

✻ PALM BRANCH ✻

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SEPTEMBER, 1895.

WE are called upon this month to review the events of the past year. "Looking backward" is a sad or happy task, according as we have carelessly or faithfully performed the work given us to do. If we have done it with our might, leaving the results with God, we shall be blessed individually, even though the fruit be slow in coming. But if we have neglected our work, and look back upon a year of lost opportunities—oh, that would be sad indeed—for it must mean the loss of our share in this year's Harvest Home.

We would recommend all our young readers to read and study very carefully this month's Field Study, till it is fixed in their minds and hearts. The success of the coming year will depend largely upon the impression it makes there. It is not enough to look backward as a Band, but it is important that each member of the Band should ask herself some questions at the close of the year. Have I always been in my place at the Band, when possible, during the past year? Have I thought the subject over through the month, and found out what I could about it, so that I might be able to bring some help to the meeting? Have I encouraged the President in every way, especially by showing interest in all that concerns the Band—letting her feel that she is not alone, but has some one on whom she may depend for help and counsel? If an officer myself, have I been punctual and prompt in the performance of my duties?

If only a private member, have I felt that each one counted one, and so been ready to do my part as best I could, in praying, singing, or whatever fell to my lot to do? Happy is the member who can answer

yes to all these questions before God, and feel that she has a large share in the success of her Band.

We are also advised to *look forward*, and make our future better than the past has been. Let us thank God if He gives us the opportunity to do this, and let us show our gratitude by beginning the year well, resolving to do all in our power to further the great cause of missions.

Only one bright spot appears in the dark, sad news just come from the distant fields of China, and that is the fact that the lives of our own devoted missionaries have been spared, while others have fallen victims to the cruel mob. Our hearts have ached as we read the harrowing details of the fight for life, their narrow escape from the impending horrors of death, and worse than death, while the crashing sounds of destruction and ruin were all around them. Surely it was a testing time—one in which the stoutest, bravest hearts might well quail—a time in which only the grace of God could be sufficient for them. And now our hearts must surely continue to go out to them in their present painful surroundings, while they mourn the loss and utter destruction of all that meant home to them in that heathen land. Let us pray most earnestly for them, that they may be preserved from further danger, and that God may give great compensation for all their losses.

Let our sympathy also extend to the friends of those who have been so barbarously murdered in that dark land. What tidings to send to English homes! Surely those missionaries were as dear to God and the Church as our own! "What we know not now we will know hereafter."

What of the renewed health and energy gained from our summer outings? Shall we not devote ourselves more earnestly than ever to the service of our Lord?

We have missed our N. S. Band Notes. Glad to receive such an interesting, encouraging report this month.

We would call special attention to the notices on last page concerning the N. B. and P. E. I. Branch.

Any subscriber not receiving paper, will please communicate with the Editor.

All communications must be in by the 8th of the preceding month. For October by the 8th of Sept.

Sample copies still on hand,