

world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." And with God's peace flooding your heart and filling your life we know you will bravely take up life's old accustomed duties.

We want to tell you of a letter received the other day from Muskoka, that ideal resting-place in the sultry summer-tide, but how wofully isolated it seems to us when King Frost reigns supreme! The letter came from a member of our Fireside Circle who, though we knew it not, has met with us from month to month. Her words of encouragement helped us. How we have longed to make our "Chats" of service to just such lonely, far-off toilers as the writer. In compliance with the request for suggestions made in last month's OUTLOOK our correspondent contributed one which we most thankfully received and which we will give in her own words. "'Could we not do without so many reports (does it not sound too much like the Pharisees blowing a trumpet before themselves?) and give us instead short, pithy accounts of missionaries and their work? Do you know what made me a missionary woman? When we were little my dear mother used often to tell us of Dr. Livingstone, Dr. Duff, Dr. Moffat, etc., and the thrilling stories of Madagascar, Erromanga and the South Sea Islands. That was long before the days of woman's auxiliaries; but the fire that was then kindled has never ceased to burn, and now mother and her four daughters, though widely scattered, are working in Woman's Missionary Societies. . . . You do not know how we backwoods folks would relish information to keep up the interest in our missionary work.'"

The writer has only asked what we have long felt the necessity of, at least aiming at, and though we do not wish to do without a *single* report, yet we feel as if the time has come for a much greater condensation of their matter. You know, dear sisters, it can only be of local interest, at best, to hear that Miss Somebody sang "most sweetly," or "excelled herself" at one of your missionary evenings; or, Mrs. So-and-so "recited exceptionally well, really in true oratorical style." Let us avoid repetition, or the telling of anything that would not be of general interest or benefit. Some of the reports received during the past year we considered model ones—so much information compressed in so few sentences. Everybody, we are sure, could find time to read them. Do not forget that if you have anything out of the ordinary to offer, as regards raising money or preparing programmes, any hints or suggestions that would help the work or workers, there will always be found plenty of space for their insertion, and will be most gratefully received. We do want to make the best possible use of every column in our Department, and hope every line will some how or other in some way or other benefit all our readers, but particularly those whose facilities for obtaining reading of a missionary character, are limited.

Our fire burns low. Again the hour for our separating has come; when we meet again this dear old year, which has brought to many of us much of sorrow,

but, thank God, much of peace and joy as well, will be no more. We wish you one and all in its truest, broadest sense, "A happy Christmas and a bright New Year."
S. R. W.

Notices.

THERE was a Christmas story in process of preparation, for we had hoped to make this edition of our Department in the OUTLOOK so "Christmasy" that its arrival in your home would have been a harbinger of the day itself, but through lack of space we thought it better to withhold it. We are also carrying over some excellent papers; be on the look out for them later.

JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL WORK.—The committee in charge of the Industrial Work regrets that, owing to unforeseen circumstances, it is impossible to supply embroidery ordered for Christmas sale. A letter from Miss Veazey, appearing in the W.M.S. column of the *Christian Guardian*, December 4th, fully explains the cause of disappointment.

Toronto Conference Branch.

THE Second Annual Meeting of the Toronto Conference Branch opened in Broadway Tabernacle, Toronto, on Tuesday afternoon, October 1st, at three o'clock.

The President, Mrs. J. B. Willmott, occupied the chair, and was assisted in the opening devotional exercises by Mrs. McKay, Mrs. Blackstock and Mrs. Langford.

Eighty-two delegates responded to the roll call, and there was, in addition, a large attendance of visitors.

A memorial service was led by Mrs. Woolsey, when testimony was borne to the Christian life and triumphant death of thirteen members, who have gone to their reward during the year.

The President's address was listened to with marked attention, and the delegates felt inspired by it to renewed and deeper consecration of time and talents to the Master's service.

The printed Treasurer's report being in the hands of the delegates was taken as read, and after an abstract had been given by Mrs. Ogden it was adopted. It showed that the gross income was \$5,487.89; expenses, \$102.99; remitted to General Treasurer, \$5,250.00; balance on hand, \$134.90. Of the amount raised \$1,162.58 was in thank-offerings.

Mrs. Williams conducted an impressive consecration service, Miss Macdonald, of Oaklands, giving a helpful Bible reading, and many of the delegates taking part in testimony, the service concluding with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, administered by Rev. J. C. Speer, assisted by Rev. Dr. German.

From six until eight o'clock was devoted to a tea and reception, given by the ladies of Broadway Auxiliary, when a very pleasant social time was spent.

The public meeting in the evening, presided over by the pastor of the church, Rev. J. C. Speer, was very largely attended. Rev. W. F. Wilson assisted in the devotional exercises, and the Choir rendered some choice music.

The report of the Corresponding Secretary was presented by Mrs. Briggs, and showed the number of auxiliaries to be 73, an increase of 15; annual members, 1,793, increase, 119; life-members, 180, increase, 18; total membership, 1,973.

The Mission Band Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Bascom, reported 43 Mission Bands, with a membership of 1,007; sent to Branch Treasurer, \$804.09. These reports were both able reviews of the work, and proved most interesting to the large congregation. The feature of the evening, however, was an address by Dr. Stevenson, the