

PALM ✱ BRANCH.

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St. John, N. B., AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1900

IT was our good fortune while away, recently, to be present at a meeting on "Children's Day," held in Grace M. E. Church, Baltimore. The spacious building was well filled with an interested, appreciative audience; the Sunday-school occupying the galleries. The decorations were very elaborate. An arbor was built over the platform, enclosing a fountain, and from this arbor depended long wreaths of vines and flowers, extending through the church; one large crimson flower constantly repeated (we forget just what it was) being especially beautiful. These flowers were electric, and when suddenly lighted the effect was "electrical" too. It was certainly a very beautiful sight, taking in also the group of girls and boys who occupied the platform seats in front of the arbor.

The music was very fine, the children having been remarkably well trained to do their part. The recitations also were well chosen, and given with spirit. Each section of the school from infant class to senior department was represented. At the close of this programme Dr. Miller, pastor of the church, preached a short, instructive sermon to the children from the text "The spider taketh hold with her hands and is in kings' palaces." Prov. 30: 28. He asked, "Did you ever see an ugly spider in your path and tread on it, thinking it a horrid, useless thing? Did you even wonder why God made it? Did you ever look at it through a microscope? If you did you would see wonderful things. It would look about as big as a bear—and its eyes! eight of them, and each one as bright as a diamond. And hands—it has hands, not claws—so that it really can take hold. And right in the middle of its body there is a wonderful piece of mechanism—a spinning machine! The spider is both a weaver and a rigger. In what two things would it be well for children to imitate her? In her industry and perseverance (children repeat after him). She is most industrious. Even the young spiders work; they do not go to school, but God gives them instinct as he gives the birds knowledge how to build their nests. The spider is always at work, and she does her work so thoroughly—it never breaks nor gives way. If you look at it through a microscope you will see that it looks like a rope, yet it is really a most delicate thread, and is composed of about five thousand threads. What does she gain by industry and perseverance? Two things, "An honorable place and an honest living (children repeat

after him). She gets into kings' palaces. She is not wanted there. She has to hide away in dark corners. Perhaps you do not think that catching flies is getting an honest living! It would not be for you, but it is for the spider. Here the pastor made a plea for the fisherman and the butcher, etc. "Now think before you tread on a spider again what a wonderful thing she is, and what she can do." Now in what are you to be like the spider? (Children repeat.) Yes, and if you live well and serve God faithfully you will have an honorable place in a King's palace. And you will not have to hide away in a dark corner, for Jesus, Himself, will come to meet you and give you a welcome, and the living you will make will not be only for a little while, but will last forever and ever." Dr. Miller also addressed the teachers in an impressive manner.

We are indebted to Mrs. Hill, of the Pittsburg "Junior Missionary Magazine" one of our exchanges, for the cut which we give this month. We hope it fairly represents the "Vacation joys" of our young readers. This is the last paper to be published before the new missionary year will open upon us.

We bespeak new subscriptions and contributions for the coming year, and are pleased to be able to tell you that this Palm Branch year has been a more satisfactory one to your editor because more people have shown an interest in keeping its pages supplied with intelligence. We are, as always, indebted to our Japan missionaries.

The news from China is vague and uncertain. We have reason to believe that our own missionaries are safe, but in such a disturbed country we know not how long they may continue so. Let us pray most earnestly for them and all missionaries. Indeed we cannot take up a leaflet without feeling that our missionaries in every land are constantly asking for our prayers. It is very pathetic this dependence of theirs upon our help at home. Let us put ourselves in their places, and keep them constantly in mind by praying for them.

Our Accepted Missionaries.

The annual meeting of the Toronto Conference Training School and Deaconess Home was held in Carlton Street Church on May the 15th. Miss Laing and Miss Forest graduated, and leave for work in China in August. Each of these ladies had also previously received a nurse's training, which will greatly add to their opportunities for usefulness. Miss Jackson, who has had experience in missionary work, also graduated, and proceeds to Kitamaat as assistant to Miss Long. Miss Howie, of the N. B. and P. E. I. Branch, is in residence at the Deaconess Home, and expects to leave at the same time as the other ladies for her distant field in Japan. Let us follow them with our prayers every step of the long journey to their new homes and work.