

chance for quiet rest. Of course the girls who teach in the various Sunday schools lose a large part of this quiet time. At four we have our class-meeting, attended by the larger girls. This is a very interesting and helpful meeting. All the girls are really striving to follow Christ. They are earnestly trying to overcome their faults, and this little weekly meeting, at which each one feels free to tell what is in her heart, is a *real* help to them. The class-meeting lasts for about half an hour. After that is over, we very often have a talk over the Sunday school experiences of the day. Some have very good reports, others have stories to tell of crying babies, noisy boys, and sometimes over-crowded rooms. At times they feel a little discouraged, just as Sunday school teachers often do in Canada. At half-past five the tea-bell rings, and at half-past six the younger girls come to our dining room. This is one of the pleasantest half-hours of the day, for the little girls come with such bright and happy faces. Sometimes we all sit on the floor before the open grate, and at other times we sit around the dining-table. How do we spend the half-hour? First, the little girls recite their Bible verses. The verses we have for this year are found in Matt. vii: 12; Eph. iv: 32; Eph. vi: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7; Matt. v: 44 7 and 8. These are recited in the order in which I have given them. They are the little girls' golden texts for the year. These verses, of course, are said in Japanese, but they are also learning an English hymn. The one I am teaching them now, is entitled "True Prayer." You will find it in the Dec. number, 1895, of "Our Little Dots." The remaining minutes are spent in various ways. Sometimes we talk over the morning's sermon; sometimes I read them a story in Japanese, which I have, with my teacher's help, translated from the English, and sometimes they look at English picture books. However we are employed, seven o'clock always comes too soon. At that time a bell rings for evening prayers. After prayers we spend about three quarters of an hour in the school room. Occasionally we have a Bible reading, but generally we sing English hymns, one of the older girls playing on the organ. The girls are very fond of singing, and the older girls especially, of English hymns. When the hymns are translated into Japanese they lose much of their beauty, and the girls who understand English, enjoy so much the English words. We use the Canadian Hymnal, and we always end with either No. 326 or 827, generally the former. Our little service of song is closed with prayer by one of the teachers or older girls.

On Sunday nights the girls go to bed one half hour earlier, and so by nine everything is quiet in the school. These Sabbath days are happy days to our girls. Many of them will, in a few years, or it may be in a few months, leave us for homes where there are no Sabbaths; but we hope and pray that the influence of the school Sabbath days may never pass away. You, girls, who live in a Christian land, and who have Christian parents, cannot realize what many of our girls have to contend with when they leave the school. Will you not pray for them, especially for the girls who return to non-Christian homes, and who find life a pretty hard battle sometimes?

Yours, sincerely,

M. J. CUNNINGHAM.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

BAY OF QUINTE BAND NOTES.

We are glad to report a new Mission Circle and Band. The "Stockdale" Mission Circle was re-organized Jan. 29, with a membership of thirty. Pres., Miss Olive Johnson; Cor. Secretary, Miss Annie Foster.

The "Day Spring" Mission Band, organized at Campbellford, have thirty members enrolled, with Mrs. C. W. Turner President, and Miss Della Eaton Cor. Secretary.

Lindsay "Excelsior" reports sixteen new members last quarter.

Lakefield "Cheerful Workers" reports a box of Christmas presents sent to Walpole Island, a quilt completed, and preparations for an open meeting, with an increase of five members.

Picou.—"The Nellie Hartt Circle" is continuing its good work under the zealous presidency of Miss Lowrey.

Demorestville "Sunbeam" reports a hopeful outlook for a successful year. All at work on a quilt.

M. G. HAWLEY,

N. B. AND P. E. I. BAND NOTES.

Miss Helen Colter, Sec. of "Wayside Workers" Mission Band, Burt's Corner, writes:

On the 20th of Jan., the Wayside Workers' Mission Band assisted the Upper Keswick Auxiliary in an entertainment. Twelve little girls had a dialogue, entitled "A Missionary Clock;" also, several recitations by members of the Band. The Band conducted the chief part of the singing. We had addresses by the Pastor and Branch Delegate. The President presided. Collection, \$3.25.

TORONTO CONFERENCE BRANCH.

Esther Marshall, Cor. Secretary of "Light Bearer's" Mission Band, St. Paul's Church, Brampton, Ontario, writes:—"We have a membership of sixty-two. Good attendance, and earnest meetings. Every second Monday we have a programme distinctly missionary. Alternate Mondays are sewing meetings. We use Lorenz's music-book. It is a pity that the words are not published alone, so that we could provide all our Band with books. The PALM BRANCH is much appreciated."

"There is no use in my trying to be a Christian," said an old Chinese woman; "look at my feet!" pointing to her deformed, bandaged feet. "Why, what have your feet to do with it?" asked the missionary. "Oh," said the other, "if I am a Christian, I will have to go into the world and preach the Gospel, and I could not travel with these feet."