

with coarse black linen thread. "See!" said the little fellow, triumphantly; "here is a muff I have made for one of the little colored children down South!" I took it, thanked him and turned away to hide the smile and tear that came together. I had'n't the heart to say, even kindly, that it wasn't good for anything, and that we didn't want it. I did not wish to bring a cloud over that little face, shining with missionary interest and zeal. She who could have done so should hardly be given the care of children. Some one may say, "I have not this tact." Let me tell you a secret. Tact is the child of love. Get your heart full of love for the children, and you will be astonished to find how easily you understand them and get along with them.

A third must be *steadfastness*. To the first few weeks after the formation of a mission band, novelty lends a potent charm. Curiosity makes the attendance all that can be desired. The startling stories of heathen life hold the attention of the wondering listeners for awhile. All remember to bring their pennies, and the leader begins to think that it is not so very difficult to take charge of a mission band, after all. But, after awhile, there comes a critical time for both leader and band. The novelty has worn off. Curiosity has been gratified. No longer are the children horrified by the fact that heathen mothers used to throw their infants into the sacred Ganges, and that wives formerly were burned with their dead husbands. No longer are they amused that the children of the East recite their lessons with their backs to the teacher, and that they are punished if they do not study aloud. No longer are they stirred by the pitiful stories of the condition of the slaves at the South. By and by the penny is forgotten. Some bright winter afternoon there is good skating. Some lovely spring day the woods are extremely enticing, and the attendance is small. So much for the members. How is it with the leader? Sometimes there is an artistic bit of needlework that she would like to complete—a painting upon which to put the finishing touches. The latest novel, perchance, has been left at a very interesting place. If she be a house-keeper, there are a hundred things about the house that she would like to do. At this juncture, what is necessary? Grace and grit—the grace of *stick-at-it-iveness*. No ordinary circumstances should interfere with the time arranged for the meetings of the band. If the children see that you regard the meeting as the chief consideration of the time, they will be more likely to think of it in the same manner. If they perceive that you are ready to postpone and give it up upon slight pretexts, then do not be surprised if the attendance is irregular and poor. It is imperative also that nothing interfere with the preparation of the programme. The children will soon lose enthusiasm if the efforts to make the meeting interesting are spasmodic. It is hard sometimes to leave the house-work and sewing, painting and the beloved fancy work and the like, but these will have to be sacrificed often. Candid reflection will, however, convince us that a little dust in our houses is of far less consequence than the dust of spiritual ignorance upon the hearts of the children under our care. As for our Kensington stitch and fancy work generally, they can afford to wait. To sum all up, let nothing, so far as possible, interfere with the plan of work laid out. The mission band leadership is a business. It is your business to attend to this business diligently, unweariedly, steadfastly.

I have left the most important point until the last. One may have all these various qualifications, and yet may fail. Beyond them all in importance is the fourth must—*Prayer*. It is possible to win some degree of suc-

cess, even though some of these other things suggested be lacking. It is impossible to have any success that is real and lasting, except the work be begun and carried on with prayer. I do not mean merely the prayer that may be offered at the opening or closing of the meetings of the band. I do not mean merely the prayers that the leader offers at her morning and evening devotions—the general prayer for the prosperity of the band. Perhaps the word prayerfulness would best express my meaning. There must be a fulness of prayer in the heart and life of her who is appointed to this work. Every thought of the band should be a petition for it; every plan should be laid in prayer. Even the most trivial detail of work should be a matter about which to ask God. We are apt to think that God does not wish to be burdened with our little worries and anxieties. It is one of the blessed teachings of our religion that nothing is small to God which troubles one of His children. When your boy ran a splinter into his finger the other day, and came to you for comfort, did you turn him away because it was a small splinter? "As one whom his mother comforteth"—so runs the Word. Let us take it as our Word. We have need of such comforting. There are many perplexities, discouragements, annoyances. Matters will not always run smoothly, skeins will sometimes get tangled; human nature will assert itself. Then we need the closet, and the ministry of the closet—the pouring out of the whole story into God's ear, and the opening of the heart to the coming in of His comfort and peace and strength. And then there is this other question. How shall our teachings be made to take effect? What can we do to accomplish the great purpose we have set before us? Sometimes we can do nothing but pray; we can never do anything better than that. The Mission Band leader ought to go to the meetings directly from communion with the Father, and from the meetings directly to the same Refuge and never-failing Guide.

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—Home Miss. Echo.

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Small Meetings.

At a union missionary meeting held in Ottawa a few days ago, one President asked how the interest could be kept up in a monthly missionary meeting. She said sometimes only two or three of their number came together, and they did not hold a meeting. The leader (who has a daughter in the foreign field, given *from her cradle* to this work), answered quickly, "Never drop a meeting because there are few who attend. I had a real good missionary meeting in our church one month, when I was the only person present. I read the 72nd psalm, sang a few hymns of praise, and prayed earnestly for the cause at home and abroad. It is true it was not quite so inspiring as if more had been present, but it sent me home determined we should have a larger meeting the next month!"

We all felt that this example was a worthy one to follow, and I thought the readers of our LINK might enjoy it also.

SISTER BELLE.

In conversation with Miss Freeman of Wellesley, a noteworthy fact was learned, showing the missionary spirit of the pupils. One who bore the foreign missionary interests deeply upon his heart, recently made an address at the college. Subsequently, the President invited those who would entertain the thought of going as missionaries to confer with her, and *eighty* responded. These figures are their own comment. Out of 500 pupils, 444 are Christians.—Home Miss. Echo.