

THE MISSIONARY.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE ask the earnest attention of all the friends of our Mission work to the facts stated in the article, "The Encouragement and the Call," on page 168 of this number.

As we bring our offerings in the month of May to our Lord and Saviour for the work, dear to His heart, of making known His salvation to the heathen, let us remember how much depends on the spirit in which the offerings are made.

Dr. A. J. Gordon, of Boston, says most justly: "We believe the greatest danger to which our missionary enterprises are exposed to-day is, that they become automatic, accommodating themselves to our dead spirituality instead of being emblematic of our Saviour's cross and sacrifice. Have we not seen those self-operating vendors standing in our railway stations, so constructed that you may drop a penny into a slot, and have a package of confectionery presented from an aperture? Well, may God preserve us from turning our churches and boards into automatic missionary machines, into which we may drop our annual contributions, and then take out for our consciences a year's discharge from all personal responsibility or heart anxiety for a perishing world! Better a penny with prayer than a pound with indifference. Therefore, we plead with Christians, not simply to give much, but to baptize the offering, be it great or small, with the tears of adoring gratitude to Him to whom we owe it, that we are not this moment heathen instead of Christians. So may we give, that God shall see in our missionary coin the image of His beloved Son, and not the effigy of our worldly and selfish souls."

May we be allowed to suggest that, in the prayers offered at this time for our Foreign Mission work, thanksgiving be made to God for the following mercies received during the year: 1. The number of missionaries sent out by our church was larger than in any previous year. 2. All the work was carried on without borrowing a dollar. 3. In all the mission fields the gospel was preached without interruption, in peace. 4. There were tokens of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of a number who heard the word preached. 5. There are now thirteen other missionaries under appointment, waiting to go out, and others still offering themselves for this great work.

Also, that request be made for the following: 1. That the church be filled, as never before, with the spirit of Him who tasted death for every man. 2. That the means may be furnished for sending out many more laborers. 3. That the missionaries may all have grace given them to know nothing among the heathen save Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and may be kept in peace. 4. That faithful native helpers may be raised up at all the mission stations, and that utterance may be given to the native Christians, that with all boldness they may speak for Christ. 5. That the word may everywhere be preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven.

MR. SYDENSTRICKER writes from Tsing-kiang-pu: "The work is growing in extent and importance on my hands, and becomes more and more encouraging. The prospects in the city of Chitchow-fu are very much brighter. At Kwan-hu, fifty miles east of

around-the-world travel comes to but few. "We can be travellers without leaving our homes. The ends of the earth are brought to our firesides. Such reading cultivates a far-seeing eye, an aptitude for affairs; it furnishes a liberal education." Besides this, foreign missionary literature tends to moral elevation. It introduces us to the choice company of men and women, to whose perseverance and faith our century so largely owes its imperial strides in exploration, commerce, and philanthropy. We need to keep our households in close contact with lives so magnificent in quality and action, that their

lives may serve to kindle ambition and high enthusiasm.

But more than all, in these records there is the shadow of a Presence more than human—the unseen Christ. *This* is the impelling spiritual power of this literature. Over these pages we mount the world's great altar-stairs; we realize that an earnest work for God and humanity is going on; we leave forever the bowers of pleasure, or the Castle Indolence, eager to take a part in the grandest work to which mortal powers can be given.—*Helping Hand.*

THE WOMAN'S EXCHANGE.

SOME NOTES FROM A SOCIETY.

IN the extract "Mint, Anise, and Cummin," in the Woman's Exchange of February *Missionary*, one of the not small defects of our ladies' societies is spoken of: The difficulty of hearing the reading or prayer.

I believe this is true of most of our societies; for, while the women speak clearly, distinctly enough in our homes, in the social circle in our parlors, around our tables—even two or three of us talking at the same time, and usually make ourselves heard—for some unaccountable reason our voices fail us, a *mauvais honte* seizes upon us when we speak or read in the presence of fifteen, twenty, or thirty ladies, whose faces are pleasantly familiar to us; whom we meet at least once a week throughout the year.

But we are improving in this respect—sweet, clear voices are beginning to be heard in some of our meetings in well chosen extracts, well arranged papers. Women's voices, a little tremulous perhaps, but gaining in power, are modestly and reverently leading the devotions of many societies.

And, my dear sister, whoever you are, meekly but bravely taking up this duty, do not speak in "an inarticulate muffled voice"; however few your words may be, *let them be heard*. The Lord knows all our infirmities, and He indeed hears your feeble, stammering utterances. But it is hardly to the edi-

fication of the society if it is in doubt whether you are reading from Bacon's Essays or The Crisis of Missions, whether your petitions are lifted to Heaven for the spread of the gospel, or for fair weather.

It is "a pity that a good meeting should be lost (or marred) for want of a little thought about details." And it requires so little time to attend to these details.

Read over your paper at least twice before you go to the meeting; acquaint yourself fully with it so as to give proper tone and emphasis, and *always stand* when reading.

In the writer's opinion the large room is best, and always *expect to see it filled*. But until full, sit close together; if the seats are movable (chairs for instance), this is easily done. And president and secretary must not think it beneath her time or care to look after the best disposition of these seats.

A missionary meeting is just like everything else we undertake in this world; if *we care enough for it, we are ready and willing to take pains for its success*—we will look after what may appear but minor details, for Jesus' sake.

MRS. LUCY RANDOLPH FLEMING.

MITE BOXES AS A MEANS OF GRACE.

THE young daughter of a distinguished and lamented ruling elder writes thus about the spiritual value of mite boxes in her home: