

Children's Work.

Mrs. Jas. Ledard, Supt., Owen Sound, Ont., to whom communications for this department should be addressed.

Child-Life

An early traveller am I Upon a road that looks As pleasant as the flowery path Beside the summer brooks.

I've gone a very little way, And yet I can't go back To pick up anything I've lost Or wasted on the track.

And if I careless pass each stone, I can't my steps retrace, And so I need a faithful Guide To keep me by His grace.

—Selected.

DEAR SISTERS,—I will take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy New Year; the happiest you have ever known. I would like, at this time, to recommend to your notice, as a subject of Bible study, the eighth and ninth verses of the first chapter of Joshua, for I believe them to contain the elements essential to success in any work for the Master. At first sight you may not see how these words can be made to apply to your case when they were spoken to a great nation; but a little careful study will make it clear. I have confidence that you are all honestly desirous of success in this work, and would rejoice to see some measure attending your labors, so I would recommend your trying this plan. Will you do so? Now for a question or two. Have your children a clear idea what they are doing? Can they give intelligent answers respecting their work, its objects and desires? It is important that they clearly understand these things; so important that a few questions, some time during nearly every meeting, to draw out their thoughts respecting it will be in order. Children are always interested in anything in proportion as they understand it, and, for that reason, even the smallest child should be taught all that its small mind can take in and retain. Line upon line, precept upon precept, is what is needed in dealing with them. Wearisome, discouraging work you may find it sometimes, but never mind, dear sisters, it is in a good cause, "Be strong and of a good courage." You are helping to make efficient helpers for the future, and much may depend on your brave persevering efforts of to-day. May God bless you all.

DEAR MRS. LEDIARD,—The "Buds of Promise" Mission Band of Guelph had been organized a year on October 25th. During the year our membership has had an increase of nine names, making a total of thirty members. We raise money by each member paying a fee of two cents per month, which must be from their own pocket (a good idea, Ed.) During the year our fees amounted to eight dollars and six cents (\$8.06), which goes to help educate the little child in China. We held an entertainment on November 4th, at which a collection was taken up, amounting to \$3.10, which also goes to that purpose. With love from the Buds of Promise.

MAGGIE M. TYNDAL.

The "Buds" are opening out very nicely. May nothing ever mar their perfect blossoming.

Our mission band, "Golden Links," was organized June 23rd, but did not hold its regular meetings until after the holidays, when we met every two weeks. Our collections amounted to \$1.88, but we had a concert on the 5th, and the proceeds were \$11.41, so if we did not have very much during

the quarter we made it up afterwards. We have about twenty members.

DAVEY SIMPSON, Secy. Owen Sound, Dec. 16, 1890.

DEAR SISTER LEDIARD,—Our Children's Mission Band, the "Cheerful Givers," gave an entertainment on the evening of the 21st November, Mr. Brown, the pastor, in the chair. The church was well filled and the programme was very interesting. The members of the band sang several mission songs, and some of them gave recitations. Miss Ellis, one of our leading musicians in town, gave a very fine instrumental on the organ. All the ministers in town with one exception were present, and each made a short address. Mrs. Brown also favored us with a very interesting talk upon mission work and the great need of it, which pleased every one there. Our Secretary read a full report of the last year's work done by the band. Everything went off very nicely, and we realized by a collection \$8. Since then our meetings have not been well attended, but we hope that after the holidays the members will rouse up and do better. We wish all our sister bands a very happy New Year, and trust that it will find us all more willing, yes, eager, to work for the Master, and more earnest in everything we attempt for the furthering of His cause. M. H. Ridgetown.

Woman's Work.

Conducted by Mrs. B. M. Brown and Miss Jessie R. Arnew. Everything intended for this column should be sent to Mrs. B. M. Brown, Ridgetown, Ont.

Five of the Auxiliaries have responded to my request for short reports, others will no doubt follow. I wish the dear sisters who so kindly and promptly complied with my request could realize how heartily I say "Thank you." Every report brought cheering words. They told of blessings and spiritual strength received in the past through the meetings, and of faith and hope for the future. I can only give extracts, as our allotted space will be so well filled in this issue by Sister Lediard's paper.

Blenheim says: "Our monthly meetings have been very helpful to us aside from the money question. Our sisters have expressed themselves so—we have never thought of giving them up. We are able to raise about \$25 a year more than we would without this organized method, and none of us feel any the poorer for it either. I believe we are only in our infancy yet in this work. We are only having our eyes opened to what we may accomplish by persistent, systematic work for the advancement of our Master's kingdom."

Eramosa: "We are happy to say that our monthly meetings are growing in interest, thanks to the earnestness and devotion of our beloved

president. Our average attendance is not large, but when it is remembered that this is a country church, where there are so many hindrances, we think it very good, and feel encouraged. At each of our meetings four or five sisters are requested to furnish something of interest for the next meeting, consisting of selections on missionary subjects, to which our president adds many useful and helpful remarks. Others read a few verses of Scripture, so that all or nearly all take an active part in the meetings."

West Lorne writes: "Our total membership is eleven. Three of the sisters reside at such a distance that it is impossible for them to attend. The average attendance is six. Our meetings are certainly growing more interesting, and we feel encouraged and strengthened by talking about the good work to which we devote so small a portion of our time. We have recently appointed a programme committee, whose duty is to select a short exercise for each meeting. We find this brightens our meetings greatly." Will our sisters kindly take special note of one item in the above: Out of a possible attendance of eight there is an average of six. That speaks for itself.

Erin Village and Collingwood also sent reports, but I am sorry to have to confess that I cannot lay my hand on them at present. They were equally as good and cheering as those given.

The little band in Collingwood has struggled along under difficulties that would have discouraged many. They have been faithful over few things and through days of darkness, and more will be committed to their trust, as their way is growing broader and brighter. One incident in the experience of the Erin Village Band fixed itself so in my memory that I think I can give it correctly. One very stormy day certain of the sisters who lived not far from the place of meeting thought it useless to go, as they supposed no one would attempt to go out. But near the hour of meeting they saw a sister who lived several miles out go by on her way to the meeting. All who saw her soon followed her example, and the result was one of the best, or as many thought, the very best meeting they ever had. I wish I had been there. I think the report said that this sister had been absent from only two meetings in two years. Words would only weaken the force of such an example as that. "Nearest the throne, and first in song" will be found such faithful souls when the Lord comes to number His jewels.

S. M. BROWN.

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