

God the Father placed the Son (the Great Intercessor) between Himself and a perishing world. He (the Son) placed His people between Himself and a perishing world, that *they* also may be intercessors, that through His accomplished work of redemption, and through His high priestly censer, we may present our intercession for the world, and for the advancement of His kingdom. Go ye into all the world, is the commission He placed in the hands, first of woman, then of man, both one in Christ, to tell and to preach the Gospel. Are we the poorer for giving to Foreign Missions? Study the experience of God's givers, and find that where five talents were traded with for Him they were doubled; where two were used they were multiplied sometimes to a hundredfold, whereas the one talent hid away only brought condemnation. We must either go or send. Money is needed, and giving for God's cause is an act of worship, as well as is prayer.

Now, what do our discouragements amount to? They are to the encouragements as the feather in one scale and the gold coin in the other. Let us turn them into encouragements. To do this, let us take a retrospect of the last decade, of our increasing numbers in auxiliaries, in mission bands, in presbyterials, of our contributions, of our knowledge of the field and the work at home and abroad. Compare 1877 with 1887. In 1877, auxiliaries, eighteen; in 1887, 251; three mission bands in 1877; in 1887, seventy-six; no presbyterial in 1877; in 1887, eighteen; contributions in 1877, \$1,005.39; in 1887, \$18,581.05. Shall we not take courage, and go out with our spices of prayer, and work, money and talent, to minister to the Lord's body, which is His Church? Shall we not go out in faith, knowing from His Word, whatever obstacles may be in the way, we shall yet come upon a complete and living Saviour, Christ? What may we not expect when another decade comes around? Where now there are ten, there will be 100, where 100, 1,000, and so on in progression.

Let us take up a few of the points of encouragement. There is a growing spirituality among our women. I have felt this in my visits: a desire to do missionary service to our Lord, a laying aside of the old reserve, and a stepping out to join in the missionary ranks; and I believe when their interests will be enlisted by knowledge of the work, through literature, addresses, or whatever means pastors and missionary women can bring before them, there will be an outcome from our Presbyterian women that will work marvels, because when they do move they move. Woman's courage in her Lord's service is growing and encouraged from many sources. First, she is searching, as never before, for her title records in the registry of God's Word, and finds that the Saviour took up His abode on earth, first with a woman; His first miracle was performed at the request of a woman; His first recorded lesson in prayer was to a woman; His first revelation of Himself as the resurrection and the life was to a woman; His first appearance after His resurrection was to a woman; His first Gospel commission was given to a woman. In all woman's relations Christ busied Himself in clearing away the obloquy and separation that was heaped on women by man, after that first act of disobedience to God, and Christ has replaced her in more than her former honours, side by side with man, for the inner circle of His presence in His public teaching was accorded to woman. Notice that when they brought their children to Christ, He caused the mothers to have the nearest place to Himself; also the women who sat at His feet and washed His feet, and the woman who touched the hem of His garment (contented to be concealed), Christ encouraged her to speak before that mixed multitude, and she was rewarded by a gracious recognition for so doing. True she trembled, as many of us do, to speak for Jesus; but Christ regards even such with loving personal favour. Thus woman is encouraged by her birthright privileges being restored. Again, the Church is aroused to recognize the importance of the co-operation with woman in Church work; also to the necessity of training for woman, as well as for man, in all the branches of Christian work. Notice, for example, the action of the Mother Church in last year's Assembly at Edinburgh—the unanimous carrying of a motion for a woman's guild, having three grades of training, and restoring the ancient order of deaconesses. Observe, the highest men in the Church fathered this resolution, and were dumb with grateful astonishment

at the unanimous passing of it without a dissenting voice. They expected opposition, but instead received the quiet answer to earnest, anxious prayers. Will not our Canadian Zion, whose Dominion is from sea to sea, or from ocean to ocean as we say, and from the river to the end of the earth, will she not take up this advance work, and organize training houses and institutes for all parts of woman's agency in Christian work? Then we will be enabled to take up more confidently meetings for prayer and discussion on ways and means for the kingdom. We will get more accustomed to our own voices, and those around us. We will be able to work the shares we have taken with more intelligence and success, and the Holy Spirit, the essential, will work through these for the glory and advancement of the kingdom. Further, we are encouraged by the sympathy of the brethren. In our presbyterials we are brought to learn this more and more. Formerly our affections clustered round our own pastors; now they are enlarged to take in all the Presbytery for their gentle sayings and kind, encouraging words, which confirm to us their strong sympathy in our work. At our Brockville Presbyterial meeting in March, after the addresses of the brethren, and the affectionate prayer of the father and Moderator, as he so earnestly commended our mission work and ourselves to the Head of the Church, my heart was stirred with gratitude, I thanked God, and took courage.

We are also encouraged by the annual gatherings. It is an inspiration to come and look in the faces of so many women of the kingdom, assembled for this grand missionary cause. We feel that we are part of a great sisterhood in Christ's service. We get new views, and stronger impetus in the work. We are lifted to a higher outlook in the field, and we are learning deeper lessons of the fatherly care of Him who knows our frame and our needs more than any other. He, our Father, is restoring the old landmarks for His ministering women. These yearly gatherings, so long lost sight of, intended for greater unity in the Church, for greeting and gladdening one another, are given to us now. May each woman carry away a blessing for herself, and portions for those who are obliged to tarry at home.

We are encouraged, likewise, by the number of sister organizations engaged in the same cause, many of them older and stronger than we are, all rejoicing in the welfare and success of each other, one in Christ seeking the world for Christ. Woman's missionary societies. Many! Let us clasp hands with all, and say, God speed; also that Gospel Temperance Union of women, of all Christians, that has outstepped all in their progressive work. She is the forerunner, taking the cry, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God; cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumbling-block out of the way of my people; gather out the stones." Yes, every obstacle that retards the Gospel chariot. This preparatory work is now encircling the globe. God bless and prosper the Woman's Gospel Temperance Union.

Finally, crowning higher and greater than all else, is the encouragement in prospect from Him who trod this earth a lowly missionary, and knows what every discouragement is by experience—He who will yet sit on the throne of His glory, and before His Father and the holy angels, before an assembled universe, will say to each faithful ministering woman, "She hath done what she could," "Well done, good and faithful, enter into the joy of your Lord." Oblessed work for Jesus! Shall we not seek to work out the fulfilment of the dream, that at the close of this nineteenth century, over all nations, Jesus will rule, Jesus will reign, that the world's anthem may be sung to crown Him Lord of all. This nineteenth century has been called woman's century for growing privilege—hand in hand with privilege goes responsibility, and beckoning before is possibility. Ask, and ye shall receive gifts unlimited and ungrudging. Seek, and ye shall find Him, the Leader, the Captain, the Way, the Door. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you; walk in to endless possessions, infinite treasures. Let us then, dear women, take up our privileges, our responsibilities, our possibilities for Jesus and his kingdom, to prepare the way for His coming; for when He comes, it is to take His bride home to the palace he has prepared for her.

May His loving, gentle presence enter into and abide upon this meeting. May refreshing and bless-

ing go forth with us during the coming year. May we receive fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit, and O grant, dear Lord, that the beauty of the Lord God, even Thy beauty, may rest upon us every one, to Thy glory and praise evermore! Amen.

THE WELLAND CANAL MISSION.

MR. EDITOR, As many of your readers are shareholders in this Christian enterprise, and doubtless many others would like to be when they know the rich dividends declared, permit me to state its aims and objects and the means in operation to attain these. Its aim is to hold forth the word of life in the midst of our sailors and workmen employed on our inland lakes who pass through the Welland Canal, by the means of the distribution of Bibles, books, tracts and Gospel periodicals; also by the preaching of the Gospel and personal conversation; not only sprinkling the truth amongst them as sacred salt, but rubbing it in by close personal application of it to the heart and conscience; as one sailor remarked once at a public meeting. I always liked to see our missionary with his nice little books and papers come along; but I did not like him to take hold of me by the hand and question me about my soul's welfare (and there are more that way than those sailors), but this I find to be the most successful and important part of the work, as another sailor said to me one day: "Why I have learned more of what true religion is within the last hour by your talk with me than all my life before." As in nature so in grace. Hand-picked fruit is best. May I give you a sample? One dear boy, with whom I had a conversation one evening, and who was brought to decision for Christ, writes. "Dear brother, I am still clinging to my Gospel armour, and by God's strength I am going to hold on to it forever. I will soon be twenty-one. If I had been left out in the dark till this time where might I have been? But I thank Him for what He has done for me. I have been prospering ever since I gave myself to God both in temporal and spiritual things. I am happy to say that most of your fruit buds are living and doing well, but sorry that some seem to be dead. Yours in Christ, P. C." Did space permit, other samples might be given of God's blessing resting upon personal dealing as a means of bringing souls to Christ and also of building up weak believers in the faith. In regard to the need for this mission, there is no room for doubt. The men employed on our lakes are deprived of the ordinary means of grace, and can only be reached by going to them. And where is a better place to reach them than on the Canal? They must needs pass through it who come from the upper to our lower Lake Ontario. A marked change has taken place since the opening of the new canal, both materially and morally; large steam barges, towing from three to four barges behind them, are supplanting the sailing vessel. The steam tug has taken the place of horse-towing, and that has removed a great evil from the canal banks, that is, "cruelty to animals." Also another important change for the better, the removal of the drinking saloons. None are permitted now on Government ground on the new canal; consequently a very great amount of immorality and drunkenness has been banished by the removal of the temptation, the men now are sober and quiet, and are more accessible and susceptible to Christian influences. During the past year I have been enabled to make 1,231 visits to vessels, 553 to shanties and houses, ninety-two to factories and public works, twenty-eight to the hospital, twenty-two to the city market, and twenty-three addresses delivered.

Such is a brief outline of labour done on our mission field, not including evangelistic and collecting work in the winter, which has also been abundantly blessed by God. As this noble mission work has been carried on under the auspices of the Upper Canada Religious Tract and Book Society, the missionary accounts to the society for the moneys he receives for this special mission work. Any of the Lord's stewards who have means to spare would do well to invest in this good work for the Lord's sake. Yours in the service of the King, T. BONE.

THE report for the United Church of Christ in Japan, missions of the American Presbyterian, American Reformed and Scotch United Presbyterian Churches, shows that the total number of members in October last was 5,115, a gain of 1,103 during the year.