

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

Montreal Branch.

Miss T. E. A. Stanley, Iroquois, writes:—The Mission Bands of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches united to give a novel entertainment in the Town Hall, Friday evening, Feb. 23rd. Part of the programme consisted of readings and instrumental solos and duets, which were well received, but the unique feature of the concert was a flag exercise, given by the members of the two Bands. The audience was delighted with the exercise, which was partly of the nature of a drill, but perhaps more like a cantata. Interesting missionary sketches and statistics were read by the larger members and these were interspersed with lively choruses, duets, etc., in which the flags were used with very pretty effect. The singing of the choruses was very hearty and worthy of special mention. Altogether this marks a new departure in Mission Band work in Iroquois, and one which may profitably be followed up by more of the same character.

E. S. BAILEY.

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Branch.

SOUTHFARMINGTON—The "Picquet Guard" Mission Band meets fortnightly on Wednesday evenings at the home of some of its members. We have an average attendance of 20. Our chief work and aim is the providing of means to support one girl in the Coqualeetza Home, B. C. This we have successfully done for about four years, and all seem to take a deep interest in this work. We subscribe for twelve "Palm Branches." Our meetings are interesting and business is interspersed with a literary programme. The "Field Study" is taken up in our Band.

HILLSBURGH—The "Rope Holders" Band held a sale of useful articles and home-made candy on Dec. 19th, '99, at which we realized the sum of \$5.59. We have a membership of twenty-one, eight of whom are faithful and enthusiastic workers. Every first Friday we have a programme distinctly missionary. Alternate Fridays are sewing meetings. Since our sale in December we have dropped our sewing meetings; but have taken them up again. We are at work on a quilt and hope to realize funds for our next quarter. An Easter service is in course of preparation.

YARMOUTH—This morning's mail brought word that one of the members of our "Earnest Gleaners" Band had gone "Home to Jesus." She will be missed from our Band.

N. B. and P. E. I. Branch.

BATHURST—Miss Maud Dobson writes: "The 'Try Again' Mission Band held an entertainment in February. There was a good audience, and it was considered very successful. The collection amounted to five dollars. We intend having a social sometime during the spring."

[We are sorry to hear that this secretary is moving away from Bathurst.]

RICHIBUCTO—The "Love and Light" Band, at Upper Mill Creek, was organized Feb. 8th by Mrs. Law-

son. President, Mrs. John Mundle; Cor.-Sec., Miss Mundle. This Band is small; but very promising.

PLEASANT VALLEY—The "Happy Gleaners" Band was organized March 24th, at the parsonage; membership fifteen. President, Mrs. J. Dystant; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Katie Bertram.

MADDOCK—The "Willing Workers" Band was organized early in the year by Mrs. A. E. Chapman, but has not before been reported. It has sixteen members, has held a public meeting, and has been doing successful work during the winter.

SUSSEX—Miss Jean E. White, secretary, writes of the organization of a Circle in Sussex. We want to hear more of it.

E. E. COULTHARD.

MRS. THURSTON'S PAPER.—*Concluded.*

missionary work teach them about the countries where our workers are, the habits and industries of the people and any bit of information that may be picked up in your general reading, and see how interested they will become.

There was a time when I thought that all that was necessary for a good meeting was to have a story read that the members enjoyed. Now my aim is to have a meeting that is instructive and profitable. I do not go to the other extreme and discard all stories, but they are not brought into great prominence, and are always given just before the benediction.

I find that children are interested in people—live people—and so any item I find about our missionaries and their work I tell at our Band meetings. What sympathy was felt and expressed in the faces of our little people when told the sad story of the leaving home and sorrowful return to it of our dear missionary who is now in Japan, Miss Hattie Jost!

Give a few minutes, not more than two or three—do not weary your listeners—at a meeting for a short, practical talk on such subjects as "Prayer," "Giving," "Love," etc.; teach the children the value and power of prayer—that God wants them to ask that they may receive, and, if possible, call for sentence prayers. A little private, personal talk on the subject will do much good. Do not be discouraged if they do not respond as readily as you, with all your years of experience, think they should, but try again and again. Do not fail to teach the names of our workers. Take a station at a time, and if you find that through the efforts of Miss Brackbill or Miss Munro, or any of those self-denying women, a soul has been won for God, tell it in an enthusiastic way as if it were something to rejoice over, as indeed it is. Picture the influence that one may have on others and then impress on the young minds that they have had a part in the winning of that soul for Christ.

Next month we hope to give our readers the picture of the Japanese girls washing at the well, so kindly sent by Miss Cunningham; also her explanation of it.