

A SERMON BY A CHINESE TAILOR.

HEAR children of the PALM BRANCH. Did you think I had gone to sleep, gone abroad, or gone to oblivion? Dear me, how full of zeal we do start out, and how soon we get cooled off. It reminds me of trying to light a fire with shavings; you will get a big blaze, and put on your coal and shut the stove door, and go away to get ready for breakfast, and then come down to make the coffee, and behold! the fire is out! That's the way sometimes with Christian work, and workers; and sometimes even with Mission Bands. Somebody says, "Let's start a Mission Band." "Yes," says another, and the match of enthusiasm is struck, and the shavings of good wishes begin to glow, and blaze, and burn, and warm, and some little sticks of encouragement begin to crack, and splutter, and flare up too, and the church says, "It's getting warm I believe," and the preacher says, "I guess I'll go and see this little fire of missionary enthusiasm," and he decides to go to the first meeting which comes round. He arranges his plans for that day, alas, it rains a little, and the day is chilly and cheerless. But he says, "I must go to-day, I have no other chance for some time. The burning zeal of the leader will take her there, and those little girls are just overflowing with zeal, they will be there, I am sure." And he gets to the church and he looks round, and behold! What! The fire is out. Put out by a chilly rain storm.

Do you ask if that was what stopped me writing to PALM BRANCH? No! But I was otherwise engaged, "as the cat said when she was playing with Rover, the barn dog, instead of looking out for the mice."

But what about the Chinaman's Sermon? Well here it is: "A man had fallen into a pit and stuck fast in the mire. Buddha came along, and hearing great crying, drew near and called to the man, saying: "If you could get up a little way so I could reach you, I would help you out." Confucius came along and said: "Why what a fool you were to get into that pit; when you get out, never fall in again." Our Saviour came along and, stooping down low enough to reach his hand, lifted him out."

"Why," you say, "what a short sermon; that's the kind of preaching I like."

Well, yes, it is short, but it is very deep and practical, and above everything else, it shows how much better Christianity is than Buddhism or Confucianism. "But what are they?" you ask. Well, they are — never mind. I won't tell, because I think your Mission Band leaders might ask one of the girls or boys to write a short paper on, "What is Buddhism?" and another on, "What is Confucianism?" and why not a third on, "What is Christianity?" If you cannot find out yourselves, or from your leaders, write to Cousin Joy, and tell her to ask me, and I will tell you some other time; that is if it becomes a puzzle.

Now for regular Band meetings all winter, good times, good programs, good meetings, good children, good leaders, good, good, well—good everything—good-bye.

Yours etc.,

Charlottetown, Oct. 14, '96.

W. J. KIRBY.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH.

We are glad to report a new Band. "Ray of Sunlight," was organized at Port Maitland the seventh of last August, with a membership of twenty-five. Their monthly meetings are well attended, and much interest is sustained. They intend having a public meeting this quarter.

The "Gleaners," of Halifax, held a concert recently, from which they realized a small sum.

M. E. B., Cor. Sec.

Annap. Co., N. S., Dec. 5, '96.

The "Silver Stream" Mission Band, held a bazaar on the 3rd and 4th of this month. The Sale consisted of fancy goods, refreshments, and candy. The proceeds were \$23.

During the last four months we have had four new members. Wishing great success to the PALM BRANCH,

I am yours truly,

Shelburne, Dec. 7, '96.

JEAN R. ALLEN.

Cor. Sec. S. S. Mission Band.

N. B. AND P. E. I. BRANCH.

NOTICE.—The basis of competition for the Banner this year is the greatest number of subscribers obtained for PALM BRANCH. Which Band will be the winner? All try.

Sample copies sent to those who wish to canvas.

We learn that Miss Alcorn's letter from Tokio in our last, was not intended for publication, but we are sure she will be glad of the added interest it lent to that number.

The Ed. of PALM BRANCH thinks Mr. Kirby's suggestion a very good one; and would like to have the pleasure of printing some clever articles on the different forms of religion, written by the boys and girls. Get the boys to join the Mission Band by all means.

A few weeks ago a steamer left Vancouver carrying back to China the great Chinese statesman Li Hung Chang. Upon the same steamer sailed two American missionaries, returning to their work. They were accompanied by a young Chinese woman, who had been in this country some time. The Viceroy had an interview with her and asked her many questions. He then sent his secretary to talk with the missionaries, saying that Lady Aberdeen wanted him to appoint a Chinese delegate to the world's congress of representative women, to convene in London in 1898, and he would appoint this young woman if she were willing. He said, however, that she was too young to go alone and ought to be accompanied by some one, so they suggested the name of Dr. Hu King Eng, of Foo Chow, to accompany her. It will be a novel and inspiring sight to see two Christian young women, educated by the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, representing the womanhood of China in meeting in London.