

THE BEST BEGINNING.

She was only one wee maiden,
But with willing heart and hand
She pursued her rosy lips and said,
"I'm going to be a Band."
Of course she asked her mother,
As any maiden would,
And got some help in drawing rules,
And "seeing if she could."

Then off she started down the lane,
This dainty missionary;
She had to talk, and talk, and talk,
For folks are "real contrary."
"D'you know about those heathen girls,
How every single one
Is shut up in a horrid house,
And can't have any fun,

"And nothing nice to eat at all—
Just sour milk or tea
Without a scrap of sugar?
(I'm very glad 'tain't me.)
And then they're so afraid to die;
They don't know 'bout our Lord,
Who came to take us all to heaven
By trusting in his word.

"Don't you think we ought to help them
Before we're grown up quite,
To save these little heathen girls
By sending them the light?"
She didn't have to go so far,
This little maiden wee,
Before she found another one
Who did with her agree.

So they 'sented Molly secretary,
And Ethel took the chair,
And though their minds were very hazy,
As to what their duties were,
That day they made an iron rule
That each who joined must seek
One other member; than the Band
"Adjourned to meet next week."

And Molly brought Clarinda,
And Ethel found out Dan,
And him they made the president,
Because he was a man.
Now it wasn't very long, be sure,
With such a stringent rule,
Before there really was a throng—
In fact 'twas all the school.

And they studied about the heathen,
Prayed for their souls so sad,
And they worked to gather pennies
To send the tidings glad.
They had exhibitions, concerts,
And all such things, you know,
For the bigger people all waked up
By the stir going on below.

So just one little maiden,
Who works with heart and hand,
Is the very best beginning
For a Missionary Band.

—Children's Work for Children.

Daily, hourly, loving and giving,
In the poorest life makes heavenly living.

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