

severe on the Band members as in other ways they are doing a grand work; true, it is a tremendous uphill work, and for this same reason the Branch ought to feel proud to report an increase of about twenty-seven new Bands during the past five years. Unlike other Societies set rules and regulations cannot be laid down for this work, so the "Powers that be" have to rely on the good judgment of the different Presidents who have the interest of the cause at heart and would not allow any entertainment or phase of work that could be called *unconstitutional*. As there are no two Bands with similar surroundings we often see what is a brilliant success in one place is a complete failure in the next, and what will suit in the country will often not take in the town, and in short what is the crowning star in one Band is the ruination of another. Of course you know that the Christian world is at present greatly agitated about the "Giving of Tenths!" They claim that if all church members would give a tenth of their income, in a very few years every heathen nation would have heard of Christ, and all benevolent institutions be supported. Now, sad as it may seem in this progressive age of ours, it is nevertheless true that a privilege and duty, put down in plain black and white figures, has few supporters, but the same thing advertised in glowing letters with some novel attraction has an audience at once. Carrying out this same idea I wonder why our Bands could not hold a Collection of Tenths every ten weeks. Each member will enclose her tenth in a small envelope with a verse of ten words, telling her experience about it, then a committee of ten will read the verses and amounts alternately, then a programme, consisting of ten selections, will be given, the feature being ten of the Band girls dressed to represent different nations. If it be a social evening the refreshment committee will have prepared ten varieties of cake,* and last but not least the Chairman will announce that a collection will be taken up and nothing less than ten cents thankfully received.* Now this is merely the writer's idea, and can easily be supplemented, and I trust will be a help to some of our weary workers who are constantly calling out for new ideas."

"Just here I would like to ask you your opinion of the Annual query of our Branch meetings, Bazaars *versus* Anti-Bazaars?"

"Well, it all depends,—these sales are now a rare occurrence. Some claim it is because they are unscriptural, but I think it is owing to the fact that women are now not too lazy, but far too sensible to undertake such a vast amount of labor as these sales demand. Still, if any Auxiliary or Circle be anxious to hold one, why it should have it, but the risk of success or failure must rest upon its own foolish head. I cannot, however, see any possible reason why little children should not hold a sale of their own handiwork. The President here combines Home Mission work with the Foreign, she relieves the mothers of anxiety regarding their children, she teaches them to sew, knit and crochet, and has many a golden opportunity of telling a little story or saying something which will touch the tender heart of a child far more than five hundred missionary sermons could do.

Then again, the little ones feel so important to think that they personally are actually allowed to do some real work that will help along the cause. So I say by all means "Let the children use their hands for the Lord." Just here I might say that a Mission Band President should have the prayers and sympathy of every church member. She has a work to do that the Auxiliary cannot do, that the Branch cannot do, that the Board cannot do, for many of the Band girls are not professing Christians, so it falls to her lot to sow the seed which will bring forth a harvest of consecrated lives for the Master's service."

"You spoke of "Sentence Prayers" some time ago, are you in favor of them?"

"Yes indeed, and I strongly recommend them in Mission Band meetings, for although we may talk a great deal about the different phases and modes of this work yet after all it is only through close communion with Him above that we fully realize the true meaning of those sacred words, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

ANNIE E. MELLISH.

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

*We do not endorse these two ideas.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

WESTERN BRANCH.

A. W., of the Sarnia Mission Circle, writes:—The Sarnia Mission Circle was organized in the Central Methodist Church, December 21st, 1891, by Mrs. (Rev.) Gundy. During that year twenty meetings were held. In '92, we organized a sewing society. Quilts and clothing were made and given to worthy people of our town. In May, a large case of clothing, quilts, books, papers, and other things were sent to the North-West. There are still some quilts on hand, and last winter, some of our members were overseeing a band of little girls, who were sewing carpet rags and piecing quilts—they did well and seemed to take delight in it. Our meetings are very interesting. At the open meetings, which are held every three months, we have a literary musical programme. We have had a great deal to discourage us, but God is our help in time of need, and that gives us great courage. Our membership is 84, which is very good, considering so many other meetings. We have raised \$81.55 since we started, and as we are entering on a New Year with a balance in treasury of \$15.00.

N. B. AND P. E. ISLAND BRANCH.

On Saturday, the 19th October, a Mission Band was organized at Pleasant Vale, Albert County, called the "Snowdrop Band," with a membership of twenty-one. Miss Eva Welling, Pres.; Miss F. Colpitts, Cor. Sec.

A Band was organized at Newcastle, on Sept. 21st, with a membership of eleven. Miss Mary Crisp was elected President, and Miss May Atkinson, Cor. Sec. Since then, the number of members has steadily increased, the enrolment now being twenty-one. The members meet every Wednesday, and a hearty spirit of co-operation exists among the members. I. T.