

## Youths' Department.

### WHAT THEY DO IN CHINA.

Dear mamma, I've been to the Mission Band,  
 And what do you think I have heard?  
 Such a queer, queer people, in such a queer land!  
 I'm sure you'll agree 'tis absurd.  
 Why, mamma, they say, "How old are you?"  
 When they mean, "How do you do?"  
 They whiten their shoes with the greatest care,  
 And men wear down their backs long braids of hair.  
 Their visiting cards are all painted red,  
 And are four feet long, our teacher said.  
 Their dresses for mourning are all in white;  
 At funerals they feast to their hearts' delight.  
 They shake their own hands when a friend they  
 meet,  
 And bugs and snails are the things they eat.  
 Their houses they build from the roof to the ground,  
 And turn their screws the wrong way round.  
 They shave their eyebrows to aid their sight,  
 And have their fireworks in broad daylight.  
 Their compass needle points south, they say,  
 And the boys look on while the old men play;  
 But of Christ, our Lord, they have never heard,  
 And, mamma, I want to send them word.

—*Life and Light.*

### LITTLE HELPS.

Each little star has its special ray  
 Each little beam has its place in the day,  
 Each little river-drop impulse and sway;  
 Feather and flower and songlet help, too.

Each little child can some love-work find;  
 Each little hand and each little mind;  
 All can be gentle, useful, and kind,  
 Though they are little, like me and like you.

—*Susan Coolidge.*

### TO BAND LEADERS.

DEAR FELLOW WORKERS:—

Frances Willard tells of meeting a dear friend after a long period of separation. They talked so fast and so hard that when one stopped to breathe the other would exclaim: "Now here's my chance!" So not the fraction of a minute was lost between them! We are sure, could there be a conference of all the Band leaders of Ontario West, there would be as cease-

less and as rapid talking. Many questions would be asked, many ideas interchanged, and the sweet words of encouragement and earnest prayers for each other would send us back to our own fields, cheered and helped. For ours is a sympathetic interest; we know each others difficulties and trials; we have the same needs; we realize our insufficiency. Yes, and we also know the same great source of wisdom, and Him who is able to make all grace abound. Shall we not pray more for all Band superintendents? Shall we not beseech God to pour out of His spirit that our members may give themselves to the Lord, and that an abundant enthusiasm may be aroused for missions? May there not be a more frequent interchange of letters that the plans successful in one Band may be made known to others?

The present is all important time in our work. Up to Aug. 31 our Bands are \$154.64 behind what they were Aug. 31, 1905, for all purposes for foreign missions, or \$133.40 behind for simply the regular work. Books close on Oct. 15 and by Oct. 20 all moneys for Home and Foreign missions should be in the hands of the respective treasurers in Toronto. The report blanks are sent from us to the associational directors during September, and the directors forward to individual Bands. Please see that these blanks are properly filled, and forwarded promptly. Directors' returns must reach us before any report can be prepared for the November Convention. Will not all Bands make an effort to make their year begin Oct. 15 and have the new officers appointed by that date? Fill carefully the spaces for names of officers, giving full addresses, street and number when necessary. For lack of this we have often been hindered in our communications. Especially also remember to give the name of the student you are supporting. We do desire to keep the lists correct, and will thus compare yours with our books. Recent letters from missionaries emphasize their approval of this branch of work, and its intense importance. Are there not others who will assume support of pupils in Cocanada and Samulcotta at \$17 per year? 42 boys and 35 girls are still unassigned. Let us know what Bands are newly organized; we wish to come in touch with them. We shall