

"I didn't take—but one single penny!" sobbed Mary. "The 'spressman came—and mamma was gone. He was a-waiting—and there wasn't but just—twenty-four cents—in the drawer."

"True's you live and breathe?" asked Guy solemnly.

"True as—true!" said Mary.

"You had no business to take even one; but somebody's taken every bit—thirty-one cents, for I kept count. Could it be a burglar?" and Guy turned his mile box upside down as if he expected to see some sign of a big man with a dark lantern.

Mary twisted her little handkerchief, but did not answer.

"I'll bet Bridget took it," whispered Guy.

Mary shook her head. "Mamma says she'd trust Bridget with 'untold gold,' and I guess that's the best gold there is."

"Well, who did take it, then? I guess nobody in this house is mean enough to take the Lord's money."

Still Mary twisted her handkerchief in silence. Guy looked at her closely. "I'll bet you know. Now if you don't tell me this minute I'll open the bird cage and call the cat. One, two, three—"

Mary was alarmed, although she almost knew that Guy would hold the cat. She said hesitatingly, "I heard papa say he wanted some change for postage stamps, and I think—I 'most know—he took it."

Guy dropped upon the sofa. He was so surprised he did not know what to say or do. His papa take the Lord's money? He lay down with his face hidden in both hands, and Mary went sadly back to her doll.

"Papa, did you take the money out of my mite box?" Guy asked as soon as his father entered the hall that night; "did you, papa?"

"Mite box? What, that little red box on the shelf? Why, yes; you see I just borrowed your money to buy some stamps. How much was it?" asked Mr. Allen. "It wasn't my money, papa—it was 'Lord's money,' for missions, you know. We Juniors all have boxes, and when we put it in there it isn't ours any more."

"O yes, I remember now. Well, my boy, I'll give you fifty cents. Here—two bright quarters. Will that make it all right?" Guy held out his hand hesitatingly for the money. "I s'pose it'll be all right if you say so, papa, but it won't be the same. I never thought you'd take it. I wish a burglar had, 'stead of you."

Guy's honest black eyes were lifted to his father's face an instant, and then he went to paste a new paper over his "broken bank," and drop into it the silver quarters.

After the children were in bed Mr. Allen said to his wife: "I've learned my lesson, I hope. Poor little fellow! No wonder he was astonished. I'll go to the bank and draw some money to buy a postage stamp before I'll ever take 'Lord's money' again."—Children's Missionary Friend.

Please bear with any mistakes made in the sending out of the papers, and kindly send word that we may correct them—we have a new hand at the work.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

Bay of Quinte Conference Branch.

The Secretary of Lakefield "Sunshine Mission Circle" writes: "This circle was re-organized in March with a membership of thirteen. The Circle is helping the band to finish a carpet (20 yds.) before the holidays. We have two quilts of flannelette, and are now making a print one. The ladies of the auxiliary are to do the quilting. In connection with the auxiliary we are making a box of clothing to be ready for September.

"We held a parlor social in April and made \$7.00. This we intend to use in buying material to make under-clothing, etc., for the box. We expect to have \$5.00 worth of stamps by the next meeting.

"Lakefield 'Cheerful Workers' Mission Band is continuing its good work. Has very pleasant meetings every second Saturday of the month, and has sent \$12 to Band Treasurer toward the support of Gracie, its adopted child, in Japan. There are fifteen pounds of carpet rags and some quilts on hand.

BELLEVILLE—Jubilee Mission Circle reports progress.

BELLEVILLE—Tabernacle Mission Circle reports being on the alert. Besides the regular business meeting they frequently devote afternoons to sewing, and in that work find excellent help in the juniors of that society. Each member is trying to do something for Jesus by thus giving assistance. A thank-offering was given.

BELLEVILLE—University Mission Band reports a concert and sale in February, and the Easter thank-offering, \$7.84.

FOXBORO—Gleaners for the Master reports the band busy collecting used postage stamps. The thank-offering on hand, \$1.50.

M. G. HAWLEY,
Band Secretary.

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Branch.

SYDNEY—The secretary of "Little Gleaners" Mission Band writes: "Our Band was organized in February with fifteen members. We hold our meetings every other Wednesday. One we spend in reading, singing or talking about the children in China, Japan, etc; at the next the girls sew and the boys make scrap books for children in the mission schools. At Easter the auxiliary held a public meeting, at which the Band helped, and got half the collection, \$6.47. The money in band envelopes was \$1.22, making altogether 7.69.

PORT MAITLAND—The reporter of "Rays of Sunlight" writes: "We are still striving to keep up the interest of our band in the best possible way. We are making another effort to learn the names of our missionaries. We made the attempt last year, but have commenced again on new lines. A successful entertainment was held in March, and at Easter we remembered the offering.

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