

Sixth Annual Report of Children's Mission Bands and Junior Endeavor Societies of Ontario.

Another year has closed, and has passed so rapidly that it is difficult to believe that twelve months have elapsed since I presented the Fifth Annual Report of Children's Mission Work. Referring to that report, I find that each band was represented in some way, either by report or money sent in, and the majority by both. Seventeen Bands and Juniors reported, last year, a membership of 300; and we closed the year with \$206.88 in the treasury. Our obligations were a pledge of \$150 to the O. C. W. B. M., and two years' support of Wan Hai, our adopted boy in China, which left us a balance of \$16.88. No word from China has reached me since the money was sent, and so I can report nothing of our boy this year, for which I am sorry.

The Junior Endeavor Society of Cecil St., Toronto, reports a membership this year of twenty-eight, nine of whom have united with the church since last report. They hold their meetings at 10 a. m. Lord's Day mornings, and find the time quite satisfactory. In connection with their work they have organized a Junior aid among the girls, who meet each Saturday afternoon for sewing, the proceeds of which go towards reducing the church debt. They have raised for all purposes \$11.30. Of this sum \$3.00 have been sent to the Treasurer for foreign missions.

Everton, "Workers for the Master," have a membership of 28, being a gain of seven over last year. They meet once each month and have raised \$18.00, all of which has been sent to the Treasurer. Ten of the members are also members of the church, four of whom have united during the past year. Of this sum \$13.00 have been paid in fees and the balance was the proceeds of an entertainment.

Everton is the Banner Band this year. Owen Sound, "Golden Links," have succeeded better than last year. We have now a membership of 41, and have raised the sum of \$14.00, being four more than last year. An entertainment on the evening of thanksgiving day helped us very much, while the balance has been gained by a sale of useful and fancy articles and one S. S. collection. Of the twelve members of the Band who are also members of the Church, 11 have confessed the Saviour during the past year.

The Cherry Valley Band of two have again sent in their contribution of one dollar.

The Guelph "Juniors" have a total membership of 27, being a little less

than last year, but report a good year's work, and though they have not grown in members, there has been a marked growth in zeal and earnestness. The decrease in the membership has been caused principally by the organization of other junior societies in the city, which has drawn off several of their members. They hold their meetings at 10 a. m., on Lord's day morning, and find it advantageous for the summer months. They have raised for foreign missions the sum of \$6.00, which has been sent to the Treasurer.

The London Mission Band was organized July 21st, 1894, with a membership of 25, while the number on the roll now is 42. During the year seven have united with the church. The total amount of money raised during the year was \$25.00 which has been equally divided between home and foreign missions, and \$12.50 has been handed to the treasurer. This band has been busy during the year and has raised the most money for all purposes, though not sending the largest sum to the treasurer.

Warton, "Cheerful Givers," were unable to hold their meetings, owing to sickness and other causes, and have only been at work again for a short time. They have forwarded the sum of \$2.65, and hope to do better work for the next year.

Of the seventeen Bands on the roll, only 8 have reported this year. Of those who have sent money and no report: Milton N. S., Daily Workers, have sent \$7.00, and this, with the interest, \$3.07, and \$16.43 balance from last year, makes a total of \$93.65 for this year. It will be impossible to pay our pledge this year, as this report leaves us with a deficit for the first time in the history of our Children's Work. There are various reasons why this should be, and the most important one is this: That our mission bands need to be placed on a better basis of operation. In the past, the existence and welfare of the band has depended entirely on the zeal and persevering faithfulness of some one or two individuals, who have had neither help nor encouragement as a rule, from any one, and were responsible to no one. If from any cause she stopped work, the operations of the band ceased at once. If she grew tired and discouraged, the result was the same. As a possible remedy for this lamentable condition of things, I beg to make the following suggestion, that the mission bands shall be auxiliary to the auxiliary of the O. C. W. B. M. in connection with each church, and that the said auxiliaries shall be responsible for the existence and welfare of their respective mission bands, to the extent

of organizing, if there is not already one existing, and providing for it the most suitable person as leader, at their disposal; or cordially endorsing the leader already in charge. This will necessitate no undue interference with the working of the band, but will give stability to its operations, and also strengthen the hands of the leaders, as well as lighten their responsibility. I will give you an extract from a letter received from the leader of one of our bands. She says "I am sorry to say we have no Children's band now. There seemed so few of the sisters interested enough to help, or even send their children, that we got quite discouraged." This will express the feeling of nearly every one of our leaders, and our work will die out inevitably, unless something can be done, and I know of no plan so likely to succeed as the one I have already indicated.

One of the pleasant things this year has been the receipt of various letters from our sister, Miss Rioch. It will be difficult to determine just how large a factor these letters have been, in keeping us in touch with her work in Japan. The following was received a few days ago:

"Dear Children: I have been asked by your President to write a short letter to you for your convention, and have been wondering what will interest you. I have decided to tell you a few incidents that have come up in my work of how the little ones here work for Christ. One unusually busy day, the mother of a couple of children who go to the Malangara School wished to attend the woman's meeting. The family open and sell shell-fish for a living, and one of the children went with her grandfather to help sell the fish, while the other stayed at home to open shells, so that the mother might have leisure to come to the meeting. The same two children told so much of the story of the cross to their parents that they were eager to learn more. Another boy taught his mother that it was wrong to worship at the shrines at the temples; and that the true God lived in Heaven, and that he alone should be worshipped. He was also so urgent for her to come to the woman's meeting that she came, and has been coming regularly for some time. He always takes care of the baby, so she may come and not be disturbed by it. One of the women who became a Christian last year has persuaded a couple of her neighbors to come to the woman's meeting, and also to send the children to school. One other of the Christians goes about telling of his new-found joy, and last Sunday a friend of his with whom he has been working was buried with his Lord in baptism. The four little girls in my home are such good little things; they are a constant joy. Every night I hear them say their prayers, and they never forget to ask God soon to make their fathers and mothers and other members of

their families to become Christians. At one of their Junior Endeavor meetings, they were asked what each had done for Christ. One of them said two of her schoolmates were quarreling and she persuaded them to be friends again, while another said she had taught her friend of Christ, and had given her a Bible which was being so carefully read, that there were hopes of her soon becoming a Christian. There are others I might mention, but time will not allow. So with many wishes for a successful convention, I remain,

Your loving friend,

MARY M. RIOCH."

Eight bands have reported this year, and have raised \$74.15, being an average of over \$9 for each, which is lower than any previous year. The number of members united with the church is 31, which is higher than any year yet, and goes far to redeem what is unsatisfactory in this report.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. E. LEDIARD.

A YOUNG LAD AND HIS FAITHFUL FRIEND.

Ernest McGregor, of Whitby, Ont., Gives an account of His Experience—Cured of Persistent Dyspepsia by B. B. B.

Worst Kind of Dyspepsia.

GENTLEMEN—I write to inform you that for years I have been troubled with Dyspepsia, and having tried other medicines which entirely failed, I at last found relief and cure in Burdock Blood Bitters, of which I took two bottles, the result being a perfect cure. Although only a young lad, I had been troubled with Dyspepsia for four or five years, but I can say now that B. B. B. does its work faithfully in the worst kind of Dyspepsia, and has proved itself the only cure for me.

ERNEST MCGREGOR,
Whitby, Ont.

You Don't Have to Swear Off
Says the St. Louis *Journal of Agriculture* in an editorial about No-To-Bac, the famous tobacco habit cure. "We know of many cases cured by No-To-Bac. One, a prominent St. Louis architect, smoked and chewed for twenty years. Two boxes cured him so that even the smell of tobacco makes him sick." No-To-Bac sold and guaranteed; no cure, no pay. Book free. Sterling Remedy Co., 374 St. Paul St., Montreal.

Rudy's Pile Suppository

Is guaranteed to cure Piles and Constipation, or money refunded. 50 cents per box. Send two stamps for circular and free sample to MARTIN RUDY, Registered Pharmacist, Lancaster, Pa. No postals answered. For sale by all first-class druggists everywhere. J. WINER & Co., Wholesale Agents, Hamilton, Ont.