

### Sister Belle's Corner.

(For the Little Folks who read this Paper.)

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,—Do you remember reading about a grand feast or party given by a great king who worshipped idols? A thousand nobles were there, drinking wine with the king, and praising the things he called gods. Then the true God revealed himself in anger, and punished the haughty king by taking away not only his crown, but his life. Daniel told King Belshazzar the reason why he was to be so punished, that, while he knew about God, he drank wine and "praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone which see not, nor hear, nor know;" but Belshazzar had not praised the God who made him, the God who gave him all his blessings. It always makes my heart sad to see or hear of people forgetting God and giving anything the first place in their hearts. When the Apostle John was writing his letters to Christians, he wrote "Little children keep yourselves from idols." Oh, that all who know God would remember these words. If in our hearts we love anybody or anything more than we do God, that is our idol, taking God's place. Let us pray more earnestly for ourselves when we think of the heathen in their darkness that the Light of the World may shine in our hearts continually, cleansing us from all sin. Then can we better pray and labor for the perishing ones in India.

Let me tell you a little about caste, the great obstacle in the work of our missionaries. The people of India have not God's word telling them the truth, and in its place they have what are called holy books or shasters. These books pretend that when Brahma created men he made the priests out of his mouth, the soldiers out of his arms, the merchants out of his breast, and the laborers out of his foot. The priests, who invented this story, are very proud of their high birth, and call themselves Brahmans. The laborers who are told that they came out of Brahma's foot, are ashamed of their birth. They are called sudras, and have to pay homage to those of higher caste. When a sudra meets a Brahmin in the street, he touches the ground three times with his forehead, then, taking the priest's foot in his hand, he kisses his toe. Even a rich sudra is not counted as honorable as his poor Brahmin cook. The water in which a Brahmin has washed his feet is thought very holy, and believed to be able to cure diseases. In the "shasters," great blessings are promised to all who are kind to a Brahmin. Any one giving him an umbrella will never be scorched by the sun; or by giving him a pair of shoes will never have blistered feet; if sweet spices are the gift, the giver will never be annoyed by bad smells, and any one who gives him a cow will go to their heaven at death. What lying stories to be taught to the thousands, nay, millions of heathen. Let us prize our Bible more, and use it oftener, while we think of the wretched lies that take its place in India.

SISTER BELLE.

480 Lewis Street, Ottawa.

### Mission Band Reports.

ALEXANDER-ST., TORONTO.—The Juvenile Mission Band of Alexander-St. Church held a small Bazaar about Christmas time. The children of the Band made most of th. articles, and a few kind friends gave us some. We made twenty-four dollars; but it was such a wet day

not many attended, so we have quite a few articles over, which we hope to dispose of at our church social on the third of next month. Our meetings are increasing in interest and numbers, and this year we are going to support a girl in Mrs. Timpany's school.—A. D.

WESTON, N. S.—*Dear Link*,—We have often read with interest the accounts of different Mission Bands in your valuable pages, and thought others might like to hear of the progress of the "Star of Hope" Mission Band, organized October 4th, 1881. We applied to Miss Hammond for an object to which to devote our services, asking her to select a little girl. We have her answer, from which we will give an extract. She writes: "Do you think you would like to work for a boy as well as a girl? The most needy object about me just now is an orphan boy. He came to me a few weeks ago and asked for a home. I did not like to turn him away, neither did I know how he was to be supported. If you will do what you can in that way, and at the same time pray earnestly for his conversion, you will be doing a good work. I should think he might be fourteen years old; has never been taught anything in particular. The Lord helping us, shall we try to help him to something better? His name is Areekeen." Our Band number eighteen, and all seem interested in the work. On the evening of December 22nd the public were invited to a musical and literary entertainment. When the screen was withdrawn, a Christmas tree, well furnished by the Band, attracted the attention of all present. The contents were quickly sold. The audience then listened to the entertainment with great satisfaction. Subsequently, an urgent request was made that the entertainment should be repeated, which was done, before an attentive audience, on Saturday evening, Dec. 31st. The various exercises were of a purely religious nature—both interesting and elevating. We have now thirty-eight dollars, which are to be devoted to the support of Areekeen, for we have decided, the Lord helping us, we will do what we can, hoping this may encourage others to like efforts. Signed on behalf of the Star of Hope Mission Band.

UNIE R. SANFORD, *Secretary*.

Jan. 19th, 1882.

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JESSIE M. LLOYD, *Treasurer*,  
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