

Bands have been organized in small churches. The members work with considerable enthusiasm. The training will be invaluable." "We have just closed a Band contest, which resulted in the addition of 110 to our membership." "This has been the most successful year in our history." One director says: "All the reports are full of encouragement. Meetings are well attended, and very interesting; and new members are being added." One strikes a contrasting note: "B— has a splendid leader and is doing good work. C— is half dead for want of a leader."

Were we to look only at the financial side of the question, there might seem to be little cause for any encouragement. As we glance at the records of the past few years, we find a constant fluctuation: 1908 showed a gain both for Home and Foreign Missions; 1907 showed loss in Home, and a very small gain in Foreign. In 1906 there was gain in Home, and a large loss in Foreign; 1905 showed increased funds for Home, and decreased funds for Foreign. We cannot, therefore, be greatly surprised over this year's accounts.

This year, for Home Missions, 97 Bands gave \$734.10, a gain of 12 contributing Bands, but a loss of \$42.35. Since Oct. 15th, however, \$26.78 has been received, which doubtless was intended for this year's account, hence the real loss is but \$15.62. Ten gave to Home Missions, and not to Foreign. Life membership certificates have been obtained for members in Walkerton, Waterford, Boston, and Delhi.

For Foreign Missions, the comparison shows a greater loss. 122 Bands gave \$1,379.35, a loss of \$169.40. But ten more Bands have remembered this treasury than in 1907-08. Last year 17 reported who have not been heard from this year; but this year 27 who were not contributors last year; 13 new Bands reported; 25 sent money to Foreign, and not to Home. Five life membership certificates have been issued.

The fact that more Bands have sent funds to each treasury, shows in reality a widening interest. The difference in funds of itself does not prove that

there has been everywhere lessened giving. There are many causes contributing to this. One director writes that several of her Bands have been merged in the Junior Unions, yet in one instance only did they send their missionary money to our treasury. Sunday School classes are being organized for work, as never before. Many of the older girls have withdrawn from the Band to work through Philanthropy Classes, or Young Ladies' Auxiliaries. Certain Bands sent their money to the General Convention treasurer. Some have contributed to objects, very worthy in themselves, but not at all in connection with our women's societies. In this they fail to fulfil the object of their organization. In all 125 sent reports through the Associational Directors. Boxes of clothing and gifts have been packed for both Home and Foreign fields. One box, valued at \$12, was sent to the Labrador Mission. One Band holds a monthly prayer meeting in addition to the monthly missionary meeting, and there are blessed spiritual results. Another purchased a small missionary library, and the members are studying diligently.

Thus in many ways is the seed being sown. Shall we not some day see an abundant harvest? A motto hangs above my desk speaking out this daily admonition: "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it, nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." Talmage says, "Opportunities fly in a straight line, touch us but once, and never return." Dr. Bonar has long lain asleep in the old kirk-yard in Edinburgh, but through his poem he still urges us to diligence.

"The time is short,
If thou wouldst work for God, it must
be now,
If thou wouldst win a garland for thy
brow,

Redeem the time."

SARAH STUART BARBER,
Band Secretary.

35 Charlotte St., Brantford.