

ing it, there should be a hymn and responsive reading while the envelopes from contributors in the next aisle were being gathered.

Miss Banks sat in the second aisle—there were but three—and it chanced that her envelope was the last to be opened of those gathered in that section. The minister opened it, to find it quite empty, save for a bit of paper, from which he read:—

"It grieved me to think that no coin of mine could be counted among other offerings tonight, and I was tempted to bitterness of soul because of this, when a thought came that I could make an offering of prayer. Falling on my knees, I asked that it might be the happy privilege of some one else to make a double offering, because to me has been denied the privilege of giving at all. That I may not dishonor God by unworthy doubts that He will answer my prayer, I have chosen for my text: 'O woman, great is thy faith, be it unto thee even as thou wilt.'"

There was a little silence after the pastor sat down. Many who had given even liberally remembered suddenly that there had been no odor of prayer about their gifts. It was but a moment that the silence lasted, but it was long enough for the arrow of conviction, shot from a shaft in God's own hand, to pierce the heart of one who sat at the end of the aisle down which the collectors were now coming.

With fingers trembling with eagerness, she tore open the end of an envelope she held in her hand, shook out a dime and two quarters which it held, and tucked in their place two twenty-dollar bills, while she hastily pencilled the words, "To go with the envelope which held the prayer, if God will accept it from one who was selfishly tempted to give instead a few coins of little value."

None in the congregation knew who had made the offering, but as the pastor unrolled the bills and read the lines which accompanied them, and then with tender emotion asked a blessing on the two who had thus made a special heart-offering, tears stopt in the eyes of more than one; but into two hearts had stolen the peace which God grants to those who seek to do His will.—Women's Missionary Friend.

### MISSION BAND CONFERENCE.

On Saturday afternoon, March 10th, a most helpful conference of Mission Band leaders in the Toronto Association was held, in the school room of the Ossington Avenue Baptist Church. The chair was taken by Miss Smith, Assistant Director. She mentioned the fact that while there are 33 churches in Toronto Association, there are only 19 Bands. This is worth consideration, is it not? Mrs. McLean spoke a few words of welcome on behalf of the church, and emphasized the importance of Mission Band work.

The conference was conducted by Mrs. Zavitz, and three questions were brought up for special discussion. They were: How best can a leader maintain an orderly meeting? Where there is a flourishing Junior Union studying Missions, and a systematic study carried on in the Bible school, is a Mission Band needed? Is it wise to have the Mission Band depending on one leader? Should there not be an assistant and several young girls in training?

There was a general discussion of these three questions, and it was decided that the standard of order in a Mission Band is set at the first meeting, and depends on the personality of the leader and upon her firmness; that there is room for both the Junior Union and Mission Band, as the Band includes the smaller children, and gives greater opportunities for practical work; that it is well to have an assistant leader, and to encourage others to help with the meetings, so that the Band will not be entirely dependent on one leader. Other questions as to how to keep the boys busy and how to raise more money were talked over and valuable ideas exchanged. It was also decided that Monday is the best day for Band meetings, as an announcement can be made on Sunday which the children will likely remember.

At the close of the meeting those present—and they numbered over thirty—examined the banners, posters, samples of work, novel methods of marking attendance, etc., which were on exhibition in the room. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon, and it was generally agreed that the conference had been most profitable.

BLANCHE E. MARSHALL.