

## PALM \* BRANCH.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH, 1900.

WE have been greatly interested lately in reading of the Chinese in San Francisco; how the strong prejudice against them has been lived down and how those who have been given a share in the rights of citizenship. This is as it should be, and we know that great efforts are being made in their behalf by true Christians. Many of the natives of China return every year to their own country; they are wedded to their own customs and most of them, doubtless, to their own religion, but we cannot help wondering what impressions they take back with them. How great the responsibility of a Christian nation!

Our Chinese rescue work in British Columbia is being faithfully carried on, but opium is a dread foe to contend against; such noble work must show results in time.

"Prayer is desired that the medical work may prosper and lead to great spiritual results. That good, strong, healthy workers may be raised up from among the little school children. That the hearts of the Chinese may be opened to receive the truth; that they may be disposed to attend the meetings and to send their children to the school." One reason why they will not send the children to school is the prejudice against unbound feet, required there; but we think it a hopeful sign that ten little girls have been found whose mothers are willing that their feet should be unbound. Pray for China.

Next month we will give the Chentu Hospital and pictures of Dr. Henry and Miss Brimston, our latest missionaries to China. These cuts have been kindly sent us.

We would strongly recommend Mrs. Deacon's article on "Lights and shadows of Mission Band Work in February Outlook. It should be well studied. It would make a very helpful reading.

THE NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH OF THE W. M. S.

1882 TO 1900.

"The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad!" Every business house has, at certain

times of the year, a stock-taking. The ledgers, journals and day-books are brought from the safe, carefully gone through, the credit and debit accounts set forth, the balance sheet made out and the result—success or failure— anxiously awaited. Our Branch meeting is our stock-taking; the time when it is right for us to examine into the affairs of our branch of the "King's Business" in Nova Scotia. What is our standing? Have we failed or succeeded in our missionary work, as shown in our meeting of September 1899, held in Amherst. Let us glance back to the first year of organization. On Jan. 12th, 1882, came a messenger in the name of the King asking the women of this province to band together for missionary work. They gathered in Brunswick St. Church, Halifax, and the Cor. Secretary of that first meeting shall tell you about it.

"I am sorry that the early records of the first auxiliary organized in N. S. cannot be found. But I remember the meeting in Brunswick street very well. Rev. L. W. Beaudry, of Montreal, came to Halifax as the representative of the General Society to attend anniversary meetings. Our W. M. S. was then about one year old. Mr. Beaudry announced at the close of the missionary meeting on Sunday evening that he would like to meet the ladies of the congregation the next afternoon at 3.30. About twenty assembled in what was then known as the "square room." Mr. B. gave an outline of the work of the W. M. S. and eloquently appealed to the women assembled to organize then and there. We were all much interested, and consented to be organized that afternoon, January 12th, 1882. I was appointed secretary pro tem, and I will never know how I got to the little table on the platform. At that time I was afraid to "lift up my voice" even in a class meeting, and the reading of the minutes at the close of that awful meeting may be considered among the ordeals of my life. How wonderfully our work has developed our women!

The officers of this first auxiliary were: President, Mrs. S. F. Huestis; Vice-presidents, Mrs. John Starr and Mrs. Brecken; Recording Secretary, Miss Temple; Cor-Secretary, Mrs. Whiston; Treasurer, Mrs. Naufts. The income of the first year was \$140."

When we know that the trembling, almost speechless Cor-Secretary of that day is now our capable and gifted president, Mrs. Whiston, we can begin to realize what the work of God has wrought in us. Still in another part of Halifax was the seed being sown, and Mrs. Hart, a charter member of Grafton street, sends the following note:

"The Woman's Missionary Society of Halifax, south, was inaugurated on the 25th of January, 1882, with a membership of eighteen.

Mrs. Geo. Starr was elected president; Corresponding and Recording Secretary, Miss Silver.

The first report covered a period of nine months, then the membership had increased to forty-nine; amount remitted to general treasurer \$210.85.

I do not know who was treasurer. Sixteen of the charter members have 'gone home'—that I know of—there may be more."

R.

(To be continued.)