

# PALM ✱ BRANCH.

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

S. E. SMITH, . . . . . EDITOR.  
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ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER, 1898.

IN the first place let us wish all our readers a very happy, if not a merry, Christmas. Even in the homes where heavy shadows have fallen may still come the silver lining of peace and hope to the darkest cloud. Above all the sorrow of this sad world can be heard by the willing listening ear, attuned to harmony:

—the glad refrain,  
 The little children hear—a strain  
 Which, floating down thro' ages long,  
 Is floating still—the Angels' song  
 Of "Peace on earth, to men, good will."

Our Board meeting seems to have been a grand success this year, judging from all the reports which we have heard. Those of the Home and Field Corresponding Secretaries are most encouraging, and we can only wish that we had more space to give them. They showed an increase of two Circles and Bands. Epworth Leagues had contributed \$639.08 to the funds, an increase of \$60. The total number of Aux. 679, with 14,693 an. mem. and 916 life mem., an advance of 538. "It is always gratifying to increase" said Mrs. Strachan, and we thankfully record this as the ordinary experience of our society, but compared with the thousands of women who are members of our church but yet 'not interested in missions' or not impressed with this special opportunity of work for their heathen sisters, the growth is not what it should be.

She paid a tribute to the faithfulness and earnestness of the young people who now number 279 Circles and Bands, with 7,223 members, an increase of 747.

The amount raised by Auxiliaries, Circles and Bands this last year has been \$38,031.11, an increase of \$1,575.79. From all sources our income has been \$40,824.96, being \$1,691.44 over that of the previous

year. In the bequest account, which is used for building or some special work, we have \$4,105.73.

The report of Candidate Committee showed that six missionary candidates had been accepted provisionally.

Ex. Com. showed a new building required in Tokio, Japan. The Board decided to purchase a new site.

"But the principal aim of the Society is 'to evangelize heathen women and children.' Various are the plans and methods used by our thirty-four missionaries. Among the Indians we have a flourishing Industrial Institute (carried on in conjunction with the General Society), and three boarding schools, in which are 170 or 180 children. Among the Chinese in British Columbia a Rescue Home, a day school and regular house-to-house visitation with prayermeetings, Bible-class, etc. In far-away Western China fourteen little girls in the two day schools, an orphanage, a hospital and dispensary, Sabbath Schools and Bible-class. In Japan there is work in five cities, comprising 24 stations, three boarding schools, with 138 in residence, and 93 day pupils; day and night schools for the poor, industrial classes, 29 children in two orphanages, 64 in the King's Daughters' school, 16 Sunday Schools, reaching 183 children each Sabbath; 245 other children gathered in little companies, 35 students assisting in evangelistic work; also 11 trained helpers and six Bible women. Some 5,322 visits were made; 27 women and five students baptized. In the work among the French we share with the General Society in the support of the institute in Montreal, and also carry on two day schools in the city and one in the country. Two Bible-women are also doing effective service in the homes of the people.

"Surely there is enough, even in this brief sketch, to suggest humble gratitude for such opportunities, increased enthusiasm, added friends, enlarged support and more earnest, expectant prayer."

Looking over the letters and orders received during the last year, we have been struck with the kind words of appreciation and encouragement that have come to us from time to time, and we have realized that they have often been helps over rough places, supplying, perhaps, just what we most needed of inspiration and comfort. So we thank all our kind missionaries and friends who have aided us in this or any other way in the past, and bespeak still greater favors for the coming year.

Will our Band Leaders kindly advise us whether it will be necessary or best to publish our Field Study a month in advance.