

THE SPARE WOMAN.

[From a short Paper read by MRS. SHENRON, at the Annual Meeting of the Saint John Auxiliaries and Bands.]

I had concluded that the Spare Woman must mean all who did not belong either to the Dorcas Society, the Sustentation Fund, the King's Daughters, the W. C. T. Union, the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Woman's Council, or the Woman's Missionary Societies. But in looking over the Church Membership, I found that while all of those, as well as other Societies, were represented, sometimes by one and the same individual, yet a large number of our Christian women were not members of any of those societies. I was aware that our Visiting and Leaflet Committees had frequently made a house to house canvas, and always came back laden with promises from the members that they would be at the next meeting if they could possibly spare the time, and from others, they would like to come but could not spare the time. And as I mentally counted up the irresponsibles I thought if to-day we could adopt some plan to touch that class of spare women, we would be doing a work hitherto undone. But, Ladies, I never fully realized the importance of my subject until I consulted Noah Webster, when I found he had devoted nearly a whole column to the word 'Spare.' In fact he had treated it exhaustively, but I will omit the Latin, most of the English, and all of the poetical quotations, and give you just one definition, which is: "Held in reserve, to be used in an emergency—a spare anchor." In a figurative sense an anchor is that which gives stability or security, that on which we place dependence for safety. Anchors are of different sizes. The principal one is the sheet anchor, the one upon which most dependence is placed, and it answers to the same place on a ship that the president of the Branch does to the safe working of our auxiliaries and bands. Then we have the best bower anchor, and the small bower anchor; the spare anchor; the stream anchor; and the kedge anchor, which is the smallest of all the anchors; all of which, figuratively, can be applied to all of us, the lesser lights of this society. But do not forget that they all have their place and their work, but the spare anchor is one of the most important, as it is kept for emergencies. Clara Barton, of "Red Cross" fame, is an emergency woman, who, like a shaft of sunlight in a weeping sky, goes to bleeding, oppressed Armenia; she goes to fight a bloodless battle, while the armies of Europe and America stand scowling at each other, a disgrace to their manhood and their Christianity. And the records of our Women's Missionary Societies

are rich and thickly dotted with the names of emergency women—women whose names will be an inspiration and a benediction when they shall have received the reward of those who come up through great tribulation.

Then, my sisters, let it be our ambition to be the spare women who always keep in sympathetic touch with our Lord's command. "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth labourers into His harvest." Let us do our work well, and then we will be fitted for more and better service; and if the old ship gets tossed in the rough sea of diversity of opinion, or drifts to danger by trade winds, on the expediency of substituting Home Missions for Foreign, let us, in seamen's language, back an anchor, and as we do so cable it to the ship with willing hands, liberal gifts, and earnest prayer. And if we do this we will never drift far from the anchor ground, "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast."

CLOCK EXERCISE OF LOVE.

A pretty exercise comes to us in *Over Sea and Land*, which we copy for the benefit of our mission circles. For this exercise three things are necessary: first, that the children should have been taught the verses beforehand; second, a large clock face with plain figures—any jeweller will furnish one with hands in working order; third, a gong that can be struck to imitate a clock striking the hours. The leader turns the hands to each hour, and a helper strikes the corresponding hour on the gong; at the last stroke the children recite the verses for that hour:

- I. Love.
- II. Love God.
- III. God is Love
- IV. Love is of God.
- V. God loveth a cheerful Giver.
- VI. There is no fear in Love.
- VII. If ye love Me, keep My commandments.
- VIII. We love Him because He first loved us.
- IX. Love suffereth long and is kind, thinketh no evil.
- X. These things I command you, that ye love one another. Dayspring.

GOOD CHEER CORNER.

During the building of Strasburg cathedral, a legend says, a poor peasant woman, with patient love and zeal, worked many a weary year in polishing and preparing a stone for a place in the building. When bowed with age and toil her finished stone was brought, the builder kindly told her no place was left except far up on the lofty spire, unseen by human eye.

"A smile lit up her old worn face.
'That place is just the place for me;
My stone will meet the eye I love,
The angels and my Lord can see.'

"The stone our love has polished long,
In life's cathedral may not gain
An honored place; but not for that
Was love's work ever wrought in vain,"