

Church Missions House, New York, September, 1903.

TO THE IOWA BRANCH OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.

My Dear Friends:—With the first of September the Missionary Society, and our Woman's Auxiliary, enter upon a new year of service. As the years pass so quickly, in one sense there seems to be no new motive to stir our hearts, no new effort for us to make, no new goal towards which to move. The motive is always the same—love for God prompting us to work for Him, love for man urging us to draw him nearer God. The effort is the same—personal contact, and where that cannot be, continual prayer and steadfast sympathy, and a systematic and conscientious giving. The goal is something about which we need never trouble ourselves. We do not need to be anxious about results of our own small efforts, for we may always have the happy confidence that the Kingdom is sure to come. It is, of course, a wonderful blessing and privilege to have a part in the coming, and that is enough to make the work of any new year an inspiration.

So, with this new year, we hope there may be a gain in every direction: A new effort on the part of Diocesan Officers to enlist every parish which has not yet had an Auxiliary Branch; an effort on the part of every group of Parish Officers to enlist every woman in the parish among the Auxiliary members; a new endeavor to make every meeting, Diocesan and Parochial, a season of greater spiritual strengthening; a fresh determination in Diocese, in Parish, in individual member, to keep faithfully to the covenant of daily missionary prayer; a growth in missionary intelligence through personal reading and study in classes, Parochial or Inter-parochial; renewed determination to make the publications of the Missionary society, "The Spirit of Missions" and "The Young Christian Soldier," better known among the people of the Church; and a cordial and courageous struggle to win the victory over selfishness and greed, by giving, not once or twice, but again and again and again, remembering that the ever recurring need for workers in the mission field, and for equipments for their work, means an ever recurring opportunity, privilege and obligation for us to give.

It is not long since we asked every Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary to redouble its efforts to contribute towards the appropriations of the Board of Missions. What we asked last year we ask this year, in the hope that it may soon become a yearly habit of the Auxiliary to place \$100,000 annually in the treasury of the Board of Missions, at the Board's disposal.

Besides this, and the accustomed work which each year presents, we would remind you that this is the last year of the three years before our next United Offering shall be made. When the Woman's Auxiliary gathers in Boston in October, 1904, for its triennial service of thanksgiving, we wish that some woman might be there from every Mission field where our Church is represented. But should this be impossible, we hope that no Mission, however small or weak or distant, will fail to be there in the loving gift made in hearty gratitude to God for the blessings He has vouchsafed in the knowledge of His love through Christ.

Wishing you all good things in this new year, believe me, dear friends,

Yours very sincerely,

JULIA C. EMERY.

After reading this letter from Miss Emery, it hardly seems necessary for me to say more at the beginning of this year's work, but there are a few practical points which we ought to consider to make our work effective.

1st. Let us remember the aim and object of our Auxiliary, and daily, by prayer and earnest desire, work more intelligently than ever before.

2nd. Let us resolve that this year's work shall be done in a business-like manner, that all records shall be carefully kept and reports sent in correctly and on time.

3rd. Shall we not plan for regular meetings for work and study, not only giving but studying in a systematic manner. Especial attention is called to the work among the colored people, the race problem is one of the leading questions of the day and some of the solution of it lies in the hands of the women. May I not ask each branch to give at least one program to this subject? Our president, Miss Weare, is willing to visit each branch and will be a help and inspiration to you all. The time is at hand for those who wish to prepare Christmas boxes, and correspondence with the secretary should be started at once, for please remember it takes her a week or more to get you the appeals from New York.

At the convention last May the women pledged themselves to raise one hundred dollars each for the Bishops' and Babcock funds and one hundred and fifty dollars for General Missions, besides caring for the Perry Memorial room in St. Luke's hospital, which by the way needs many articles to replace those which have been worn out by constant use. The Church Periodical Club also needs your support, and Mrs. J. Reade Clarke, of Emmetsburg, will tell you how and where.

Dear Iowa workers, now is the time to plan your year's work, making it definite, and remembering that duty is only another word for opportunity, and that loving giving is the greatest blessing we enjoy. The Diocesan Officers will gladly furnish information and help in every way that you will let them. All money should be sent to Mrs. D. C. Howard, Mt. Pleasant, except the United Offering, which goes to Mrs. Simon Casady, 708 Fifth street, Des Moines.

With the best of wishes, I am,

Sac City, Iowa.

*Yours sincerely
Beniah Lorung.*