

"THE shortest and surest way to live with honor in the world, is to be in reality what we would appear to be, and if we observe we shall find that all human virtues increase and strengthen themselves by the practice and experience of them."

THE following hints from the "Woman's Work" columns of *The Spirit of Missions* are too valuable not to find a place in the pages of our CANADIAN MAGAZINE; all workers who read them will be made wiser and more careful, as helpers in the Dorcas Department of the Auxiliary:—

HINTS ABOUT CHRISTMAS BOXES.

As many branches and individual members of the Auxiliary are now engaged in preparing Christmas boxes for mission schools and stations, a few hints on the subject may not be untimely. It is of course the wish of all who engage in this work to make it of the greatest benefit to the recipients of their gifts, and any suggestions that can help them in the preparation of boxes must be of value.

And first, a hint contained in a private letter from a missionary to Japan, will be applicable in the case of boxes sent to any mission station whether at home or abroad:—"If you ever have any advice to give in regard to a mission box," writes this missionary (evidently smarting under the remembrance of some careless and untimely gift), "do not allow anything to be sent that you would not want your own child to use at home. These girls are not babies, and we want to develop in them good ideas of neatness and cleanliness, and to avoid gaudily dressed, dirty dolls. And the boxes cost the society quite a good round sum to send them, more than the contents are worth." This same missionary suggests the following list of articles to be sent in Christmas boxes to Japan, and these articles would be equally acceptable in China:—

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHINA AND JAPAN.

Towels, handkerchiefs, brushes and combs, boxes of hairpins, work-baskets and work-boxes, thimbles, emory-bags, pin-balls (not needle-books), knives, material for fancy work, ribbons, mittens, flannels (these are particularly appreciated), pictures, good scrap books, books of stories told very simply, and nice dolls, new and prettily dressed. It should be remembered that even more acceptable than a box—will be a gift of money, to be sent to the missionary teacher, who can spend it to much better advantage than it could be used for here in this country.

EQUALITY IN GIFTS.

Here is a specially practical hint. Make the presents as nearly equally as possible. Much heart-burning and jealousy will be saved if the Christmas box contains gifts of equal attractiveness, instead of a collection of inferior articles, with a few handsome and desirable ones put in, it

may be, to redeem the character of the rest.

Colored children in the south, dearly love musical toys and instruments, while Indians are skilled with pen and pencil. A worker in the Indian field writes that work-bags containing small scissors, needles, pins, thread—a cake of soap, buttons, etc., are always in demand, and that such things are good missionaries among the people. He also suggests a few aprons, and says that the young women, and older ones too, have come to value these "little dresses" as they call them, and feel very much "dressed up" in an apron.

What not to put in:—Anything that is broken or soiled or faded or tawdry; any books that has lost as much as one page, or is defaced or thumb-marked; any cast-off clothing that is not clean or in perfect repair; anything in short that would make one's own child turn in pained disappointment from its share in the Christmas tree. Under this head come also as a rule, papers and magazines, and especially old school books.

FREIGHT CHARGES AND OTHER MATTERS.

Great care should be taken to prepay all charges on the Christmas box if possible, and when this cannot be done to ascertain from the missionary the exact amount he is obliged to pay on it, and to send it to him without delay. Missionaries are sometimes seriously embarrassed by the neglect of friends to attend to this matter. Mark the box, not only with the address of the person to whom it is sent, but also in one corner with the name of the society that sends it, in order that it may be identified and acknowledged.

Write to the missionary to whom your box is to be sent, when you first undertake it, telling him how many gifts you expect to send, and again when the box is started on its way, then he may know when to look for it. Send the box in good season. Christmas trees that bloom two weeks and sometimes a month after the proper day may be very beautiful, but they seem to lose a certain flavor which pertains to those that are not so long delayed. No work is pleasanter or more popular than the preparation of Christmas boxes, and none gives greater pleasure to those who receive.

We are glad each year to see the work better done, with fewer mistakes, and with more of that thoughtful care which the Christ-child inspires in the hearts of those who truly love His little ones."
—*The Spirit of Missions.*

Books and Periodicals Dept.

"Jubilee Volume. Toronto Diocese, 1839-1889."

The Church of England in Canada is gradually becoming rich in historical records, chiefly because we live in days of jubilees and centennials. The jubilee of the Diocese of Toronto was an important event, and the handsome little volume which preserves, well collected together by the Secretary, the Rev. A. J. Broughall, the speeches, sermons