

✻ PALM BRANCH ✻

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THANKSGIVING.

AND now, behold, I have brought the first fruits of the land, which Thou, O Lord, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the Lord thy God! And then shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee and unto thine house, thou and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you." Deu. 26: 10, 11.

This is the true spirit of thanksgiving now as in the ancient days, and the only one acceptable to God. It is a personal thanksgiving! "The first fruits of the land which Thou hast given me," the pledge and assurance that Thou hast a care, a regard for me; that my toil and my faith have not been in vain; that the seed that I have sown has had Thine approval and Thy blessing; that watered by Thy Hand and warmed by Thy sun, it has sprung up and whitened unto the harvest. Now it must be laid upon the altar which sanctifieth the giver, and all worship and praise must be rendered unto God.

"And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given thee." It is a time of rejoicing before the Lord. Do you notice how often the Jews were reminded of this duty and privilege of rejoicing? Do we too need reminding in this day of Christian civilization, of innumerable greater blessings?

It is a time of National thanksgiving; for peace and prosperity which have crowned our land throughout the year. It is a time of thanksgiving for us as a missionary society. We bring the first fruits of heathen lands, the converts that God has given us in answer to toil and faith and prayer, and we rejoice before Him in this pledge of the glorious harvest yet to appear.

A larger love for our Lord Jesus Christ invariably leads to a warmer interest in somebody else, and that somebody else, if one grows at all in grace, becomes, at last, a sister or brother in any part of the world where is to be found a soul to whom we can give anything which will make him wiser, purer, better and the friend of our Lord Jesus Christ.—*W. M. Frier.*

During the late war in Ashantee the chief officer of the Scotch Guards, when reviewing this splendid regiment, asked who among them would volunteer for the Ashantee expedition. Those who decided to do so were asked to step one pace forward. Expecting a response from one or two only, the officer turned his back. When he looked again he saw the regiment precisely as he had seen it before—all in unbroken line. "What!" said he, "the Scotch Guards, and no volunteers?" Another officer replied: "They have all stepped forward and volunteered." Consider what it would mean if every member of our society should in this coming year take but one step forward!—*Selected.*

Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop, in speaking at the Presbyterian Missionary Jubilee in London, says, "It is impossible for British Christians to realize that eighty-three people in China pass into Christless graves every minute, or they never could spend their money as they do on fashions and luxuries."

Some particulars of the N. B. and P. E. I. Branch meeting will be found on the 8th page. Among the excellent papers written for that meeting was Miss D'Orsay's, of St. John. We are very glad to be able to give it to our readers this month, and only sorry that our small space renders a division necessary, but its continuation will be *looked forward* to with interest.

Now is the time to win subscribers for the PALM BRANCH. Who will try?

A CONFESSION.

One summer's day a little boy that I love very dearly went into the garden, and because he felt cross and a bit ugly, broke off a branch of beautiful flowers from a rare tree. But his better self soon came out, and at the tea-table, in the evening, we found a letter printed with a pen, which I will copy for the good of other tempted boys and girls.

"I want to be a good boy, and I will try. I can if I like. Sometimes I get cross, and then I feel sorry afterward. I wish I could always, then I could never