

Canadian Missionary Link

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The season of our Womens' Conventions of East and West is at hand. The programmes are in preparation, the entertaining churches at Perth and at Adelaidé St., London, are devising ways and means to show hospitality, and many women from all parts of Ontario and Quebec are planning their duties so that they can take their places in the annual gatherings. At these convention meetings, much business of the Master's kingdom in the "regions beyond" is transacted, many good methods of work proposed, and, perhaps, greatest of all, the Christian women of our two provinces are sent home with a clearer view of the needs of the work, revived interest in its carrying out, and a feeling of strength and assured success, due to the knowledge that they are working shoulder to shoulder with a host of consecrated women in the churches of Ontario and Quebec. Very many of these, who have been in attendance from year to year, realize the benefit given and received, so that they will surely be there again if circumstances allow. But there may be some who were there last year, or the year before, to whom the memory of the "good things" has become dim, and the pressing cares of the present so much to the forefront, that they are letting the matter slip by without much thought, or with the hasty decision that they have not time for "Convention" this year. There are many others who have never been to these annual meetings. Some of these are so circumstanced that it is impossible for them to go and it is not of these we write. But there are some, we fear, that could, if they would but put forth the necessary effort, or cultivate sufficient interest. We want to appeal through these columns to all our women of the Mission Circles and the churches to consider this matter carefully and see whether they cannot help with their presence and counsel these meetings at Perth and London.

The general good demands a large attendance when possible. The business side of the Convention needs a large

representation that it may accomplish anything of value. The inspirational side will also lose much of its value and power if the numbers should be unduly small and indicative of lukewarmness in the Circles which are to be represented.

But it is not principally for the "general good" that we wish every woman possible to come. It is for her own sake. The everyday duties of life are so many and so urgent that it is difficult not to lose touch with the spiritual. In listening to our missionaries from home fields and foreign lands, in hearing our leaders speak of the "unseen things" and in our devotional meetings, we feel ourselves refreshed and strengthened in our spiritual life, and we realize very fully that if we had not allowed our zeal to cool, we would never have hesitated as to whether or not we would go, but would have considered this one of our greatest opportunities for "growing in grace" and making ourselves more "meet for the Master's use."

Then there is a host of "the girls" in our churches, many of whom are free to go, but who never think of it, and are sometimes even caught smiling at the suggestion. These girls are in many cases earnest Christian workers at home and confidently expect that some day they will take their mothers' places in leadership. If they would but once come, we are confident they would find themselves well repaid for any effort put forth, in their increased knowledge, interest and efficiency for work. Their presence would mean much too, to the present leaders, in encouragement and assurance that the work of the future would be given, not only in earnest hands, but into capable and trained ones.

We hope that, as the time draws near for our meetings, the Circles will remember the Convention and that all those who have attended before, and many new ones, may join the "gathering of the clans" at Perth and London.