

Monthly Messenger.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS.

We are indebted for some original matter this month, to one of our outport missionaries, and our esteemed correspondent in London. Their assistance is very valuable.

The new "Consecration Hymn" we consider well worth a place in this magazine.

Our readers would greatly encourage us if they would help to increase our circulation, and if *those who have not paid their subscriptions would do so at once.*

OUR MEETINGS.—No. III.

THE YOUNG LADIES' MISSIONARY WORKING PARTY.

The object of this society is the making of clothes suitable for sending to different stations connected with the London Missionary Society, a box of such clothing, with its adjuncts, being one of the most acceptable presents that can be forwarded to a missionary, especially when the wants of his own overworked wife, her little family, and the literary and stationery requirements of his own humble study have been duly cared for.

Our party of thirty-five consists almost entirely of children, many of them so young as only to be able to make one of the little picture-handkerchiefs—the hemming of which so delights children—when folded and tacked for them. They meet in one of the class-rooms at three o'clock on the third Wednesday afternoon of every month, with the exception of August and September, when, so many families being out of town, the meetings are dispensed with. Some five or six adults kindly assist the lady who manages and arranges the work and the meetings, and without this assistance I know not what she would do, the mass of her little workers being quite unable to finish off the larger articles and more important parts, and requiring all their work to be placed and tacked. As it is, although it is very evidently a labour of love with her, she is greatly taxed, and has to prepare and finish off much of the work at her own home before and after the meetings; and the break of two months in the summer must, to her at least, be a great boon. About half-past three, one of the gentlemen of the church committee, who takes a special interest in these meetings, and whose children attend, regularly brings one of the Religious Tract Society's or Hesba Stretton's interesting stories, which he reads aloud until five o'clock, making sundry pertinent remarks as he proceeds. To this reading the children look forward with much pleasure, and are generally quiet and attentive, their busy fingers working away while they drink in the much-loved story; and if some of the little ones—absorbed in the tale—occasionally drop their work upon their laps, it is very pardonable, and perhaps their benevolent and kindly sympathies are as much drawn forth by that as by the meanwhile neglected

missionary work. That little, earnest party of *little* workers is a pleasing sight, and one which I think even the angels must look down upon with interest and pleasure. May these meetings be one of the cords which shall draw them, as tender little lambs, into the Good Shepherd's fold, and prove the first stepping stone to many works of love for Him in after years. At five o'clock the gentleman retires, and tea is announced, for which each pays the small sum of fourpence. After tea, the *little* ones adjourn to the schoolroom, or, as the young men grandiloquently term it since the two schoolrooms have been thrown into one, "The Lecture Hall," where they indulge in some good games and a swing temporarily put up for them, the elder children and adults continuing their work in the class-room until a quarter past seven, when a general folding-up and putting away of work, and re-umming of hats and other outer garments occurs; the juveniles going to their homes and the elders to the weekly service in the chapel above, for unfortunately our school and class-rooms are underground.

About seven, our minister generally puts in an appearance for a few minutes' chat and words of encouragement, the little ones looking forward to a pleasant greeting or interesting anecdote from him, and feeling disappointed if previous engagements prevent his taking a peep at them. The articles being made entirely of cotton goods, their value chiefly depends on the work expended upon them; still contributions are necessary for the purchase of materials, and are gladly received either in money or kind. There are four regular subscribers, and these are supplemented by collecting cards, which are taken by four or five of the elder young ladies, and by a small profit from the teas. In all, about five pounds per annum in money is obtained. Our minister generally proposes the station for which a box is to be prepared, the missionary society or the missionary at that station is then communicated with as to the kind of clothing it would be most desirable to make. Boxes have been sent to India, Africa, Madagascar, etc., and sometimes articles for use in England are made and sold here; the proceeds being sent to the Missionary Society instead of the work. This year, the box is to be sent to Mangaia, one of the South Sea Islands, Mr. Harris, the missionary working there, having been brought up in our Sabbath-school, and going from it to college to prepare for the special work for his Divine Master, to which he has devoted himself. The things being just completed, were exhibited in one of the class-rooms last Wednesday evening, to the number of one hundred and fifty-four articles, exclusive of books, periodicals, leaflets, illuminated cards, and stationery. Coming from Paddington, his spiritual home, these things will be peculiarly acceptable to Mr. Harris and