

## ✻ PALM BRANCH ✻

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MISS S. E. SMITH,  
 282 Princess Street,  
 St. John, N. B.

AUGUST 1896.

“AFRICA, latest called of nations.” The last country opened up to the Gospel influence. Livingstone, Stanley and others have done grand work in penetrating into that dark land and so rendering it possible for the Gospel missionary to gain a foothold. Bishop Taylor still lives for Africa, and Livingstone, Moffatt, Pinkerton, and hosts of grand, noble men have given their lives to redeem it; and not in vain have been their self-sacrificing efforts.

When Mr. H. M. Stanley was at Lake Victoria eighteen years ago, there was not one missionary there. To-day, he says, there are 200 churches and 40,000 native Christians, many of whom are enthusiastic converts, and would spend their last penny to acquire a Bible.

Much has been done, but much remains to be done. Only last month news came to us of the murder of a faithful missionary, his wife and little son, in North Africa. So we see that it is still a dark land—still needs our thought and our prayer.

Africa, only recently opened to the Gospel, has long been open to the slave trade. The young people of this generation must find it hard to realize the fact that on our own continent, within this intelligent, enlightened nineteenth century, men, women and children have been held in bondage and bought and sold like merchandise. Carried away from their African homes by inhuman traders, suffering untold misery in the holds of the slave ships, many of them were brought to America, to the Southern States, there to be held in a bondage, often worse than death. Thank God that while the first half of this century witnessed such a system of wrong-doing and cruelty, the latter half has seen the disgrace wiped out, even though it had then to be done in a deluge of tears and blood.

The announcement of the death of Mrs. Stowe, last week, must have thrilled many a heart. No one did more for the African race than Mrs. Stowe. Some one says “She was born to write ‘Uncle Tom’s Cabin.’” Nobly she fulfilled her mission, for she aimed the blow that struck at the very root of slavery. One can imagine how men and women, eye and children too, living on the border line between

the free land and the slave, and seeing his frantic efforts to escape, would feel their hearts stirred within them. All honor to those who on our own Canadian shores held out a helping hand. Hundreds of slaves grown desperate, from time to time, made a bold strike for freedom and were helped by “Northern sympathizers” and Canadian friends. We know how Garrison and others labored, how Whittier and Mrs. Sigourney wrote burning words, and how Mrs. Stowe, in the quiet of her own home, toiled

“With strength beyond the strength of men” to arouse the American conscience.

“Uncle Tom’s Cabin” was given to the world in 1852, 10,000 copies sold in a few days, and it soon had a circulation of 300,000. It has been translated into twenty languages and is world-wide.

We cannot imagine anyone receiving a more royal welcome at the gates of the Celestial City than she who so eloquently pleaded the cause of the oppressed. We give one of her own poems, written long ago. It was sung at her funeral.

### “THE OTHER WORLD.”

It lies around us like a cloud,  
 A world we do not see,  
 Yet the swift closing of an eye  
 May bring us there to be.

Its gentle breezes fan our cheek,  
 Amid our worldly cares,  
 Its gentle voices whisper love,  
 And mingle with our prayers.

Dear hearts around us throb and beat,  
 Dear helping hands are stirred,  
 And palpitate the veil between  
 With beatings almost heard.

Sweet souls around us! Watch us still,  
 Press nearer to our side,  
 Into our thoughts, into our prayers,  
 With gentle helping glide.

Let death between us be as naught,  
 A dried and vanished stream,  
 Your joy be the reality  
 Our suffering life the dream.

Not much time or space this month to talk about the Jews, but we are glad to note that a good work is being done in Jewish Missions in New York, as well as elsewhere. Let us think of and pray for them. Christ is a Jew, and the cause of His kindred should always be dear to our hearts.

Thanks to the young lady in British Columbia, who so kindly contributes to our columns this month. Though not directly connected with Missions, her note shows that she is interested in the good work done. She must have grand opportunities to do personal work for the Master. We hope to hear from her soon again.

Our story this month, kindly sent us by one of our most valued contributors, is apropos to the season. We wish all our friends a very happy and profitable summer vacation.

We would call special attention to the notice to N. B. and P. E. I. Bands.