

Childrens' Department.

THE WOUNDED LIP.

BY A. L. O. E.

"I don't see what I have to do with Missions at all!" cried Robin, in answer to his sister Annie's gentle request that he would put just one penny into her missionary box. "I can see the good of building our Church here. I gave my new sixpence for that, or feeding hungry little children—we gave up buying sweetmeats last Christmas that they might have soup. But what do I care for work at the other end of the world, amongst black children whom I shall never see in my life."

Poor Annie left the room with a sigh. Mrs. Mason had heard the conversation between her children, and she asked:

"Do you know, my son, that all God's people form one body, though some are in India, some in China, some still further off? No part of the Lord's Church can say to another, 'I have nothing to do with thee, I care not what happens to thee.'"

"I don't understand," said the child.

Not many minutes after Robin came back to his mother, a handkerchief pressed over a bleeding lip, and tears in his eyes.

"Mamma, my foot slipped—I fell on the gravel and cut my lip," he exclaimed.

Mrs. Mason examined the hurt and was glad to find that it was not severe; but there was gravel in the wounded lip. "I must wash and bind it."

She said: "Run to the kitchen my darling, ask for a little basin of warm water, bring it to me and we will soon put matters to right." Robin soon came back, carefully carrying the basin which was full and rather heavy. Carefully and tenderly the mother bathed her boy's lip.

"Now," said she, lifting him upon her lap and preparing to bind up the lip, "does not my Robin see how various parts of his body united to help the part that needed help?"

"I don't just see," said the child.

"The feet never thought how far we are from the lip. Almost as far as can possibly be! Right foot and left, off they trotted to get warm water. The ears heard what I wished you to do, and quick as lightning had given their message to the brain; the tongue, like a kind near neighbor, did its part."

"The eyes, ah! the eyes did nothing at all," cried Robin, laughing at his mother's amusing similes; he had quite forgotten his pain.

"What! did they not guide you to and from the kitchen? If they had ill-naturedly kept shut, you might have had a worse fall than that on the gravel. The fingers, yes, even the little ones, helped to carry the water."

"It is a good-natured body," said Robin, "every part so ready to help the poor lip."

"Now, my boy, do you see my meaning?" said his mother with a smile. "The Missionaries who speak to the heathen are like the lip in the body, and they are sometimes in great trouble, and need our help and prayers. The ears are those who listen to the story of the wants of the heathen; and great societies are like the brain, to

arrange how to send to them the Bible, and men and women to explain it. We who try to give and to collect may be compared to parts of feet and hands. I must tell something more about the body," said Mrs. Mason, "to show how like it is to the Church. There is always a life-giving stream of blood flowing through it from the ears to the head, from the head to the feet, as it were joining the most distant parts together."

"I feel it beating in my wrist," said Robin, "what is like the life-giving blood? Is it not the blood of the Saviour?"

"Yes," replied Mrs. Mason, "and where that holy love joins the members of a Church together, how is it possible for a Christian to say 'I have nothing to do with Missions?'"

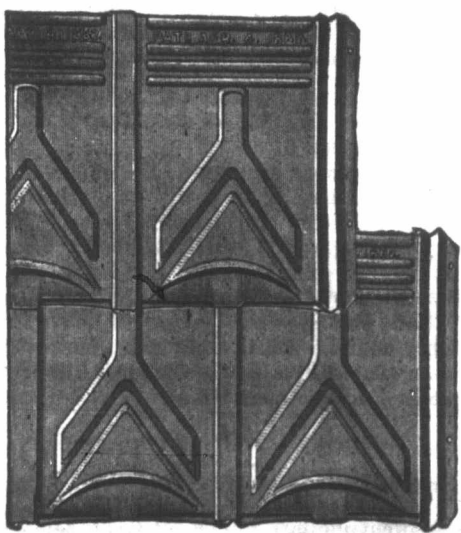
Robin's lip was soon bound up and joyfully he thanked his mother for her lesson.

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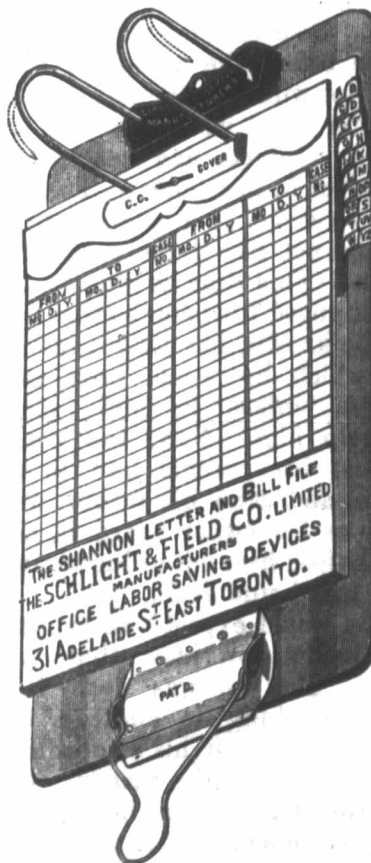
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