

be anything very new to anyone, but if a single "daughter of the King," whose feet have become a little weary, or whose heart has grown heavy, shall be encouraged to begin again with more willing feet and lighter heart, this precious work, I shall be satisfied.

One of the first questions is, who shall the President be? It is difficult to find one person possessed of all the good qualities which seem requisite. But do not choose one who is subject to fits; fits of being absent, fits of being late, fits of being uninteresting, or the Band members will be fitful in attendance, fitful in attention, and fitful in interest. Like leader like followers. Love for the children and ever so much tact in managing them, bright interesting ways, large enthusiasm and consecrated love for the Master's work— one who is willing to do anything for the "Love of Christ," and "In His Name." Let this one be president.

In the work itself let us remember first that there *will* be discouragements. Forewarned is forearmed.

There will be some who do not share your zeal, nor believe in the value of the work you are doing, nor even the necessity of it; and what is more, they do not hesitate to tell you so, probably too, at the time when you are most in need of an encouraging word.

But the most disheartening of all is when you go for counsel to some real good Christian brother or sister, but who isn't actively enthused as you are, and when you opened your darling new plan before him, he looks at it all with solemn gravity, and then wrapping it around with his cold, wet blanket, of experience (he calls it), would consign it to the grave at once, by saying, "Yes it would be very good no doubt if you could carry it out, but I am afraid you would fail, indeed the more I think of it the more sure I am that it would not be a success. I would not advise you to try it." When all it requires is the *push* which you feel so strong to give it, you go away with drooped head to continue the everlasting search for "something new to keep up the interest." If there are

I don't suppose it possible—but if there are any sisters here who have a supply of wet blankets, I trust the warmth and enthusiasm of this meeting will thoroughly dry and warm them.

Sometimes (I trust seldom) the pastor is not in sympathy, this is and, for the pastor should be first consulted about ways and means, in church work. The only remedy I know for these ills is continued and persistent, prayerful working on.

Then there is the short memory of the children, they forget about the meeting till it is too late, or they forget to prepare the exercises assigned to them. The cure for this is to frequently remind them; make it a point to see them the Sunday before Band day at Sunday School, for of course the president is a member of the Sunday School, or if you meet them on the street drop a word.

This work is something that you cannot leave to take care of itself for a month or two, if you wish to have a prosperous Band you must be always at it, if you relax your efforts in the least it shows, and when everything is most prosperous be more vigilant than ever.

Next—Some ways of working. "Let everything be done decently and in order." The Band is a good place to emphasize this. The children will enjoy it much more to have more respect for the organization, if the business is carried on in a systematic manner. It will help in maintaining order during the programme as well. A little girl went home from the Band the day the officers had been appointed and with great glee told her papa that "Mary had moved and John had seconded, that she should be treasurer, and when the president had asked all who were in favor of this, all had voted for her, and she was the

really truly treasurer." Her father asked her if she had put up her hand too, the reply came most indignantly "No! Do you think I don't know any better than that?"

Let the children do their own business, at least, let them think they are doing it. Of course they will follow out your suggestions, which by the exercise of a little tact, they will make their own.

Might it not be well to have a regulation to the effect that the officers, except the president, should change each year, thus giving more the opportunity of service. Make it an unvarying rule to keep the meetings one hour only; and do not begin a half hour after three, if three is the hour. Have plenty of bright, cheerful music. It is somewhat difficult to find enough awowedly missionary hymns to make variety, but many familiar hymns breathe the missionary spirit, which the children will quickly recognize, with your help.

The children will be more likely to give definite information if you have a special topic for each meeting. Have a map to give an idea of the extent of the country you study, and an interesting talk, full of information, preceded or followed by the part of the programme given by the children themselves.

I know of one president who purchased a doll and each month dressed it in the costume of the country which was their study for the day, and whenever she could, she gave each child some product of the country to carry home. When they studied about Japan each took home a few leaves of tea, because the president had told them, how it grew and was gathered. When China was the theme they had some rice and chop sticks. When they went to Mexico, each child took home a cochineal insect, and while traversing the South Sea, they pick up pieces of coral.

When you have a programme on the "Childhood of the Chinese," take a strip of cotton about two inches wide and ten feet long, and bind it on a little one's foot as their Chinese sister's have their's bound.

Raising money. Have you none in the Band who will lead in prayer? Ask each one to think of some one thing they want of God for the next meeting, when you have begun, let each follow with their request, I am sure it will be a help and strength to you and to them.

This all means thought and preparation, but would you offer half hearted service to the Master?

I saw the other day a branch of a tree in which a knot had been tied when it was a tender twig, now it had grown strong and large, and the knot which might so easily have been untied when it was a twig, could not now be straightened out, nor could the straight branch be twisted into a knot.

We, to-day, have in our hands, the shaping of these tender twigs. The trunk we cannot alter, but the twigs, these young lives, shall we prepare them to enter these doors which the Lord has so miraculously opened? "Why stand ye here idle, go labor in my vineyard," the rewards are manifold, ye numberless.

What the child gets from the Band is his for a life-time, and its influence increases and widens and touches how many lives! Can we measure it! "According to thy faith be it unto thee!" The limit to our faith need not be the limit of God's power. Is it the whole world for Christ! "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you." This much, no more, no less! If we do not possess it for Christ the Mormons, the Mohammedans, Roman Catholicism, Atheism and hosts of evil will possess it for Satan.

"The King's business requires haste."

MISS CLARA GOBLEN.

Gables, Oct. 2nd, 1888.