

PALM ✻ BRANCH.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

S. E. SMITH, EDITOR.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, 15 CENTS A YEAR.

FOR CLUBS OF TEN OR MORE TO ONE ADDRESS, 10c. EACH A YEAR.

All Band reports and notes must be sent through the Branch Band Corresponding Secretaries.

All other articles intended for publication, all subscription orders with the money, must now be sent to

MISS S. E. SMITH,
282 Princess Street,
St. John, N. B.

JULY, 1898.

WE are to pray this month for the extinction of the Liquor and Opium Traffics and all Covetous Hindrances to Christianity. Oh! that they were cast into the depths of the sea! for, say what we will, these are things that are hindering most the onward march of God's truth.

We are reminded of the earnest words of a well-known temperance lecturer during the last presidential campaign. Pleading for prohibition, he said there was no doubt if every church member was fully alive to his duty and responsibility, and would vote according to the dictates of his enlightened conscience, the country would go for prohibition. He gave as an illustration the taking of a photograph. How careful the artist is to keep everything out of the picture but the face to be represented there. If any foreign matter, even one little bit of self intrude the picture is spoiled. So let every true Christian keep the face of Christ in the foreground of his thought, continually asking "What would He do in my place?" and, gazing on that lovely image, he will grow more and more like Him, constantly walking "in His steps."

Ramabai says that self is the god of India. Would that we could say it is not the god of these professedly Christian countries, but in the face of mighty obstacles to Christianity, whose very foundation is self, how can we say so? What advantage is it to us that "we are heirs of all the ages," if our heritage is spoiled by the accumulated selfishness of the ages? We are ashamed when we think of the slow progress of Christianity in a world that Christ died to save nearly two thousand years ago.

But as individual Christians are we doing all that

we can to spread the truth? Have we, like the Macedonians, first given ourselves to the Lord, and do we now hold ourselves as stewards of His gifts and grace? If so, we are on the winning side. Let us cherish the little grain of mustard seed.

Apropos of the Plebiscite.—One of the meanings of the word vote, as given in the dictionary, is expression of choice. We all have power of choice and the power to express it, one way or another. Let us use our influence for good, whether the good prevail or not. If Pilate had listened to his wife he would have been saved a terrible remorse. She shared his fall, but not his condemnation. We know not how much of Gladstone's wonderful success was due to his faithful, devoted wife, but we know that her influence was all for good and a continual inspiration to him. Let us all, young and old, help by every means in our power to put down the evil and uphold the good. Each one of us counts one, every time, in God's sight.

"Prayer," wrote Gladstone to Lady Aberdeen, in a letter treating of political things, "we want more prayer."

And now has come the time for summer holidays, and all things bright and beautiful. Let us enjoy the good that may come to us with grateful hearts, sharing it with others. "Not my own."

We are much indebted to our kind missionary friends, Misses Preston and Munroe of Japan and Miss Cartnell of Hamilton for interesting communications.

Wanted—A well trained nurse to go to Chentu, West China.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

N. W. and Manitoba Branch.

Mrs. Bellamy of Moose Jaw writes to Mrs. Carcary, Cor.-Sec. of this branch, of an interesting Mite Box service. Our readers will all be interested to know that Mrs. Bellamy goes to this branch meeting as a delegate, and that dear little Herbie goes too.

"The Church was crowded to the door. We had all the boxes fixed up like brickwork, in two pyramids on the table, and they looked very nice. Then we had the children on a raised platform, with all the flowers we could get arranged on small tables in front.

"The children opened the meeting, singing the Lord's Prayer softly to the tune of 'Home, Sweet Home.' Then followed choruses and recitations; a dialogue by six members of the band, four in costume. One Japanese, one Chinese, one Indian, one Negro, each telling what the pennies given by the children