

Our Mission Bands

A Mission Band in Every Church in Our Convention in Four Years.

The Mission Band Lesson.

Dear Band Leader.—One thing I have always forgotten to say when speaking of our work on Bolivia. Of course we should have a map always before us when taking up the study of any country. A small map for \$1.50 can be obtained at 66 Bloor St. West, Toronto. There is a fine large colored map, costing \$4, which we can get at 223 Church St., Toronto. Then "The Link" is publishing a map of India and Bolivia just now, and these can be mounted on pasteboard, and when using the maps each member can have one of her own. There is a new story fresh from the press and a hymn. We are publishing these this month in "The Link." The story may be obtained free, and the hymn, 2 for 5c., at 66 Bloor Street West. For the complete list of helps for these lessons see the Young Women's Department in this issue.

In the last two lessons we have tried to suggest ways of getting the Band members to see the country, and to know the people amongst whom we are endeavoring to work. Now the next thing we should do is to review the history of what we as Baptists have been able to accomplish in the last 25 years.

1. Our scripture to-day might take the form of one child telling the story of Paul's vision, when the man of Macedonia appeared to him asking him to come over and help them.

2. Then the first number of the programme could be, "The Call of South America to North America." This should be abbreviated for Mission Band use. The Band Leader could cut out any parts desired. Someone who can recite well should be chosen for this part. She could wear a band on her hair with the letters "South America" on it. Now what about our response to this appeal?

3. Questions and answers on the history of our work in Bolivia.

Have one member of the Band ask the questions, and let others answer, having committed the answers to memory beforehand. You will see that there are questions for older and younger children.

Question 1. When did Canadian Baptists begin work in Bolivia?

Answer. In 1898.

Question 2. Who was the pioneer missionary?

Answer. Mr. A. B. Reekie, B.A.

Question 3. Is there anyone who knows anything about Mr. Reekie's call to the work?

Answer. From the time that Mr. Reekie was a little boy he was interested especially in South America, and the country which appealed to him most was Bolivia. Everything he could find about this dark continent he read and studied. This was surely God's way of preparing his heart for the call which came to him so clearly as a young man. He came to know as he grew up that Canadian Baptists should do work in Bolivia.

Question 4. Did the Board take up this work at once?

Answer. No, it took a great deal of persuasion on Mr. Reekie's part to convince the Board, and at last they gave Mr. Reekie permission to go through the convention, and told him if he could arouse interest and raise money amongst the churches, he would be sent as our first missionary.

Question 5. Did Mr. Reekie become discouraged at this reply?

Answer. No, he went out speaking everywhere, and he succeeded in getting enough money to pay his way, and in 1898 he arrived in Bolivia alone to begin work in that discouraging country. He started work at Oruru, about which we shall hear more later.