

might soon be forged. Individuals, great or small, have a measure of responsibility. The thought, 'How shall we help these people to do this work?' has often stirred my heart. One way suggested to me (leaving the commercial view of the subject to statesmen and publicists), has been to organize our Southern women, through church missionary societies, into home missionary bands, for the purpose of aiding the willing-minded among the blacks to go out on such a holy errand, to which they are better suited than the Anglo-Saxons. I am anxious to present this feature of possible Christian enterprise to our missionary boards, and a statement from you would have great weight. May I not hope for it, in the interest of the 'dark continent,' which you have done more than any other person to bring to light.

"Yours, with high esteem,

"Mrs. J. E. RAY.

"Asheville, N. C."

Grand Possibilities.

We gave in our July issue the outline of a plan, devised and put in operation by a leading banker of Boston, to increase the permanent receipts of all our missionary societies without interfering with already-established agencies. Simple and unostentatious as this plan is, it seems to us worthy of careful study, if not of general adoption. In the nature of things it is adapted to all churches, all lands, and all conditions of things. It is systematic in principle; it encourages self-denial; it is within the reach of every friend of missions; the method costs nothing but a little effort; and while the gift is small, the aggregate is likely to be large. Mr. Wilkins' own experience, at Newton Centre, Mass., in the church which he attends, we regard as a fair specimen of what the method is capable of yielding, if a fair chance be given it. *The Extra-Cent-a-Day Band* there numbered, in July, 111. The expected receipts for the year will be over \$400, which will practically all be *extra*. It is not intended to interfere with other ways of giving, but to supplement the usual methods or agencies. So an *extra cent* only is

given, and simple ways were suggested for saving that small amount.

We observed that Mr. Wilkins explained the plan at Northfield, at one of Mr. Moody's conferences, and it seemed to meet with favor. In a note, just received from him, he says:

"You were good enough to publish in the July number of the *MISSIONARY REVIEW* my paper on the 'Extra-Cent-a-Day Band.' I am sure that you and your readers will be very glad to know that there are now 13 or more bands, with aggregate membership of about 650. More bands will be started immediately.

"There is a widespread interest in the movement. Among the letters of inquiry that I have received, some have come from Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Nebraska, and even Oregon. I am more and more sanguine that the 'Extra-Cent-a-Day Band' may be made a tremendous missionary power.

"Sincerely yours,

"S. F. WILKINS."

This is a good beginning, and we see no reason why the plan should not come into general use. We earnestly commend it to our churches of all denominations, and to the consideration of our mission-boards and societies. A *cent a day* is but a trifle, but if the thirteen million Protestant Christians in the United States could give at that rate, yearly \$47,450,000, instead of \$6,000,000, would flow into the Lord's treasury. Is the plan not worth a vigorous trial? J. M. S.

In response to a recent statement in the *REVIEW*, that a church in Philadelphia had undertaken the support of three of the native helpers whom Rev. R. M. Mateer has hired at his own charge in Shaantung Province, Shanghai, we have received the following:—EDS.

"The Willing Workers' Band, of the Broadway Presbyterian Church of Rock Island, a band of some 25 lads, has assumed the support of another, and it has kindled great enthusiasm to think of supporting a preacher for a year in China.

"Yours,

"WM. S. MARQUIS, Pastor."