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WILLIAM BRIGGS,

Methodist Book and Publishing House,

TORONTO.

C. W. COATES,
2176 St. Catherine St.,
Montreal, Que.

S. F. HURSTON,
Meth. Book Room,
Halifax, N.S.

Sunday School Banner

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1905.

The Boys' Missionary Club, and What Came of It.

BY MISS V. F. PENROSE.

ONE of the best training-schools for boys is a missionary band or club. If a good knowledge of missions is equal to a college education, as one father put it, the boys who are becoming enthusiastic on this world-embracing subject are indeed receiving a university education.

In one club, where twenty boys are enrolled, the big brothers come with the little ones, the older taking a sort of supervision of the seven younger. The entrance fee is a subscription to the little missionary magazine, *Over Sea and Land*.

Originally only one meeting was held a month, but the interest is far greater

now that it meets every two weeks. The first meeting of the year was given to the general survey of the country, the second to written accounts of some missionary hero in that land. On the illustrated missionary postal card (a very much-prized notification of each meeting) each boy would be referred to some particular paragraph or section in the pages of *Over Sea and Land*. This was to be his "fact" for the meeting. Our programme, in use for years, was made by a committee of boys who printed copies of it. It begins with prayer by the leader, at whose house they meet. The boys say: "We do not know what to pray for till you tell us." A large map of the world is the invariable accompaniment of each session, colored by the leader in water-color, yellow for Protestants, red for Roman Catholics, pink for the Greek Church, green for Mohammedan lands, dark gray for regions inhabited by pagans and heathen. It is a perpetual "mute appeal." The work of all denominations is indicated by spangles, sewed on, and their glitter is most effective. This map is the basis of that first prayer, a boy pointing out the country to be studied, the color showing the prevailing religion, the spangles "the petty done, the undone vast." A map of the country to be studied may be fastened beside with our own stations marked, underscored with red, but the map of the world is indispensable, and is, indeed, "the best prayer-book."

There are three periods of prayer. The second, midway to the close, is "Prayer by the boys." Each one offers a very brief prayer for the boys of that land, a mission station, some missionary, his children, the medical work, perhaps a special hospital. Each boy has already given his fact, asked a question if he wishes. Then Bible verses are recited, a number of portions being memorized and one used at a meeting: Psalms 2. 8; 135. 15-18; Malachi 3. 8-10; Matthew 2. 1-6; John 3. 16; 15. 16; Romans 12. 1, 2; 10. 13-15; or each may give a verse beginning with the letter of the country for the month.

The offering next is taken in an incense-burner from China, an African basket, or a Persian bag. Curiosities have been lying in the centre of the table around which the boys are gathered, not to be handled till the programme demands them. They make the land so real, they prove it. The handling of an actual idol, perhaps of unknown antiquity,

of some of the strangest shoes, the presentation of them.

Finding early in life self to secure land use, loaned serve God, those curious time! miss active service those inexperienced make custom.

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The business kept by the ground that "deserves to m the reports o came next, f The yearly ele the first fall m

The third p hour to its pr and reverently followed by a

The second up "Heroes of stimulating to meeting one w curio was offer written account easy to find, s would be give Livingstone ea self. The li often of service