

year in the "grace of giving," and that from a proper motive.

Mite-boxes or mission barrels seem to me a necessity in our Band work, even if a collection is also taken at each monthly meeting. Experience has taught the members of our circles how much can be accomplished by our regular offering of two cents a week. How much greater would be the gain if every child in our Sunday Schools would make a practice of laying by an offering for the Lord's work, even if it be only a cent at a time.

One of my own greatest pleasures at home is to know that on a bracket in my bedroom seven mission barrels always stand, and the children never fail to deposit in them their pennies for Jesus, before spending the rest of their little allowance for childish needs. These little reminders of the cause, if kept in some convenient place in every home, would be found a great help in training our boys and girls to give regularly, cheerfully, and as the Lord enables them to His work. Impress upon your Mission Band that each penny counts one in making a dollar, and that nothing should be wasted when so many people for whom Christ died are in such great need. When one of our boys first heard of the wretched condition of Africa's people, he exclaimed, "Oh, mamma, I never knew things were so bad over there! I believe I ought to give them two cents a week, and, mamma, you had better give them two dollars!" These little preachers in our homes know how to make a practical application of their knowledge.

But in all our Band work, whether as parents at home, or leaders in the Band, let us remember that God wants our children themselves as well as their offerings. Do we look at each boy or girl in this light, hoping and praying that God will call him or her into active service in the mission field at home or abroad? Do we rejoice in seeing their talents developing for this reason that they may be useful servants in the Master's vineyard, and *thus* "make their mark" in the world? Are our Band programmes prepared with this end in view—that some one or more from their number may be led that day to consecrate themselves to the cause of missions? or has our aim been merely to interest the children and to take up the hour with various exercises?

Let us encourage special sacrifices being made for love's sake. In one family near Ottawa, by no means a wealthy one, the two boys are allowed to pay for the support of a preacher on the Akidu field, and the little girl for his daughter's support in the Akidu boarding-school. Do you need to be told that these three children are faithful, active members of the Mission Band in that town? They feel themselves represented in India, and are daily thinking of their interest in that far-away land. Another Band Secretary writes me that they now number fifteen, but their pastor is soon to leave their church, and that six of their members belong to his family. I would like

to shake hands with that pastor! If all our ministers were as determined to train their young people in this work we would not have to report so many churches without Mission Bands. The children should be taught by the President to divide the funds gathered in their boxes thoughtfully and intelligently as different claims are presented to them. No mission field should be forgotten in their love, prayers, sympathy or gifts.

Encourage them to ask questions freely. There is no better way of keeping up the interest. A dozen will listen for your answer if the question is asked by one of their own number. It may be that the President is unable to answer some of these questions. Then let her confess her ignorance while promising to try and find out before the next Band meeting.

Map-drawing can be made a most helpful exercise if coupled with descriptions of the people who live in the lands thus represented. Bring the children into contact with them by setting them to work in finding out all that they can about their manners and customs, and then praise them for each successful effort. My time is now gone; but, above all things, in "Mission Band Work" let us remember that One is our Leader who never gets discouraged, whose plans never fail, unto whom all power is given over every heart, and that He has promised to be with us alway. Let us take each Band, each meeting, to Him, and then trust His promise that it shall bring forth fruit. In this "partnership" with Christ Jesus, our work of faith and labor of love shall be abundantly blessed.

SISTER BELLE.

TWO VISITORS.

CLARA M. CUSHMAN.

What a cozy room, with its soft carpet, graceful draperies, snow-white bed, pretty pictures, dainty knick-knacks, and little library of choice books!

A bit of fancy work and the latest magazine lie upon the table beside the precious Bible. The easy-chair beside the pleasant window says invitingly, "Take a seat." Your own room dear girls, and I am so glad you have it. Our Father is very good to you. Your life is full of love and beauty.

Let us suppose now, that the door slowly opens; a Chinese girl hobbles in, and timidly laying her little brown hand upon yours, says: "Big sister, I am a heathen, with a hungry, hopeless heart. I live with all the family in one little bare room of mud; I pick the cotton and spin it; in a dark, damp cellar I push the shuttle back and forth, working the loom with aching feet; I turn the heavy stone that grinds the grain; I pull the old stalks for fuel; I cook the rice, and embroider; I eat my rice, smoke my pipe, light the incense, and lie down upon a brick bed.

"They have betrothed me to an old man, as his 'No. 2 wife.' I never saw him, but I must soon go to him. I fear him and his 'No. 1 wife.' My heart is afraid to live, and I have not courage to die. I do not ask for