

*Continued from 5th page.*

ed down with salt and rice husks." The wife of this old man had died during the summer and only the son and himself were left of the family. The old man seemed so glad to see us, and told the missionary with a beaming face of the faith of his wife before she died. The workshop opened into the house. There was a man working there, a Christian, and "one of the missions." He told us that the man of the house, Mr. S—was helping him; said he had been out of work, and Mr. S—had given him work, but Mr. S—said "We are helping each other." The son came in while we were there. They told us what good times they had, talking of God's goodness, while they worked with their hands. After reading, singing and prayer, we left, I to go home and ponder the lessons I had learned that day, from those poor, ignorant people, lessons of faith and devotion, of difficulties conquered, of temptations overcome by faith, lessons of cheerful cross-bearing and loving service in the midst of the most difficult surroundings. And also had I gained an insight into one part of the life of our missionary evangelists in Tokyo.

ESSELLE.

### LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH.

Mrs. Downing, Pres.; Miss Debbie Morton, Vice-Pres.; Miss Martha Boliver, Rec.-Sec.; Miss Laura Chesley, Cor.-Sec.; Miss Kittie Trechewey, Treas.

We have a membership of twelve, and pray that we may have a larger and better attendance this year.

We are sorry to have so few Band notes this month. The leaders and secretaries are probably busy getting ready for the annual and Branch meetings.

S. A. Chesley, Cor. Sec. writes—The annual meeting of the "Try Again" Mission Band, New Germany, Nova Scotia, met on the 15th of May. The new officers appointed for this year are:

#### N. B. AND P. E. I. BRANCH.

BANNER COMPETITION.

Only a few more days yet remain to try for the Banner—the competition will close on September 1st.

### HELP FOR WEAK SOCIETIES OR BANDS.

MRS. R. B. WALT.

In Russia there is a band, each member has a horn which can give out only one note; if he is set to G he can only toot G when it comes in the course of the music: most of his time is spent waiting for his time to toot. So let us not be like this band, but all at, and always at it.

Opportunities are hand made. There is such a thing as waiting for an opportune moment, but this is not devoid of difficulty and one charged with a work to do does not say, I will do it because no one objects and nothing obstructs, Adversity is a school of

character. Undisturbed ease cannot secure a sturdy and vigorous manhood. A saved soul has joy that can never be known to a soul that was not in peril.

Where there is no struggle there is little inspiration. Difficulties must be dared, dangers must be dared, or we shall accomplish nothing and fail of the purpose of our existence. A society that always does just the easy things, that society will find it easy to die. We should not be satisfied with our former achievements. A sculptor was once asked which was his best piece; he quickly replied, "my next"; so let us aim at making the next meeting the best.

When one is lazy or inert or afraid to go forward, we justify ourselves by knowing we are doing well; to be always moderate is to be often in peril. Looking backward is never safe except glances for the moment for the purpose of gaining hope and courage in the forward path of duty. Paul looked back only for incitement to him to press forward. He gave it to us in words that are for our own inspiration and cheer. "Not what we are but what we would be is God's" loving estimate of us; he gives not according to our powers but according to our purpose. Your society may have a large stock of fine talents and good judgments, with a backing of wide experience, but how little does all this avail without heartiness, earnestness and enthusiasm. God gives us the machinery for accomplishing his work, but we must fill the boiler with water and build the fire under it; there is no substitute for earnestness and zeal.

As societies we ought to grow stronger and stronger; for God has made provision for our growth in this way, The higher the ideals of attainment, the higher will be the measure of actual attainment and the more prominence given to the work to be done is less likely to be satisfied with the work accomplished.

God has conditioned the success of missions on prayer, definite, importunate prayer; if our prayers are potent for good their lack may be a loss.

A mother went to visit her son who was in prison for trial; she threw her arras around his neck and said, "My son, my son, I am to blame for the position you are in. I prayed for you every day until I saw you an office-bearer in the church; then I thought you were safe." That is the way I felt about a new society I had organized; I told them I blamed myself that they were not working; I had prayed to God to give them a missionary spirit before I organized; after that I thought they were all right and ceased to pray for them.

Duty and today are ours; we must do our best now, be our station high or low; as officers and members doing more than is set for us to do is one sure help of doing our duty right. The fact that our duty seems impossible is an added reason for its doing—duty is measured by ability. "Give ye them to eat."