

* PALM BRANCH *

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NOVEMBER, 1896.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE N. B. AND P. E. I. BRANCH.

The meeting began on the morning of the 22nd September, in the spacious school-room of Centenary church, St. John. There were present between seventy and eighty delegates from many parts of New Brunswick and P. E. Island. Among the distinguished guests were our most worthy General President, Mrs. Gooderham, of Toronto, and our no less worthy General Cor.-Sec'y, Mrs. Strachan, of Hamilton. These ladies, with Miss Robertson, our own returned missionary from Japan, and Mrs. Hart, the devoted mother of missionaries, made a quartette whom we all delighted to honor. Their presence with us was an inspiration as well as a joy, and not soon forgotten will be the loving, precious words of counsel and encouragement that fell from their lips. We wish that every Auxiliary and Band could have been privileged to hear them. Our own beloved and efficient president, Miss Palmer, had ringing words of cheer and hopefulness for all. She showed an intimate knowledge of the work of the year, an intense sympathy with discouragement, and a keen appreciation of the brave efforts made to overcome difficulties.

Tuesday evening the Anniversary meeting was held, and was a success in spite of the weather. Short and interesting addresses, given by Mrs. Gooderham and Mrs. Strachan and Miss Robertson, told us, in a bright, pleasing way, the history of some of the girls in the Japan schools. One of the most enjoyable features of the occasion was the singing by the children of the "King's Messenger Band." This Band is under the leadership of Miss Gertrude Allison and Miss Mabel Barbour. They occupied the end gallery of the church, and sang with great gusto and most

pleasing effect a "Welcome Song," and with every chorus gave the Chataqua salute. Another event, most interesting to the Bauds, was the graceful presentation by Mrs. Turner, Branch Band Cor.-Sec'y, of Mrs. Owry's beautiful Banner to Miss Durant, for the Margate, P. E. I., Band. The banner has been twice won by the Margate Band; this year, for the greatest improvement of Talent money made by an individual member. The talent money given was five cents, the largest amount gained \$10!

We are very glad to be able to say that in the committee of Modes of Work for Bands, it was decided to make the basis of competition, for the banner this year, the largest number of new subscribers to PALM BRANCH! So the Editor will expect great things.

On the afternoon of Thursday, devoted to Bands, after opening devotional exercises, led by Mrs. Turner, Miss M. B. Smith illustrated, on the black-board, a series of important suggestions to Band leaders, and Miss Mary Berry, of Mt. Allison, gave a model Mission Band lesson, illustrated by maps. Through the days of the meeting there were helpful papers, such as, "The Model President," "The Model Treasurer," and others—the discussions arising therefrom, were equally instructive and interesting to Auxiliaries and Bands. We hope that Mrs. Turner, or someone especially interested in Bands, will give us a resumé of all that was most helpful to the Bands in this meeting. Speaking of papers we must not forget Mrs. Chipman's admirable address on "The relation of the workers at home to our foreign missionaries." It is well worthy of publication.

The Consecration service, combined with a Memorial one for those faithful ones who had gone from us during the year, was tender and touching—Mrs. L. H. Vaughan and Mrs. Frank White, of Centenary Auxiliary, Mrs. Huntley, of Moncton, Mrs. Gardiner, of P. E. I., and others. We missed words of tender regret for two brave little workers lately dropped from the ranks—Nellie Seymore, of Carmarthen St., and Gertie Stevenson, of Queen Square Mission Band. Young in years, but devoted to the cause of the Saviour, whom they loved and trusted, they have gone to be with Him, which is far better. We miss them—who will fill the vacant places?

We hope other Bands will follow the example of the Montague Band occasionally, and send a boy delegate. We long to have the boys enlisted in this grand work.

One good recommendation of the Modes of Work committee, was that the Auxiliaries should take more interest in the Band workers, as their future successors and visit them sometimes during Band sessions.

Cor.-Secretary's report for the year gave 50 Bands—4 new ones—but a decrease of 3. Of the \$5,108.29 sent to the Branch treasurer, \$1,122.44 was raised by the Mission Bands.

So closed this very successful Branch meeting, which we think and trust will be an inspiration to all of us who were present, throughout the year. We parted to meet next year in Sackville.