

PALM * BRANCH.

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL, 1900.

John 20: 16.—"Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself and saith unto Him, Rabboni; which is to say Master."

"Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God."

"Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things unto her."

Mary had lost a friend, her best friend, and that by a cruel death. She had gone through all the agony of seeing Him suffer and die by the hands of wicked men. She had been disappointed in a cherished hope, but she had not lost faith in Christ. Had he not saved her from worse than death? And now that she saw her hope fulfilled, and that He was risen indeed, in the joy and gratitude of her heart, she, no doubt, threw herself down before Him, in Eastern fashion, to kiss and clasp His feet.

But though, for some wise purpose, she might not be permitted to touch Him, yet Christ knew that such love and loyalty as hers must find expression. He knew, too, that the best way in which to manifest love is to do some loving deed for the object beloved, so He gave her the blessed privilege—one which angels might well envy—of carrying the glad tidings that He was "alive forevermore" to those who were mourning Him as dead. Mary's feet must have scarcely touched the ground as she ran to give the message. And such a message—so convincing, so tender, linking Himself to them and to her in a perpetual brotherhood.

Have we no such message to send or carry to those who know not of a living Christ? Oh, for Mary's love and loyalty at this blessed Eastertide!

We have received an interesting letter and photograph from Miss Cunningham, Japan. We greatly appreciate her kindness, and will be only too glad to give them as soon as possible.

A Flag Exercise for Mission Bands, Sunday Schools, etc., may be made very effective, if well done. Price 5 cents each; 60 cents per doz.; \$4 per 100. Room 20 Wesley Building, Toronto.

THE NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH OF THE W. M. S.
1882 TO 1900.

Miss Bell sends an account of the organization of the first Mission Band.

"Miss Louise Ray organized the Band. The oldest in our province (though one short-lived was organized a few days before) on February 27th, 1884. She threw her whole soul into the work, and it was a good band for many years. The membership at organization was thirty. Miss Ray held office until Sep. 1889. The motto of the Band, adopted summer of 1886, 'The God of Heaven, He will prosper us, therefore we His servants will arise and build.' For the earlier years we had badges; red and gold for officers, gold for ordinary members. The manuscript newspaper, the Sheaf, appeared first about 1885; Mrs. Borden and Miss Mitchell were the first editors, and this often contained many very good articles. Miss Ray believed thoroughly in the mite boxes, and one year, about 1885, the receipts from forty boxes was ninety odd dollars. The Gleaners, Juvenile Band, a branch of the Reapers, was organized by Miss Louise Ray in Nov. 1887; first president, Mrs. L. J. Mylius. It is still alive. At annual board meeting of 1887 a memorial emanating from the Reapers and endorsed by two other bands in N. S. recommended 'that a uniform sum be fixed, on payment of which any member may become a life member; and further, that such be five dollars.' This was carried, and our first life member was Elizabeth Singleton Hills, daughter of Mrs. (Rev.) Benjamin Hills."

It is impossible in this paper to follow the growth of each year of the Society, but we can draw comparisons between that first year, in 1882, and this of 1899-90. In that year we had two auxiliary meetings and one band each month, now we have 103 meetings of Auxiliaries and Bands each month. In that year there were about 60 women enrolled as members, now there are 1223 Auxiliary and 1058 Band members—a total of 2281.

In that year \$350 was raised by the first two auxiliaries (I could not obtain the amount raised by First Bands), and this year our total raised from all sources for our missionary work was the grand sum of \$4140.92. Truly we have cause to say, "The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

Have we aught beside membership and money to show? Have our W. M. S. needs succeeded in firing the souls of any of our women to enter the field as missionaries? Let us go to some of the foreign fields and see.

Should we sail away and away thousands of miles until we reach Tokio in the lonely island of Japan, and there visit the W. M. S. Mission School, those of you who live in Truro would find installed there as lady Principal an old friend and perhaps a neighbor in Miss Isabella Blackmore. A valued helper in the same school is Miss Lizzie Hart, of Acadia.

At the head of the school in Shizuoka we find Miss Janie Cunningham, one of the most earnest workers in the field, and whose name is a household word in Halifax houses.

(To be continued.)

M R.