

THE MISSION CENTS.

[For the Children's Record.]

The following account is furnished the CHILDREN'S RECORD by Rev. R. D. Fraser, of St. Paul's Church, Bowmanville, Ont. Our readers will remember that, in the RECORD of last April, a letter from Mr. Fraser appeared mentioning the experiment that was being tried in his Sabbath School. We requested Mr. Fraser to write again telling us some of the ways the children were taking to earn money. He has now given us the story of the whole year's earnings.

Ed.

"Last January I got 100 new cents from the Bank and gave one to each scholar in the Sabbath school, with which to earn money for Missions, (Mr. Goforth's), the other half to be disposed of by vote of the scholars for some other missionary object. I subsequently gave the children some hints as to how money might be made, and spoke to them on the Parable of the Pound, Luke xix. 12-27.

Very quietly the scholars went to work, and little beyond a very gentle hum of industry was heard of the coins until the close of the year. The understanding was that the proceeds should be handed in at the time, accompanied by a written account of how the money was made. I promised that the children's names should not be revealed, so that the narratives were quite frank and full.

An envelope was supplied to each scholar the Sabbath previous to the Christmas entertainment, with full directions for the return of the money and the writing of the narrative printed on the back. The collecting and opening of the envelopes and the reading of the accounts of how the cent had been used, formed a large part of the programme of the meeting, and proved not by any means the least interesting part. Some returned the cent unimproved; by far the larger portion had profitably employed it, with the result of a total of \$52.50 from the eighty-two envelopes gathered in. The contents varied from the single cent to \$5.00.

There were many—some of them very little children—who reached \$1.50, and a few from \$1.50 to \$2.50. One and all appeared delighted to have had a share in earning so large a sum with so small a capital.

The methods employed were many and ingenious. In some cases the utmost diligence must have been used all through the year. Some little ones had invested their money in material for pop-corn, taffy, or candy, realizing by repeated manufacture and sale a good sum.

A boy had bought lettuce seed and sold the lettuce for 25c., and had then bought cabbage and cauliflower, selling the vegetables for \$1.00.

A little girl wrote, "Bought corn and popped it and sold at 5c.; bought more corn and sold it. Then I bought thread and hemmed handkerchiefs, then I bought some linen for 10c. and wiped dishes for mother, for which she paid me 1c. a day. I earned altogether \$1.50, which I hope you will please take and send to the missionaries from a little girl seven years old."

Another scholar laconically says, "By crocheting I earned \$1.00."

Another "bought a spool of thread, did crochet work, took money received for that and bought paper to make snowballs which I sold for 15c. per bunch of four; sold six bunches."

A very little girl, after several minor transactions, "bought a geranium and slipped it and sold the plants for 75c."

Another quiet young child made paper-roses, poppies, snowballs, parasols and hollyhocks, netting in all \$1.00. Another little girl added to paper flowers, paper owls, which brought a handsome sum.

Many of the girls did quite a traffic in paper flowers, especially as the Christmas season approached.

An ingenious boy, after making 82c. with paper flowers, etc., put his earnings at interest for six months, making them \$1.00 in all.

Several of the girls earned money by knitting, making lace, pincushions, etc.

A small boy bought some potatoes, "grew them," and having sold them and