

THE PALM BRANCH.

Questions for February.

What countries are we going to study this month?
Where is Japan?
Has it any coast line?
Are there many people in Japan?
How many in Korea?
What can you tell of the scenery?
Are there mountains there?
What kind of mountains in Japan?
Any earthquakes there?
[Here the Leader might tell of the earthquakes.]
Describe the Japanese people?
Do they like to hear about us?
Was there ever a time when no foreigner could go to Japan?
Could the Japanese then visit foreign countries?
What harm did this do?
When did the first missionaries go there?
How many native Christians were there in 1872?
How many now?
When did our Methodist church begin work there?
When did our W. M. S. begin work there?
Who was our first Missionary there?
How many Missionaries have we there now?
Have we any other workers there?
What are they doing?
How many schools have we in Japan?
Where are they?
Do the girls taught in these schools do good work?
Do they find it easy to live a Christian life at home?
Is there anything a Mission Band member can do to help them?

Our Missionary Calendar.

Only a dollar left and five more Christmas presents to be bought or made. To make anything was simply out of the question, and what can be found for twenty cents that I would be willing to give five friends? There seemed no resort but Christmas cards, and my friends were already surfeited with them.

Discouraged with the problem how to make one dollar equal five, I found my attention unexpectedly directed to our new Missionary Calendar, the postman handing in one while I was vainly striving to solve the problem of ways and means.

Very attractive it looked in its pretty covers, with a white silk cord to suspend it by and it only cost twenty cents. Like an inspiration it came to me "why not take these for your five Christmas gifts?" Five were soon ordered. Number one was sent to the wife of an esteemed pastor, number two went to a member of our W. M. S. in the far west, number three went to an earnest mission band leader, number four to a friend who for many months had been one of the "shut ins" but who dearly loved the mis-

sion cause, and needed no reminder to pray for it; the fifth and last was reserved for one who had been recently called to pass through deep waters, which seemed to obscure for the time her interest in this once-loved work. With each I sent a note of Christmas greeting, and a wish that our calendar might be a joyful message to the recipient.

The New Year brought replies of thanks, but months passed before I knew how much good my Christmas gifts did.

Said one "As the names of the missionaries met my eye, a desire to learn something more about them and their work arose. Then too I often found reminders of neglected duties in the subjects assigned for prayer as well as appropriate texts." From another came these words of appreciation; "What a help in our work this calendar will be if used aright! I am delighted with its topics for prayer, and am filled with thankfulness to those who suggested and so admirably-carried out the idea."

From the friend in her sick chamber came this message; "The calendar makes me seem so much nearer to our missionaries and though I have only known and seen a very few, now all seem near and dear to me as I speak their names to 'Our Father.'" Then too the calendar has brought to me many words of comfort in my hours of pain.

From the beautiful home from which the loved one had been taken came these words of encouragement. "The Prayer Calendar has been to me an angel of consolation. It has turned my heart from the grave of my beloved to greater interest in the work of those who are striving to establish Christ's Kingdom among the nations of the earth."

Of the money spent for Christmas gifts last year, none of it brought so rich a return as my last dollar. May many find in the new calendar for 1894, offerings that will prove as fruitful as mine for last year.

Halifax.

[The new Calendar for 1894 is tied with a golden cord, and is only 15 cents. Can be bought of Miss Ogden, Room 20, Wesley Buildings, Toronto.]

A Hindoo widow through all her life, even if she lives to be ninety years old, can never eat but one meal of rice, in twenty four hours. Thousands of these little widows are under six years of age!