

A STORY OF FOUR UMBRELLAS.

(Continued.)

Miss Pippins said it would not matter about the name, if they "did the thing;" and "the thing" they "did," for one day Miss Pippins sent ten dollars to the missionary society.

Away off in China a missionary one day received from the secretary a note, in which he said this: "I send you ten dollars. It came from a little society, and they say their name is that of the Three Umbrellas. I was wondering where to put the money, and I said to myself that it ought to go to some land of umbrellas, and so here it is. It is only ten dollars, but it may help some young Celestial to get a little instruction in the things that are better and purer than what his land can give him."

"Only ten!" said the missionary. "Why, there is young Chang Yong! It will teach him ever so much about the Bible. Poor fellow! it is hard work for him to get the money for any instruction; and there he comes down the street now under that queer umbrella!"

Yes, there was Chang Yong, slowly stumping down street in his awkward wooden shoes. Over his head was an umbrella, red as a fire-cracker without, but on the under side was painted a black and yellow dragon.

"Chang Yong, do you want to come and get ten dollars' worth of schooling, and learn about the Bible?" asked the missionary.

"Me wantec to goce?" replied the grinning Chang Yong. "You givee me chance!"

The missionary took him at his word, and was also as good as his own word. How big a blessing was wrapped up in that gift from the society of the Three Umbrellas.

They would have made an interesting row, the four umbrellas, if they could have been put side by side—the green, the brown, the black and the red with its black and yellow dragons!

The green deserved special commendation for starting the train of good influences reaching the Flowery Land. I think, though, the credit was due the umbrella doctor. *Sunday School Times.*

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

N. B. and P. E. I. Branch.

WOODSTOCK.—The "Ella Dobson" Band is increasing its membership. It gave an entertainment December 15th, the proceeds of which amounted to \$16. Nearly every member takes PALM BRANCH.

BATHURST.—The "Try Again" Mission Band held a very enjoyable social during Christmas week at the Parsonage, the home of the President, Mrs. Harrison. A very interesting programme was well carried out. At the close refreshments were served, and a collection amounting to \$11.20 was taken.

The regular meetings are well attended, and all the members seem interested.

Before another month the quarterly report cards will again be sent out. Where the Band Secretary is young, and may not understand or forget, will the *Leader* see that the card is filled in and returned promptly?

Fredericton, N. B. E. E. COULTHARD,
Sec. for Bands.

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Branch.

UPPER PORT LA TOUR.—The Secretary of "Pioneer" Circle writes: "I am glad to be able to give a most encouraging report of our Mission Circle. The members all seem interested. Regular meetings have been held with an average attendance of thirty. Two new members have joined this quarter. We all enjoy reading the PALM BRANCH."

COVERDALE.—The "King's Own" Circle report interesting meetings. The suggested programmes are followed, and found a great help.

WOLFVILLE.—The "Evangeline" Band has re-organized, with every prospect of a good year's work.

AMHERST.—Thirteen new members have joined the "Rays of Light." This band is endeavoring to do its part to lighten some dark corner of the earth.

M. B. B.

Montreal Conference Branch.

The "Mizpah" Mission Circle of Winchester, Ont., reports good progress made during the past quarter. Several new names have been added to the roll by membership, and they are looking forward to greater success in the future.

The "Adelaide Percival" Circle of Merrickville has also received three new active members and two honorary. Besides the regular business meeting they also devote one afternoon each week to working for the Circle.

E. S. BAILEY,
Cor. Secretary.

QUESTION DRAWER.

Ques. I sent for my papers and asked to have them in time for my Monday meeting. Will you please tell me why I did not receive them?—MAY.

Ans.—You did not receive them because you did not send in time, for which we were sorry. A week ahead is little enough time now. When the papers were sent free it was a much easier thing to grant such a request. Now, on account of the extraordinary formalities to be gone through with, it is often impossible.

Ques.—Is it worth while to send back to you Palm Branches that have come to us when we have decided not to take them this year?—JACK.

Ans.—It is worth while to send them back at your own expense, when you did not let us know of your decision in time to prevent us sending them at our expense. We are very short of January numbers this year.

Ques.—How much does it cost to send back a bundle of Palm Branches?—CORA.

Ans.—That depends, of course, on the size of the bundle. 2 cents will send back a roll of 10. But one thing you must remember—to leave the ends open! The other day we received one tied up like an Express parcel, costing 12 cents (prepaid). We felt very sorry it had been made to cost so much.

Ques. When must a communication for April reach you?—JENNIE. Ans.—As early as March 6th.