

## WHY WE SHOULD HAVE A MISSION BAND.

(Continued.)

Perhaps we do not realize that the Mission Band work goes farther than the Sunday School; the latter teaches of Christ's love, but the Band goes farther and teaches our children, not only of this great love, but to be desirous of sending the news to heathen countries where the name of Jesus is unknown.

Why, then, are there not more flourishing Mission Bands? Why so many dead or indifferent ones? The reasons are varied; many will say because there are so many difficulties to overcome, but we know that God can make all things possible if we ask Him; "every new victory is the fruit of new prayer." I firmly believe that if we are interested ourselves and make missionary work a study, so that we fully realize the needs of the vast numbers of human beings who are as truly God's children as we, we will put forth much greater efforts to have our children, who are dearer to us than our lives, trained in benevolence and works of mercy.

Children can be taught to earn money and give of their earnings; we have had a noble example of this in our late friend, Herbie Bellamy. If a child is taught to feel "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and that by giving a few of his cents he is doing something for the work, one obstacle has been removed, and this will come with interest and love for missionary work.

Even if our numbers are small, let us have a Mission Band. God has promised to be with us. Perhaps the one great trouble is to find some one who will take the responsibility of teaching a Band. The probabilities are that had we, in our youth, had the privilege of belonging to a Mission Band, we would not feel so unfit for this position now, but, if we have our hearts full of love to our fellow creatures, there are many quite capable; it is because we are not willing to give up our time and thought that we make ourselves believe we are "not fit" for such a responsible position.

It does not require a clever person to be a Band teacher, but she must be heart and soul in the work to become a success. We cannot teach others what we do not know ourselves, therefore it is necessary that she keep posted in what is going on in foreign lands, where our workers are, whom they are and what they are doing. If the leader is interested the children will be, and vice versa, for children are naturally enthusiastic; they have quick sympathies and will easily follow an enthusiastic leader, but they must have facts, that the work may be made real.

Therefore let every church have a Mission Band, even if very small; there may be a future missionary among the few.

If not practicable to have weekly meetings, meet semi-monthly, or even monthly, rather than not at all. Have bright, cheerful meetings, and have the children feel they are there for a purpose. By contrasting their happy homes with those of heathen children, their attention and interest will soon be obtained, and the result will be a successful Band, both in regard to interest and from a financial standpoint.

Moncton, N. B.

E. G. SHERARD.

It is said that more than one hundred thousand people live in boats on the river at Canton. Many are drowned every year by the upsetting of boat, or careless management of junks. It is believed that some evil spirit or demon has got the person, and that it will bring disaster if anyone tries to save him. When Dr. Simpson was in Canton he saw a plump baby floating on the water, and wrote the following touching lines:

## ONLY A LITTLE BABY GIRL.

Only a little baby girl  
Dead by the river side,  
Only a little Chinese girl  
Drowned in the flowing tide.  
Over the boat too far she leaned,  
Watching the dancing wave;  
Over the brink she fell, and sank,  
For there was none to save.

If she had only been a boy,  
They would have heard her cry:  
But she was just a baby girl,  
And she was left to die.  
It was her fate, perhaps they said,  
Why should they interfere?  
Had she not always been a curse?  
Why should they keep her here?

So they have left her little form  
Floating upon the wave;  
She was too young to have a soul,  
Why should she have a grave?  
Yes, and there's many another lamb  
Perishing every day,  
Thrown by the road or river side,  
Flung to the beasts of prey.

Is there a mother's heart tonight,  
Clasping her darling child,  
Willing to leave these helpless lambs  
Out on the desert wild?  
Is there a little Christian girl  
Happy in love and home,  
Living in selfish ease, while they  
Out on the mountains roam?

Think as you lie on your little cot,  
Soothed by a mother's hand,  
Think of the little baby girls  
Over in China's land.  
Ask if there is not something more,  
Even a child can do;  
And if perhaps in China's land  
Jesus has need of you.

—From *Larger Outlooks on Missionary Lands.*SUGGESTED PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER.  
THANKSGIVING.

Hymn — "Praise God from whom all blessings flow" —  
Repeat together, Thess. 5: 18th. "In everything give thanks" — draw out ideas of individual mercies.  
Prayer — Full of thanksgiving.  
Roll Call — Business reports.  
Recitation or Solo on the subject.  
Field Study with map.  
Prayer for China — All foreigners there; all Christians in danger; little orphans; protection of Mission property.  
Chorus.  
A few words from visitor.  
Distribution of Palm Branches,  
Benediction.