

leaders, and others who are neither one nor the other. See to it that you do not get the latter.

Your leader need not necessarily be the President of the Band. If there is an older girl, a Christian and well fitted give her the chair if she will take it. Officer, if possible, from the Band and get all you can in committees that will have work to do, and whose reports will be promptly called for. Try to make each feel an active worker. Have opening exercises bright and try to get all in sympathy with each other, as a first step in the Home Mission work.

You will not be able to get them interested in missions until they know something about them, any more than you yourself can get interested in the death of a child of whom you had never heard. They must have knowledge—which begets interest, which begets love. Educate through map exercises, through readings, talks of incidents in missionary lives. Aristotle said, "Let the very playthings of your child have a bearing upon the life and work of the coming man," and in this connection Mrs. Mannings' game of Missionary Quartetts could do excellent work once in a while in a Mission Band, or elsewhere. The secret of success for a Mission Band is pleasurable activity with an end in view. Supporting a child in India and corresponding with its guardian, getting details of its life takes a great hold upon the Band.

Have some plan whereby the children can make money. The objections to bazaars fade when children are concerned. It is often the only way they can give of the fruit of their hands. Encourage them to give to missions also through what they can earn at home. Most parents will help their children in this way.

This Mission Band should have its own literature. Boys and girls like to be on a line with their parents, a like society—like advantages command their respect.

In many places a paper could be edited by the Band, and here it might be possible to work in the boys. I confess, with myself, the boys' place in Mission Bands has never yet been properly adjusted. He should be there, but how are we to get him and keep him. He so soon works away from us.

It might be possible in some localities with the help of one or two Christian boys as leaders, to get a paper edited for the Mission Band and they might be brought to attend once a month. They also could be formed into Entertainment and Emergency Committees. In some Bands some of the very little boys are taught to sew or knit, but there is always the danger that when they get older they will lay it up against the Society. Making of scrap books for India will hold the smaller boys, but there is a limit to that industry.

Some Sunday Schools have adopted the plan of making the Mission Band a part of the Sunday School work—each Sunday a separate collection is taken for missions

and once a quarter the afternoon is given up to missions. Where this plan is not carried out, the Mission Band should be prepared to take a special part on the Sunday set apart for missionary lessons. Just a word upon the hindrances, in bringing the child into a life long interest with missions. I fear it can be mostly traced to the home. Nothing deadens a child's heart so much as want of sympathy. If the parents are not in accord, the child walks uncertainly.

Again, unwise criticism before the children. Many Christians see the flaw side of the missionary's life. They talk of the mistakes and imperfections of the missionary, criticize expenditure, and say perhaps a few sad parting words over the money they felt obliged to give, unheeding the little ones, who listening, decide that it is not right to give to missions, except when you have more than you want, and that missionaries ought to be better people, if they are to love and work for them. Children do not take things by halves. The world in the home robs the children of joy in missions. When they see their parents take more interest in sending them to a fashionable party, than to the Mission Band, in keeping them in the society of fashionable children than with equally worthy, but less worldly, how can the children do ought else, than accord the *first and best* place to the world?

And, now, in closing: What are the rewards of faithful service among the children in the cause of missions? The whole world for Christ?

In a very few years strong men and women in Christ Jesus, with an intelligent grasp of the importance of missions, and with their hearts ready to co-operate in every plan for the extension of Christ's kingdom.

In a few generations, the whole world at the feet of Christ, the earth renewed and prepared as a temple for the Holy One, wherein he may again walk and hear the hosannas, not only of the children of Jerusalem, but of those who will come out of every clime and nation to own Him "Lord of lords, and King of kings."

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#### GEMS OF TRUTH.

Dear Reader,—I once resided at 2 Tim. 3 : 4, and walked in Eph. 2 : 2 ; and my continual conversation at that time is still recorded in Eph. 2 : 3.

I heard one day that an inheritance had been purchased for me, and a description of it reached me ; you will find it in 1 Pet. 1 : 4. One who resided in Heb. 4 : 14, had purchased it, and paid an extraordinary price for it ; to say the truth I did not believe this report, as I was entirely unacquainted with this Man and long experience had convinced me that strangers never gave favors through love alone, and friends seldom gave favors that cost much.