

And now, are you willing to make an effort in these directions to gain an interest in this work? It will mean effort, it will mean some self-sacrifice, but have we any choice in the matter? Is not our duty plain? Perhaps we have not thought of it as our duty to be interested in missions: we consider helping the work a duty, but as to gaining interest, we think we can do as we please. But have any of us, who profess to love the Lord Christ, any right to look interest in the cause that is so dear to Him? If one whom we dearly love has undertaken some special work, how carefully we watch the progress of that work; glad when there is success, grieved when there is failure. And shall we not watch for the success of that work for which our Saviour laid down His Life? He did not die for us, in this favored land, alone, but for the men and women of India, Africa, China, and the Isles of the Sea; and He will not be satisfied till from the North and South, and East and West, His jewels shall be won.

Every effort we make will pay. Take the reading:— we may have to give up some book we had planned to read, but in the range of missionary literature, we will find exercise for every faculty of mind, for fancy and imagination, as well as for thought and memory. We can roam in as strange lands and see as strange scenes as in any book of fiction; and there is no way in which we can gain a better knowledge of this world of ours, than by studying the various mission fields, for they are found in every land.

Then take prayer. In that you not only bring down blessings for others, but, as you plead for others, you yourself are drawn nearer to the great loving heart of the Heavenly Father, and His life flows into yours.

So with the talking, and the writing: for both you will be the richer; richer in friends, for the best friends, the truest, are those with whom we can talk of things like this, whose hearts are one with ours in desiring the prosperity of His Kingdom.

And so, most of all with giving. The more completely we lay ourselves on the altar of consecration, the more fully we yield ourselves to the Saviour's guidance, the more He will be able to work through us and use us for His glory; the more of Himself will He be able to pour into our lives; and so will the beauty of the Lord our God rest upon us,

"And our lives will be all sunshine
With the presence of the Lord."

In view, therefore, of the immensity of the work to be done, of its importance, of its hundred fold rewards, as the words of the risen Christ come to you, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," will you not cast yourself at His feet, saying, "Here am I, O Lord, where shall I go, what wilt Thou have me to do."

RUTH.

NEWS FROM BANDS.

WOLFFVILLE, N.S.—("Willing Helpers.")—During the year ending '96, we were able to raise \$36.03; of this, \$15.26 from mite boxes and fees, and \$2.36 from birthday boxes, also \$18.41 from concert and festival given by the Band. We expended 91 cents, leaving a balance of \$35.12, paid to Miss Smith.

Last year the Mission Band children were greatly interested in scrap-book making. We met once a month and the children seemed to enjoy the work very much. We finished five scrap-books by Xmas and gave them to

the poor children. We have some splendid meetings on Band days and all seem willing to do what they can.

J. A. HAYES, Co. Sec.

ARCADIA.—I notice in the *Messenger* and *Visitor*, you ask each Band Secretary to write you how the Band is progressing. Our Band was organized March 29th, 1896, by the Co. Secretary, Mrs. P. R. Foster, who is also our President. We are glad to report an increasing interest in the work of missions. At each meeting the President gives a lesson on the map of our Telugu field, tells of our missionaries and their work and the different phases of heathen life, their sorrow and degradation as compared with the blessings Christianity has brought us. After the lesson, recitations, readings and music are given by members of the Band.

The work of teaching the children something of the needs of the heathen world has truly been blessed of God, in awakening missionary enthusiasm among us. Who shall say that our Band may not yet furnish volunteers for the Foreign field? that the seed sown may not yield an abundant harvest? that the call of God, "Go, ye," may not elicit the response, "Here am I, send me." We may add, that our Band is increasing in numbers, as well as in knowledge and interest.

When organized, we had a membership of 40. It is now increased to 52.

WEALTHY A. SHAW, Sec.

CHEBOQUE.—In response to your request for reports from Mission Bands, I will report for the Cheboque Mission Band. It was organized April 9th, 1896, with 19 members, which has since been increased to 38. The youngest member is a little boy not quite two years old. We meet every fourth Sunday, in the afternoon, that being the most convenient time for our President, Mrs. Foster, to be with us. The average attendance is 21. Instead of the usual we use dues, mite boxes, which we will have opened twice a year. In October last we had a Harvest concert, the proceeds of which were \$11.90.

We have undertaken the support of a boy in Mrs. Churchill's school, Bahara Kroopah.

There has been an increased interest in missions among the older people as well as the children, since Mrs. Foster came among us, and we feel that we are highly favored by having her for our President.

A. MAY HOLMES, Sec.

DEEP BROOK.—Through the efforts of Mrs. J. T. Eaton (our Pastor's wife), a Mission Band was organized in this place. We have 18 members in all, with an average attendance of 10. I will say that it was organized the 11th day of January. Our officers are as follows:—President, Miss Jessie Vroom; Vice-President, Bertie Boice; Treasurer, Grace Spurr; Secretary, Alice Hooper. It is our purpose to work for missions, and we have started a Sewing Circle, and we expect to have a sale by-and-by. We held a Pic Social a short time ago, to raise money with which to buy material for working. We meet Saturday afternoons, at the home of the President, to sew.

We are thinking of having an entertainment soon. I notice in the *Messenger* an exercise is being prepared for the use of Mission Bands. Perhaps we might use that in our own entertainment, if we have it. We are few in number, but we hope to be able to do a little to help along. We should have reported before, but neglected doing so.

ALICE P. HOOPER, Sec.