

for them if they know just what they have to say. After business, have your programme. Always have your programme prepared. Have missionary maps, showing the different stations. On the foreign map point them out the stations of our own missionaries, and on the home map, the stations which are supported or helped by our Woman's Society. Appoint some one to take up a certain station, require it of him or her to tell all they know about it, name of the missionary, the work engaged in, describe the manners and customs of the people, etc., using the map all the while; then prevail upon some one to sing a missionary song, some one to recite or tell a story. If you can get hold of a letter from some missionary, ask some member of the Band to read it over and over until they almost know its contents by heart, and in connection with this letter relate some facts about the missionary who wrote it. It may be that although you think you have made all necessary arrangements for a good programme, some of those who promised to take part are absent when meeting time comes. What then, scold, fret, get discouraged, say it is no use trying? Oh no, like a wise Band leader, you have come prepared for such an emergency. From your own scrap book or portfolio take other selections and distribute to a few who can read readily at sight, and ask them to do so if called upon by the President. When you met those who were absent, in a kind manner, let them know they were missed, and ask them to take part at the next meeting. Then as part of a programme you might get some one to conduct a missionary catechism, preparing the questions beforehand, and giving them to those who will promise to be present and answer them. Let five minutes be given for the children to ask questions, or the leader can give questions, answers to which the children can bring to the next meeting. The meeting may be closed with a little missionary story. Remember that a story is far more interesting when well told than when read. Have one with a good point. The children will remember a story, go home and tell it, and a pleasant impression be made upon their minds. In fact, they will think the Band meeting "just lovely." Don't go to a meeting without preparation. Go from your closet. Be joyous and happy. Don't scold the children if they have not done their work. A cross word might drive them away. Throw around them an atmosphere of love. Missionary work is a labor of love. Upon your training hang great and important interests. You are not working for the present but for the future. Let no cast iron rule exist in the Band. Encourage the children to give their ideas. Sometimes, I think, we put forth our own ideas too much, and not take notice of theirs. We surround them with too many "don'ts." Don't do this and don't do that, until we almost bewilder them. Let us show them that we value their opinion about things, and in this way the talents they have will

be used and their abilities will develop. There is a German story of a gardener who pruned heavily and trained straight, as by line and plummet, his plants. In vain did the little shrubs and vines try to grow this way and that, any way but straight. Their great desire was to peep over the tall fence, and see what the outside world was like. One proud day a sunflower managed to reach the top; one inch more and its greatest wish would be gratified. In the evening the gardener came, and with quick displeasure produced his shears, and cut the sunflower and laid it low, while all the other plants shivered and wept. But the old gardener died, and there came a new and younger man who said, "You poor things." He snipped the strings which held the plants down, shook out their branches, gave them more sunlight and water, and said, "Now grow beautiful in your own sweet way." Thereafter the garden was a prettier and a happier place than ever before. There are many things which must be decided according to the needs of the work and the circumstances connected with it. Some Band workers find it very acceptable to do what others could not undertake to do, but whatever plan you adopt, do not forget that the one thing essential is solid missionary teaching. Draw out their sympathy. Draw a contrast always between their happy homes and happy school life, and the lives of heathen children. Tell them no Sabbath is observed, no Sunday schools held, that these children know nothing of Jesus, never even heard of Him, and you will have their attention at once and always. In the very beginning, as far as you can, impress the children with the thought, that in forming the Band they are joining hands to work with Christ, for the uplifting of the fallen, the relief of the suffering, and the saving of the lost. To this end let each meeting be so conducted that the hearts of the children shall be drawn out in love to the Saviour and to those for whom He died. The most encouraging feature in Bands thus conducted is to be found in the conversion of the members. Such a result seems inevitable. In blessing others, they are themselves blessed. Let the collection be a very important part of the meeting. The penny in the missionary box to-day may be a great beginning for benevolence in the church in future years. If there is any time let them tell where they got their penny, if they earned it, and how. Impress upon them a lesson about giving a part of all the money they get for missionary work. It is well for them to earn their own money. There are many ways for children to do this. Some little boys have had printing presses, and printed cards. Some have had missionary pens and sold eggs. Some have had missionary potatoes. Some have had a little square in the garden, and had flowers and sold them. Some have sold pop-corn. Some have sold news-papers. Some little girls have dressed dolls and sold them. "Where there's a will there's a way," is a