

proved the usefulness of this work in London, two ladies possessing considerable local influence desired to plant, by God's blessing, in the West a branch of that tree which was producing such good fruit in the East, and the London managers gladly agreed to assist in extending the machinery into Devonshire and Cornwall. The plan was laid before the late Bishop of Exeter, and, having obtained his Lordship's cordial approval, a Branch Association was formed in November, 1862, under the same rules, and governed by the same principles as the parent Society, with which it is still in close connection and constant communication.*

It is not intended here to give a complete account of the work of the Diocesan Association, but merely a few instances to prove the suitability of the means employed for the end attempted, by showing the good done not only in "the three towns," but in the heart and on the shores of the two counties, especially Cornwall.

The readers of *Mission Life* may probably remember a paper written by the Honourable Mrs. J. C. Talbot (President of the Society), which appeared in January, 1870, and in which the objects of the work, and the persons among whom it is carried on, are described. They will have noticed that women are both the agents and the subjects of the Missions, while the scene of their operations is the homes of the English poor. According to whether she is working in town or country, the Parochial Mission-woman may be found living in a lodging or in a cottage; but it is essential that she should herself be on the same social level as the persons among whom she labours, and to whom she is supposed to be a model in dress, home, character, and conduct. She receives from the Association the few shillings a-week she was in the habit of earning; and, as the rate of female labour is low in the West, this sum there in no instance exceeds 1s. or 1s. 6d. a-day, to which, sometimes, a trifle for rent is added. In short, she is *maintained*, and *rewarded*, by her richer fellow-workers, and still remains the *bona fide* poor woman she was when selected by her clergyman. Her work begins by collecting deposits for the purchase of Bibles and Prayer Books, clothing and bedding in the homes of the people, and in her visits for this purpose to the lowest, she gains an opportunity of doing many a kindly act for the sick, the aged, or the neglected, as well as of saying a word in season not only on the advantages of thrift and cleanliness, but on the duties of sobriety and chastity.

It is difficult to realise the position of a poor, ignorant woman whose heart for the first time has been awakened, by God's grace,

* The Exeter Diocesan Branch is under the Management of the following ladies, by whom further information will be willingly afforded, and further assistance thankfully received: Lady Louisa Fortescue, Boconnoc, Lostwithiel; Lady Agnes Wood, Powderham Castle, Exeter; Lady Duckworth, Wear House, Exeter; Mrs. Pole Carew, Antony, Torpoint, Devonport; Glanville, Hon. Sec., Sconner, St. Germans, Cornwall.