

# EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

*Madam President, Co-laborers and Friends:*

"Beneath earth's starry arch,  
Nothing rests, nor is still;  
But all things hold their march  
As if by one Great Will."

Nature knows no pause—time controls her course. "Move one, move all—press forward," is her great command. That indefinable thing that we call time, travels so fast that the past is gone and the present becomes the past even while we attempt to define it, and like the flash of the lightning, at once exists, and expires. Even now, we are moving, and the very place in which we stand is but the vestibule to glorious mansions, into which a moving crowd forever presses.

You have reached Lexington in the great old Commonwealth of Kentucky; you are in the State that gave to the world the immortal Lincoln. You stand under the shadow of the monument of Henry Clay, the Unionist, who plead with his countrymen to be spared the anguish of souls should they not hear the voice of reason and council, but decide to secede from the Union.

You are in the State where there is less antagonism between races than any other State in the South. You may read of the assassination of Governors, feuds of mountaineers, the destructive work of night riders; but in Kentucky you will find many wide-visioned, liberal-minded lovers of justice and defenders of human rights, of the "Augustus Wilson and Henry Watterson Brand."

Lexington is one of the most progressive cities of its size you have ever visited. You will find the best white citizens interested in all that makes for our uplift, and though the horrifying picture of the Russellville outrage is painted in blood before you, you hear on the other hand the voice of the press expressing the sentiments of two-thirds of the people against this atrocious crime.

This is the Eighth Annual Session of the Woman's Convention, Auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention. In submitting the report of the Executive Board and Corresponding Secretary for the past year, we turn with grateful hearts to the God who has lead us through dangers, seen and unseen. We have moved forward under the protecting shadow of the August Presence. We have been en-

compassed with God; the angel of his presence has gone before us. Seas of discouragement have dried up, and mountains of obstacles have melted to plains, and in the midst of our fiercest conflicts, we have seen with the eye of faith, the invisable hosts of God encamped around us, to deliver us. We can say to-day, in stronger language than ever before, the work of the Lord is advancing. The final triumph of the Gospel is as sure as the promise of God. More than all the generations on whose dust we tread, can we to-day take up the prophecy,

"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Doth his successive journeys run."

This is the century of missions, such as has never been seen before. The age of world-wide missions has begun, and the figure of Jesus Christ appears upon the world's horizon, in bold belief, and the entire world will be lighted up by the radiance of His countenance. His word is read and studied by more people to-day than at any time since the leaves of the Tree of Life have been coming forth from the press. "These words have the charm of antiquity, with the freshness of yesterday; the simplicity of a child with the wisdom of God; the softness of kisses from the lips of love, and the force of the lightning rendering the tower. His parables are like groups of matchless statuary; His prayers like an organ peal floating round the world and down the ages, echoed by the mountain peaks and plains into rich and varied melody, in which all devout hearts find their noblest feelings at once expressed, sustained, refined. His truths are self-evidencing. They fall into the soul as seed into the ground, to rest and germinate. He speaks, and all nature and life become vocal with theology." Fortunate for us if we have been with him, and have learned of Him, and will travel with him on his march through the ages, and around the world.

Our Corresponding Secretary has traveled as much this year as possible. The office work must be carefully supervised, and she has given considerable attention to the preparation of tracts and other literature that would help us in our work. We have at this meeting, a One-Act Drama, written by her, that we consider one of the most unique, semihumorous productions we have ever read. It has been a very difficult matter to leaders in missionary societies, to get up an interesting evening's program. Slabtown Convention will prove a blessing to those who want

something humorous, and at the same time, really helpful. The business of the Convention has grown to such proportions as to demand the closest attention, and it taxes one's physical and mental power to keep the business end of your work going. We have received twice as many letters this year as last. Our correspondence has been just double. The work has been exceedingly heavy, and yet our correspondents will testify that their letters have received prompt attention. We do not allow any letters to go unanswered, and every order, however large or small receives immediate attention.

Whatever has been accomplished this year, much credit is due to the good friends throughout the country, and in the cities and towns visited by the Secretary and the missionaries. We have been most cordially received, and the work has been most substantially remembered. The Secretary spent over a month in Texas last fall, and she was given a hearty reception by churches, organizations and citizens. No words can express our gratitude to the leaders of both conventions in Texas, through whose influence the people turned out en masse to every meeting held in the State. You have but to look at our report to see that they were most liberal in their contributions. Texas leads the roll this year.

Our Secretary spent two weeks in New Jersey, in the interest of the Capetown Home. The good women, the State Foreign Mission Board, and the Ministers' Union united in making these meetings a success. Jersey Baptists conduct an annual Foreign Mission Campaign, and bring to the State specialists on this work. There is an educational and spiritual awakening throughout the state that is destined to put New Jersey far ahead of her sister states. The people need information, before they can be truly awakened. Missionary campaigns that are truly educational and deeply spiritual will arouse the most slothful. The far-seeing leaders are even now planning for a greater campaign next year.

All of the institutes have been largely attended, and we believe much good has been accomplished. A number of special meetings in the interest of the Training School have been held in various states. The last, and the one of which a single church gave the largest amount, was with the Ebenezer Church at Pittsburg. Six churches, three conventions and three individuals have thus far given the required one hundred dollars for Memorial Windows in the National Training School. In all of the meetings, the

people seemed more anxious than ever to take Higher Ground, and attempt great things for God and expect great things of God. We firmly believe that institutions of this kind are constantly tending to gravitate. Like your clock, they must be occasionally cleansed, wound up, and set to true time. These annual conclaves are for that purpose. Without this annual touching up, some of us would be too dustworn for service; others would run completely down.

The coming year is going to bring to our denomination a marvelous awakening. Would that you could be with us in some of these blessed meetings, where from the least to the greatest seems to come the question, "What can I do?" Our women are just beginning to feel that they can do something, and there is an army of them down in the bottoms that you have never seen, and never will see until you walk the streets of the New Jerusalem, who are beginning to sing,

"I'm to the Highlands bound,  
I'm seeking higher ground;  
I can't remain in all the plain,  
I'm to the Highlands bound."

We have conducted institutes, missionary study classes, held meetings for women, young girls and children, as well as public mass meetings. It is impossible to mention every place visited. You will see from our financial report, that churches and individuals have given all the way from two cents to one hundred dollars. We would like to make special mention of all the friends in all the churches, but suffice it to say that we have gone east and west, north and south, women, ministers and people have opened wide their homes, churches and purses, and there is on every hand evidence of increasing interest in the work of this Convention.

The women throughout this country are waking up. The ordinary, everyday, pure-hearted women who have not lifted their souls to vanity, nor sworn deceitfully, are lining up. Even now we hear the tramp of the advance guard.

Marvel not at the success of the Lord's work. The common people of whom God has made more than of the other kind, are shouting the tidings of salvation as they dig the trenches and throw up the breastwork for battle and the children of Amalek will be routed and the giant sons of Anak driven back, and Satan's strongholds shall tumble before a blow is struck. God is going to line up the common people, and sweep the earth for the work so rapidly

that with him one day is as a thousand years. You may not feel it; you may not hear it; but put your ear to the ground; the chariot of God is coming. True, there are stones in the way, and professed disciples drag on as dead weights, but this chariot has a divine motor, and like the stone cut out of the mountains without hands, it will crush beneath it all the avarice, secular spirit, worldly schemes, ignorance and practical indifference. We have been asking for over two thousand years that the Kingdom of this world might become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ. If we have not been in earnest, God is getting in a hurry.

"Every conceivable motive, therefore, urges us to undertake the last great crusade against the powers of darkness. The command of our ascended Lord, the voice of an enlightened conscience, the impulse of the new nature, the leading of the providential pillar, the working of transforming grace, the grandeur of the opportunity and the peril of delay—all these converge like rays in one burning focus, urging us onward and forward to the outposts of civilization and the limits of human habitation with the word of life. Let the trumpet signal be heard all along the line! God has already sounded his signal, and, like that peal at Sinai, it is long and loud. The last precept and promise of our Lord, which have inspired all true service and sacrifice, echo with new force and emphasis, louder and clearer, in the face of new openings and new victories. Blessed is he who, like Paul, is immediately obedient unto the heavenly vision."

#### OUR SUPPLIES.

The best and most substantial evidence of the growth of this organization, is the fact that there is an unparalleled demand for supplies of every kind. You will notice that we spent \$371.55 for supplies, but you will also notice that the receipts from this department amounted to \$843.92. We have sent out 1,910 reports, 150 record books, 1,760 guides, 3,210 buttons, 1,500 badges, 239 charts, 150 mita boxes, 2,790 pictures, 10,680 miscellaneous tracts.

You have no idea how much the good women throughout the country appreciate the fact that they can get books, pictures, charts, tracts, buttons, topic cards, and badges for their societies. We were not using the badges when we met last year, but we made no mistake in adding them to our list of supplies. So great has been the demand for badges that we have wondered how the women have been

getting along without them. The demand for topic cards is on the increase. We have put out twenty thousand since last September.

You get an idea of the caliber of the women in the lead in our churches by the use they make of missionary helps. There are lots of antiquated, run-down missionary societies that are not using anything. They hardly have a song book, and they are living at a poor-dying rate. We have just suggested that the societies have their own song books, and we are prepared to furnish them at a very reasonable rate. Just in proportion as we put intelligence and spiritual enthusiasm into our missionary work, just in proportion will we be able to bring to us hundreds of good workers who have contempt for slipshod, antiquated methods. We find in some of the societies that women are not using the topic cards, but are selecting their own subjects each week. We may feel that it is our privilege to discuss subjects of our own make and liking, but the topic cards are used by the foremost Christian organizations, and occupy the same unique place in them as the International Sunday-School Quarterly occupies in the Sunday-schools throughout the world. Then we have found that most of the societies that select their own subjects, delight in picking such subjects as will provoke argument and challenge debate. For instance, one may feel like discussing "How many angels can sit on the point of a needle." Now, you will not find all the members in the society agreeing on this weighty theological question. Others discuss, "Was Peter a Baptist when he denied Christ?" and certainly denominational pride, that beats immortal in some of our breasts, would force us to take the negative. Subjects of this character are not of sufficient significance to be given consideration, and yet some of us spend hours waxing warmly eloquent, or eloquently warm, over just such chaff. One society we visited, was discussing, "Can our sins leave us gradually?" After listening for over an hour, without being able to get the floor at all in the regular order, we decided to come in on a question of information, so we asked did it make any difference how they left or how much time it required, so long as we knew that they had gone? One sister argued that it depended upon the weight of the sins, reasoning, of course, that the heavier they are, the slower they would move. It is possible to wander in mazes in the selection and discussion of religious questions, unless we keep in mind two things, first the spiritual good that can come from the discussion of certain