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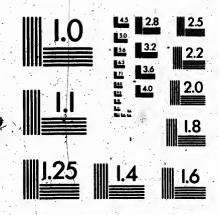
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Answer to Erroneous Statements

Concerning the

 $\mathbf{W}.\,\mathbf{F}.\,\mathbf{M}.\,\mathbf{S}.$ archives

1.—"The Church is in need at the present time of men, but not women in the foreign field."

Answer.—We know that men are needed; but that lady missionaries are not needed in the foreign field at present is a mistake. Two medical ladies are needed to go to India next fall—one in Dr. Fraser's place, who has been ordered home on account of failing health; another in Dr. McKellar's place, whose furlough begins next spring Also a third, if the Foreign Mission Committee accepts the offer of the Diwan of Jaora. Many more single women could also be employed as Zenana visitors and school teachers besides those already at work, in order to overtake the almost unlimited opportunities now offering for spreading the knowledge of the Truth among women and children in India. We have received, in addition, a strong appeal from Mrs. Goforth for a missionary lady to assist in the work in North Honan. Multitudes of women in that field are now accessible to Gospel teaching, and many are inquiring anxiously for the Truth.

2.—"That the W. F. M. S. had last year a surplus of \$15,000, and the year before of \$10,000; and is draining the resources of the Church."

Answer.—It is true that at the close of last year the W. F. M. S. had in their treasury \$15,000, and the year before \$10,000, over and above what was needed to pay their *indebtedness* to the Foreign Mission Committee for the work undertaken by the Society during the year just then expired, according to the estimates. The surplus

was, however, only apparent, for at the time of the meeting of the General Assembly, three months' salaries, and all other current expenses connected with our department of the work, were due; and the Society, by vote of the Annual Meeting, handed over due; and referred to as "surplus money" to the Financial Agent of the Church, so that he might be able to pay the expenses of our part of the work, as the items fell due, as far as the money would ye. Formerly the Foreign Mission Committee not only met their own expenses but were obliged to meet the demands of our work as they fell due with borrowed money, on which a high rate of interest had to be paid. We were, therefore, truly glad when the state of the funds enabled us to place a few thousands in the General Treasurer's hands to help pay our part. For the remainder of the year money had still to be borrowed to pay the salaries of the missionaries supported by the W. F. M. S.

As to "draining the resources of the Church," it might as well be said that a child who has been given a corner of his father's garden to care for as his special work is draining the resources of the home in devoting time and attention to it. The W. F. M. S. is the child of the Church. The foreign work for women and children and for the Indians in our own North-west was given to us by the Church as our special part, and we are but carrying out the purpose for which we were organized in trying to do that work to the best of our ability.

3.—"It is a mistake that the W. F. M. S. uses its funds for the support of women and children only. Five thousand dollars are sent annually to the North-west to assist in supporting men and boys."

Answer.—Five thousand dollars is not paid yearly to support "men and boys" in the North-west. Nor have our apportionments, for what might seem to be for this purpose, ever in any year reached that figure. We have, in the North-west (including Alberni, B.C.), eight Industrial Schools and three Day Schools. Men, as well as women, are required as teachers in these schools, boys and girls being taught together. Consequently we pay the salaries of both men and women teachers. We do not pay the salaries of ordained missionaries in the North-west. The average apportionment from our Society for

the salaries of male teachers in our Indian Schools has been for the past five years \$3,360.

4.—"The influence of a Christian home is boundless; a married woman's influence far exceeds that of an unmarried woman."

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ANSWER .- In reply to the statement that the influence of single ladies as missionaries is relatively small, or "nil," it may be mentioned that very strong testimony to the contrary has within a few weeks come before our Board in the fact that the Diwan of Jaora, a city about 90 miles from Indore, a place where there is no missionary, holds them in such high esteem that he urgently requests that a medical lady and mission worker be sent there. He offered not only a site, but promised to build a bungalow. If the influence of single. women in India were "nil" is it likely that a native official of high rank, and a heathen, would make such a request? In this connection another statement is incidentally refuted, namely : 'That our missionaries are opposed to the work of single women in India;" for the request from the Diwan of Jaora came through the Rey. Wm. Wilson, our missionary at Neemuch, who him supported it strongly, with the full knowledge that the ladies, went, would for some time at least be unaccompanied by a male missionary and would occupy the station alone. A feeling of opposition to the work of single women in India on the part either of our own or other Churches must be limited, we think, to one or two men at most. That such opposition is unreasonable and groundless, we have no hesitation in asserting. The whole history of the work of single women in eastern lands shows that it is of unspeakable value. Indeed many men have affirmed that it is the most important department of foreign mission work.

In reference to the assumption that "the wives of missionaries do as much mission work as the single women" who have given themselves entirely to it, we know, that however earnestly the wives of missionaries may desire to do direct mission work in teaching. Zenana visiting, medical work, etc., it is certainly impossible, along with the care of their homes, and often with young children, for them to accomplish much in any special line. We acknowledge the great influence of a Christian home on the natives, and we hold the wives of our missionaries in the very highest honor. We love

them for their own sake, and for all they are doing in their own sphere to build up the Lord's Kingdom, and we regret exceedingly that such a comparison has been made. They themselves would be the very last persons to advance such a claim. It is quite true that a few of them, who are free to engage in special work, have done, and are doing, a great deal. Were the services of such to be recognized by the W. F. M. S. paying a part of their husbands' salaries it is easy to see how it would place those other wives, who are equally in earnest, equally competent, it may be, but occupied with their families, in an unpleasant and false position. So unpleasant and so false a position was it felt to be that when the subject was before the Society some years ago, more than one of our missionaries, wives, and also some of the husbands, expressed their distaste for any such arrangement.

5.—"Women cannot do pioneer work. Men must open up new stations."

Answer.—Single women are frequently able to carry on mission work at certain stations without an ordained missionary being obliged to live also at that station.

As to the assertion that the W. F. M. S. is not fulfilling the object for which it was organized, the answer is to be found in an official letter from Rev. R. P. McKay, published in *The Canada Presbyterian* of March 27th, 1895, and in the Annual Reports of the Foreign Mission Committee to the General Assembly.







