

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH — BAND NOTES.

Order and promptness are essential to success, and judging from the Annual Report Cards, our N. S. Bands have growth in both directions. We give the following gleanings from some of the reports received:

In the hearts of the "Little Helpers" of Barrington there has sprung up an increased desire to help in the spread of the gospel.

"Kaye St. Mission Band" has persevered in overcoming hindrances, and reports a fairly successful year.

The "Sunbeams" and "Coralline Mission Circle," both of Halifax South, maintain their record for well-sustained interest, and financial results.

The "Gleaners," of Halifax North, have in some way remembered the monthly topics at their meetings, and in this have found the PALM BRANCH very helpful. One of the pleasant features in their year's work was a visit from Miss Stewart, of Sackville, N. B. During the year they held a bazaar, a Thanksgiving Service, Christmas Service, an Experience meeting, and an Easter Service.

The "Happy Thought" Band, of Yarmouth, reports twenty seven members, four life members, and an income of \$40.77. Twenty copies of PALM BRANCH are taken.

The report of the "Happy Workers" Circle, of Wilmot, shows fidelity and patient effort, and loyalty to the work which needs youthful zeal and enthusiasm.


"Oxford St. Mission" Circle has only been organized six months, but we trust that in these months there has been laid a good foundation for future work.

During the year new recruits have been brought into line with our army of Mission Band workers, and many have been stimulated to new endeavour who had only vague and misty ideas of our missionary structure, over which the King's messengers carry light into darkness.

M. W.

STORY FOR BOYS.

TIMOTHEUS.

 BIG name, isn't it? But it belongs to a small boy, and I want to tell you about him, although I think he would feel very much hurt if he could know I called him a "small boy," for he does not consider himself small by any means.

Timotheus was born—well, I'm afraid I can't tell you when he was born—but he is a Marshall Islander, and his father's name is Lanien.

Lanien is one of our teachers, and has been a

"home missionary" for a good many years, and I suppose he wanted his boy to have a good Bible name, so he called him Timotheus, and I wonder if any of you know what that means? I think it means "fearing God," but you had better look it up for yourselves and see if I am right. Timotheus and Timothy are the same, you know, and I can't help thinking the other Timothy—the one to whom Paul sent those letters in the Bible—must have been something like our Timotheus when he was a boy.

Timotheus is about twelve years old. I don't suppose he was ever called "Tim," but then I don't believe the Timothy of the Bible was either, do you? Our boy is short and stout, with a very grave face except when he laughs, when his eyes twinkle so you think perhaps they will twinkle right out of his head. He came here first with his father, Lanien, when he came here for a rest from his home missionary work, and then the little fellow gave his heart, and himself with it, to the Lord Jesus. He thought what a grand thing it would be if he could stay here in the school and study, and by and by, when he grew up to be a man, to do the same home missionary work that his father is doing; so the missionaries let him stay, and he has been here a year, hundreds of miles away from his father and mother, and no chance of seeing them, either, only once a year, when the *Morning Star* comes and takes all these boys home to see their friends.

I don't think he has been homesick, for he is too busy studying and doing his other work, for these boys have work to do besides studying in school. Timotheus feeds the chickens and runs errands and keeps the lawn in front of my house nice and clean from leaves and other things. He goes singing about his work all the day long.

Now, I want to tell you what he said in meeting last night. "What!" you say, "a little boy only twelve years old speak in a big meeting?" O, yes, our boys all do, and love to tell of their love for Jesus and how they are trying to serve Him; and last evening Timotheus said he loved Jesus and wanted to work for Him all the time, but he sometimes had bad thoughts, and then if he kept thinking bad thoughts he would say bad words and do bad things. He said he could not help it, but then he asked Jesus and He drove away all the bad thoughts; and he thanked Him for this and wanted to grow up like Him in all things.

The other day Timotheus came to me and asked if he and another boy could go down to the water to play, and when I said "Yes," they said, "Thank you," and scampered off shouting and screaming very much like two small boys in America. They were gone a long time, and I had begun to wonder where my boys were, when they came back with a lot of nice fish. They had been fishing, and showed the result of their play very proudly. They were very much pleased when they offered us some and we took them for our dinner.

On the whole, I think Timotheus is a pretty good sort of a boy, don't you? And I hope he will grow up into a good man, and be a real home missionary among the Marshall Islands like his father, Lanien.

DAYSRING.