

* PALM BRANCH *

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH.

SAINT JOHN, N. B.

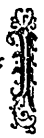
S. E. SMITH, EDITOR.
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FEBRUARY, 1896.

 read in the Old Testament when I want to have my faith strengthened," said one whose faith is now lost in sight. It is wonderful how, when one goes to it with such an object in view, so much is found to cheer and encourage the child of God, the "worker together with Him." In 2nd Chronicles you will find the story of a king who, like other kings mentioned in this wonderful Book, had grand chances, chances which would have secured him a throne in Heaven as well as on earth, if he had improved them. It is said "as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper," and for a while he had wonderful success so that "his name spread far abroad". The secret is given in these words, "For he was marvellously helped until he was strong," but his ambition rose with his prosperity and "his heart was lifted up to his destruction". How sad that such a story should have such an ending.

We are told that all these things are put on record for our instruction. The lesson which comes to us with this chapter from life is the lesson of possible *marvellous help*. Shall we not take the lesson home to our own innermost hearts? "I am sad, tired, discouraged"! "Marvellously helped until he was strong"! "I am the leader of a Band, I am young in the way, I am utterly unfitted for this duty, I do not know why this work should have fallen upon me." "Marvellously helped until he was strong"! "I belong to a society which is barely struggling for existence, the difficulties are too great, the way too long and too hard". "Marvellously helped until he was strong"! And best of all, dear readers, this marvellous help "may be had for the seeking." "As long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper."

Our prayer this month is for the Indians of our Dominion, who have a two fold claim upon us. The claim of a dispossessed people upon those who occupy their lands, the claim of the spiritually empty upon the full, of the ignorant and benighted upon those who have the Light of Life. Also, do not forget the little orphans.

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Please take notice,—It is only to clubs of ten or more to ONE ADDRESS, that the paper is ten cents each a year. That is the very best we can do for you.

We are sure that our readers must have been greatly pleased with the little group which adorned the first page of our paper last month. The bright, intelligent faces of children twice redeemed. Once in God's great redeeming plan and again by Miss Whitfield's love and zeal, both deeds of love, you see, coming from the same great source. We are much indebted to Miss Wakefield for the charming little sketch which accompanied it and most sincerely hope to hear from her again.

We are really publishing two stories this month from young contributors, both truly missionary and excellent. Thanks to the kind friend in British Columbia, who sends us an interesting account of the Chinese wedding announced in January leaflet. Also to the young lady who gives us a peep into the Newfoundland Orphanage.

We are sending out subscription blanks to be filled in by you. Please renew *at once* as we do not wish to cut you off from our list of subscribers.

To those who have contributed to the success of our paper during the past year, either in a literary or business way, we tender our most cordial thanks. All we ask from them now is a continuance of their favors through the new year. We hope that the number of contributors, as well as subscribers, will be greatly multiplied.

We are especially grateful to Mrs. J. R. —, of Montreal, who, in a series of articles, for two-thirds of the year, has ably instructed us in the errors of the Romish church and the tenets of our own Protestant faith. We strongly advise all our young readers to take advantage of the mine of knowledge thus opened up to them, through the kindness of this much respected friend. It may prove a safeguard to many young minds.

Our "osy Corner" has been well patronized, we love to hear from the children and wish we could give them more space.

We desire to correct an impression made by the Mission Band paper published in December. The writer rather reflects on the members of our N. B. and P. E. I. Branch for lack of co-operation in this enterprise. But we think, after all, that they do as well as the rest in proportion. We must remember that we are indebted to them for our comprehensive Field Studies, and beside good Band notes and some stories and papers, they have given us two excellent black-board lessons. One of these was at the last moment credited by our printer to Montreal, but should have been credited to the Hampton Band.