

MOTHER'S PRAYER TALKS.

IN MY NAME.

The little bright-faced congregation gathered in the sitting-room, where the cheery fire and lamplight seem flashing out a welcome, is not at all altered from the group which sat on the hearth-rug just twelve months ago.

"This will be our last talk for this year," said Edith; "and I wonder what text mother will give us to-night."

"I am so sorry this must be the last," said Alice. "I never knew or stopped to think how much children can find in the Bible to help in mission work."

"Nor I," said Ned. "I always thought mission work must chiefly be trying to get money to help."

"Well, our band *has* raised more this year than it did last," said Hal exultantly.

"Don't you think it's *holier* money than it was once?" ventured Lula timidly.

"I never put anything in my mite-chest now without thinking about the blessing on even little gifts."

"The thought of 'helping together' always stirs me," said Frank. "Somehow that seems to bring me right close up to the missionaries in a way I never thought about before."

"I used to put in my pennies, and sing at the band meetings," chimed in Bessie. "and I thought it all ended there till next time. Now I think ever so much oftener of those heathen children since we had those texts about 'our Father' and 'the little ones.' Why, they almost seem kin to me!"

The older children could not help laughing a little at Bessie's earnestness. But this talk among themselves showed that the true missionary spirit was surely implanted and growing in their hearts, and thoughtful, expectant faces greeted Mrs. Palmer's entrance.

"For eleven months," said Mrs. Palmer, "we have been trying to find out some of the sweet and wonderful ways in which God is pleased to help our mission work when we come to Him as our Father, knocking in humble faith at the door of

His great storehouse of grace. We have seen how ready He is to answer; how tenderly the Saviour listens; how graciously the Holy Spirit helps us when we do not even know how to ask for what we need. We have found many sweet, encouraging promises which tell us how surely we may help ourselves and others by prayer.

"And now in this last talk we have the grandest promise of all: 'If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.' It is among the last promises, the last sweet, tender words, Jesus spoke to His disciples before He died on the cross."

"It is in John's Gospel, thirteenth chapter, fourteenth verse," said Alice.

"And, mother," said Edith, "the verse before is very much like it: 'And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.'"

"Is there not a grand promise in these texts? *Anything* in Jesus' name, and it will be given us!"

"In the temple worship of the Jews incense was only offered on the golden altar; it was not acceptable to God unless the priest burnt it there, as directed. So our prayers, to come acceptably before God, must be offered in the name of Jesus. We could not dare to come before our pure, holy Father and ask for the many things we so much need unless we had the blessed shield of Jesus' name. We are so sinful, so unworthy, that we must come to God as it were behind our Saviour's name, and say, 'Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.' As we pray for Syria this month, we must come asking great blessings for that land where Jesus lived when He walked upon earth, and where He was crucified and buried, and rose again. In many mission-schools and colleges there, bright boys and girls are learning to know of Christ and how to serve Him. God has promised to give to His Son the heathen for His inheritance; and so we may come and plead in Jesus' name God's own promise.

"As we go about our mission work we must remember the words of the hymn, 'Take the name of Jesus with you.' We