a story of missionary trials or triumph to some friend who has not had the advantage

of missionary training—people are uninterested, not because they do not care, but because they know so little.

For instance, take some Christian woman, busy with her house and church work. She has perhaps heard or read that thousands of girl babies in China are exposed to perish, but she does not realize it as a fact; tell her of the chilled, starving ones brought in to Miss Ford and Miss Blackbill, what efforts were made to revive them and save their lives; tell it with all the details that help to make it real, and you will not fail to arouse interest. These two babies brought within range of her mental vision are likely to awaken sympathy that will extend to their country women.

For the second time in our history one of our missionaries has been called from the active work to the presence of her Lord.

To us her death seemed sad and untimely, yet as we think of that little "God's acre" so far away, we realize that the land that holds our dead is brought nearer than ever before.

Miss Ford's illness was due to a shock sustained during the riots. She can truly be said to have given her life for China, making one of the noble army of martyrs.

The year has brought much anxiety to those who bear the burden of responsibility; we need to be much in prayer as the time comes for our gathering in Annual and Branch meetings, that our counsels may be full of the grace and wisdom which are the gifts of our Heavenly Father. E. A. D.

QUESTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER.

Can we say, "yes," to the three first questions in our study this month? If not, why not?

What is one of the rewards that follows the faithful performance of duty?

What shall we gain by being channels of spiritual blessing to others?

What idea is expressed in the quotation given?

What is the first object of our society which must be kept in view?

What is said of a Band that does not promote a missionary spirit?

What should be our aim in regard to monthly meetings?

Is the Watch Tower a success?

What plan is recommended in regard to leaders?

What will set every one at work?

What excellent idea is suggested in regard to personal work?

Why are people not interested in missionary work?

What example is given of this personal work which each of us may do?

How should we tell the story to make it real?

Should China be nearer to our hearts because one of our missionaries has a grave there?

For what should we pray, remembering that the Annual and Branch meetings are so near?