

# THE PALM BRANCH.

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## Palm Branch.

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JANUARY, 1894.

We wish all our readers a happy New Year! Hard as it is to realize, the New Year has really come, and we are standing here upon the threshold, not knowing what awaits us—of joy or sorrow—a solemn thought! While we feel that 'Tis greatly wise to talk with our past hours, And ask them what report they bore to Heaven, And how they might have borne more welcome news!

yet it would not be wise to linger too long over the past lest we get discouraged and faint by the way; rather let us strive to make our failures stepping-stones to greater success in the future.

Our new monthly makes its best bow to its large circle of readers and thinks it well to explain the 'why and wherefor' of its appearance among them.

It may be claimed that there is no need to add our small quota to the literature of an age and country already flooded, and to this we candidly reply that this is not our idea.

It may also be said that general missionary intelligence is now so widely diffused that

it seems unnecessary to add another to the long list of periodicals in course of publication. Why not avail ourselves of some one of these?

The answer is plain. Not one of these periodicals, truly excellent as they are, gives us just the information that we most need—a knowledge of our own fields.

While as fellow laborers we are intensely interested in all parts of the Lord's vineyard and rejoice in every success, yet it naturally follows that that special part which is dependent upon us, which we sustain by our means as well as prayers, and to which we send our own beloved workers has the strongest claim upon our interest and affection.

To maintain this claim it is absolutely necessary that the young people of our mission circles and bands should be made and kept fully acquainted with the workers and the work—we reiterate this fact. If they are ever to take our places at home and abroad (and to whom else shall we look?) they must know the workers and keep in touch with the work as it goes on.

For this purpose we are having carefully prepared Field Studies; information of which our circles may be glad to avail themselves, and questions to make it easy for the younger members of the bands. There is room here for May and Edith and Lizzie and Georgie and Bob to find out just how much they know, and—how much they don't know. We hope to have Field Notes giving the latest news; notes of Progress from bands, passing the word of encouragement on to other bands; stories, also, to instruct and amuse.

Our aim too is to develop the latent talent in Circles and Bands, and there is plenty of room in a monthly paper. Cousin Joy throws open her cosy corner even to the little ones, and we shall be very glad of all the help we can get in any form.

Many thanks to all the kind friends who have aided us so far in the enterprise and who promise to continue their valuable help.

What we want, for the most part, are bright, vigorous articles, short and to the point—say from two hundred and fifty to five hundred words. We want plain and simple language, easy to be understood.

We send a specimen number of our new paper to every Mission Band and Circle in the society, hoping for a thorough canvas. Price, 10 cents per annum. (See notice on last page.)