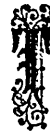


be cross, and be as this noon. I was nauty and had to be sent in."

Now, children, if you do forget sometimes to be good, will you not try to remember that you can be true and obedient, if you only ask the loving Jesus to help you?—*Congregationalist*.

### "THE LONGED FOR LEADER."

 HE above is the subject allotted to me. Therefore, to the Presidents of our Mission Bands for the coming year, what more fitting address can I bring than the old Pauline greeting of long ago? "Therefore, dearly beloved and *longed for* stand fast in the Lord."

In attempting this subject it is not my intention to portray the characteristics and doings of some imaginary leader—some faultlessly, perfect ideal.

'Tis to *you* I look for my model—you, dear presidents of the Mission Bands. While I am writing this paper, I would like to have had you praying that the words written may be *wise* words, a little help to those who feel they lack wisdom, *helpful* words to those who feel incompetent for the task—and *loving* words that, during the year, never once may they feel that they are working alone, because ringing ever in sweetest cadence shall come the words of the Master: "Lo! I am with you." The Question arises: "How may I be the President that our Band has longed for?"

First—By being a consecrated woman. This is the first and most important thing needed in order to insure you success in your work. The great need of our work is not so much brilliant workers or skilful workers—though there is place and need for both—but more loving, consecrated workers; those who come to the meeting direct from the presence of God—breathing out the love and strength there obtained, upon those over whom they have charge.

Have you ever considered that while our mission is to send the gospel of Christ to the girls of heathen lands—many of our own girls—yes, even in the Bands, have never yielded their hearts to Christ? Here then is a mission close at hand. The winning of these precious souls for Christ. Do you not believe that the Band work, if rightly done, could be made a great agency for the spiritual education of the young people constituting its membership?

I have not visited many Bands, know little about Band work; yet, what I do know leads me to say, that the spiritual work of the Bands is not as fervent as it should be.

Dear Band President, what is to be the motive power that will actuate your life and work during the coming year? May you come so close to Christ

ing within the inner circle of love that you can say, "myself for Christ, my girls for Christ, all for Christ."

If such be your aim, it will not be long before each member of your Band will know and appreciate it, and a nobler, truer spirit will prevail in your work.

Second—You must be a STUDENT. The time may come when only those who have completed a certain course of reading and perhaps training, will be appointed as leaders of our Bands. We all know that any work to be well done requires that the worker be prepared. Imagine the teachers in our secular schools having no knowledge of the lessons they are expected to teach. Yet, there are those who have held the responsible position of *leader* of the Bands who have no clear knowledge of the work for which their Band is organized. They have gone to assume their duties without even thirty minutes' careful reading or thought about the work in hand. Is it any wonder that in some of the Bands the members say, "I don't think I am very much interested in 'foreign missions.'" Poor children! It is hard to be interested in things which we know nothing about.

At no time are we so anxious to acquire knowledge as in youth. Curiosity leads a child into asking many questions. If you can but attract a child's attention, you will probably succeed in awakening thought, and in the end arouse the conscience. But this can never be done by the hap-hazard way in which the children in some of our Bands receive instruction. For the Bands ought to be training schools. Each member of it a missionary. (Not all for foreign fields) Therefore the instruction imparted there ought to be of such a character that the members go out into the larger school of life's duties, knowing—

"Life is sweet in any guise,  
But its best is sacrifice,"

And where and from whom can they best learn the lesson of self-sacrifice? Next to the life and character of the blessed Master come the lives and life-service of his faithful followers, who, not holding their lives dear unto themselves, have dared and done great things for Christ's sake.

Therefore, if you have but little time for reading during the coming year, let it be in the line of the work in hand. "The Outlook," PALM BRANCH, "Lives of our Missionaries," will supply you much good material that will be of unfailing interest to your children, whether they be large or small. "You will also study your Living Material." The greatest book ever written says of Him who fills its pages, "Whence hath this man this wisdom?" Of you the same thing may be said, if following in a smaller degree the same great line of study, you learn from the living poems that form the greater part of your work. These girls with their undeveloped powers. Wherein can you serve them and they serve the cause and you?

This brings us to another point.