

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

LONDON BRANCH.

Miss A. E. Cahill, Secretary Askin Street Methodist Church Mission Circle, writes:

On January 18th we held a "Crusade Evening" and had the pleasure of enrolling thirty-two members, making a total membership of fifty-five already. We are working for the "Banner" again this year, which was so nearly ours last year. We are now "The Missionary Department of the Epworth League"—hoping in this new relationship we may make greater advancement spiritually, socially, and financially. Last year we raised \$103, of this sum \$60 supports a Bible woman in China. We subscribe for fifty Palm Branches.

I would like to say the "Banner" to which I refer is one given by the "London Branch" to the Circle sending in the largest number of new members; we were two short last year.

NOVA SCOTIA BAND NOTES.

The Secretary of "Willing Helpers" Band, Hantsport, writes: "Our Mission Band gave an entertainment on Wednesday, Dec. 23rd. A good programme, consisting of music and recitations of a Christmas character, was well carried out, after which lunch was served, and articles which had been made up in the band during the last three months, were sold from a Christmas tree. A large and appreciative audience was present, and all went away well pleased with the evening's entertainment. The sum of \$16.00 was realized.

The "Downing" and "Try Again" Bands had a united sale on Dec. 22nd. The sale consisted of fancy goods and confectionary. The proceeds were \$40.00."

M. E. BROWN, *Cor. Secretary.*

So. Farmington, Annapolis Co., N. S.

N. B. AND P. E. I. BAND NOTES.

Eva M. G. Colpitts, *Cor. Sec.*, Pleasant Vale, Elgin, N. B., writes:

"The Snowdrop Mission Band held a concert on the evening of December 25th, 1896. At the close a collection was taken up amounting to \$3.37. We have a membership of twenty in our Band. We are hoping and trying to make this year, 1897, much more devoted to this work of missions.

Miss Annie Mellish, *Cor. Sec.*, Charlottetown, P. E. I., writes:

The tenth annual celebration of the Wesley Mission Circle took the form, this year, of a 'Baked' Bean Social. The girls and boys spared no pains to make this entertainment "the event of the season," and they were not disappointed, as the large number present

seemed to enjoy themselves in the truest sense of the word. After supper an excellent programme of music and recitations was admirably carried out by members of the Circle. Much credit is due the President, Miss Large, for the success of her first entertainment. Proceeds, \$25.00.

The "Lavinia Clarke Mission Band" held a most successful concert in the Methodist Church, Pownal, on Christmas Eve. The programme, which was bright and varied, was entirely Christian and missionary. Collection, \$7.39.

It was the pleasure of your Band Secretary to be present at a Concert given by the Coqualeetza Mission Band of the first Methodist Church, Charlottetown, on Thursday evening, Dec. 4th. The room was beautifully festooned and decorated with red, white and blue bunting. Rev. G. M. Campbell presided. The concert opened by a march and welcome song, with the Chatauqua salute by the Band, fifty in all. The programme consisted of dialogues, solos, recitations, and music. All the performers did splendidly, from the five little flower girls, who told in their quaint way how they made up a bouquet of flowers, to the much larger girls who went through "Aunt Polly" and "The Globe" so well. Perhaps the most instructive number of the programme was a dialogue, illustrated with colored ribbons, on "the different religions of the world;" a long black ribbon representing "the genuine heathen" who have no religion of any kind. The chairman, in complimenting the two performers, said it was only fair to say that while the facts were facts, the composition of the dialogue itself was the work of the President, Miss Annie Mellish. The last number—a Christmas Cantata—although long and difficult, was carried out in a manner that would have done credit to much older performers.

My dear Band Workers—how often letters come to me, saying it is impossible to get a bright and good programme without secular material; believe me, that large audience went home delighted, and with far more sympathy with the children, and a better conception of what Mission Band work really is, than a series of anti-mission concerts could have given them. To repeat the question of the President: "We tried to have the programme bright and varied; did we succeed?" Yes! they did, just as all my other Bands can do too. I believe the proceeds of the concert came to \$30.00.

Pownal.

I. TURNER.

A notable event of our times is the establishment of a Japanese line of steamers between Yokohama and our Pacific coast. This line is to compete with the Canadian Pacific, and its steamers are of the highest grade.

Korea has been re-divided into thirteen counties. First class post-offices have been placed in eleven of the cities, and second class in fourteen smaller towns.