

**HOLDING THE ROPES:
MISSIONARY METHODS
FOR WORKERS AT HOME**

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Holding the ropes: missionary methods for workers at home by Belle M. Brain

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BELLE M. BRAIN

**HOLDING THE ROPES:
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FOR WORKERS AT HOME**

HOLDING THE ROPES:

*Missionary Methods for Workers at
Home*

BY

BELLE M. BRAIN

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TORONTO**

"We saw there was a gold mine in India," said Andrew Fuller, in 1793, after listening to the stirring words of John Thomas, who had been pleading for India, "but it seemed almost as deep as the center of the earth. 'Who will venture to go explore it?' we asked."

"I will go down," responded William Carey, "but remember that you must *hold the ropes.*"

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An Introductory Word

THOUSANDS of Christians must remain at home for every one who is permitted to go to the front, but they are not therefore excused from active service. Christ's "Great Commission" is binding upon all alike, and they must go by proxy who cannot go in person. Those who are "HOLDING THE ROPES" have an equal responsibility with those who are engaged in the hand to hand work of rescue.

There are many encouraging indications that Christians at home are beginning to realize this responsibility more than ever before. The growing interest in the need of the non-Christian world and in the progress of the Kingdom of God is shown by the development of missionary periodicals, by the remarkable multiplication of missionary books, and in the large number of classes that have recently been formed among women and young people for the systematic study of missions. Some knowledge of

AN INTRODUCTORY WORD

the world-field is coming to be considered an essential part of a Christian education.

But it is one thing to have missionary facts at one's command or to hold a meeting for the study of the progress of the Kingdom; it is quite another to make those facts live, or to conduct the meeting so that it will have real interest and power. The study of missions is a science, and the management of a missionary meeting is an art.

Not long ago we saw a prescription warranted to "kill a missionary meeting." It was not a patent medicine of which any trust has the monopoly, for there are too many home-made concoctions of a similar sort which do quite as effective execution. The prescription may be stated somewhat as follows:

Take one dimly lighted church parlor, at a temperature not to exceed sixty degrees; add a few people—the older the better—drawn together by a strong sense of duty and an apologetic announcement. Begin to stir to slow music or a formal prayer at from five to twenty minutes late; drop in one at a time, *ad infinitum*, some not over-fresh facts relating to the geography and customs of any mission field. Close up all outlets and let stand, but do not fail to extract a few pennies from each atom present.