

PALM ✻ BRANCH.

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St. JOHN, N. B.

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St. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY, 1900.

WE were delighted a day or two ago to receive from some kind friend in Japan a copy of the "Evangelist, issued every month in the interests of Christian work in Japan." This number contained fine portraits of H. I. H. Prince Haru, heir to the throne, and of his betrothed wife, H. I. H. Princess Sada, one twenty, the other fifteen years of age. In proportion as our sympathy goes out toward the country of which we are making a study, will we feel an interest in these two young people, whose welfare is so bound up with that of Japan. This magazine is full of the most interesting reading matter, especially that relating to the new school regulations to take effect in the spring. It prohibits all religious teaching in the schools! While such a law means much to Canada it must mean much more to Japan. It has already led to the closing of many private Christian schools. "There is no alternative," they say, "but to close or go against the conscience." As far as we can learn, the schools of our own society have not yet been touched by it. This sad change is greatly stirring the hearts of the missionaries, and they called for an "educational Convention to meet January 2nd and third to consider the future of mission schools, and the need of a Christian university." Let us pray much for them and for Japan at this crisis in her history, and God, in whose hand are the hearts of all men, will bring good out of this apparently great evil.

We are much pleased to have once more a contribution from our true and tried friend, Mrs. C. Ross, late of Montreal.

Our fine little exchange, "The Children's Missionary Friend," of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is celebrating its tenth birthday by announcing its independence. It has become self-supporting. Would that Palm Branch could follow such a noble example!

We still welcome our bright little contemporary, "The Mission Dayspring," and find it a valuable help. "The Young People's Guide," of Ottawa, and "The Junior's Missionary Magazine," of Pittsburg, Pa., we also gladly add to our list of exchanges. The January number of our own "Na-Na-Kwa, Kitamaat, B. C., is a very interesting one. We shall have occasion to quote from it later on in the year. There is a lovely picture of "Mrs. Raley and Emsley" in it; also one of Miss Long, the much esteemed matron of the Home. "Pleasant Memories," by Mrs. Raley, tell her impressions of the Board meeting. Judging from what we have heard the "Pleasant Memories" are mutual.

"WITH ALL THE COMPANY OF HEAVEN."

I am so glad that it does not say "with angels and archangels," leaving out "all the company." Some day we shall know the angels and archangels, but when it comes to "all the company of Heaven," then we feel at home, because we are well acquainted with so many of the "company of Heaven;" our nearest and dearest are there. I have always liked company, so "all the company of Heaven" appeals to me. I know that not much is told us about Heaven, but what is told us means so much. I have always been glad of the words "supper" and they "sit down," and you mark in the incident that those who have been nearest to each other on earth sit together. Abraham and Isaac and Jacob sit together. This gives me the idea that I shall sit down with those nearest and dearest to me. "All the company of Heaven" will be in circles, undoubtedly. The law of affinities is the law of the universe. We shall be near those we know best. But not until we get the feeling that the surprise of Heaven will be that we are there, will we be ready for "all the company of Heaven." If the Master said "Be ready," He meant it, and I think it will help you to prepare yourselves if you will think of "all the company of Heaven."—
 [Ladies' Home Journal.]

Moosejaw, N. W. T.

In an interesting letter, received from Mrs. Bellamy, little Herbie's mother, she tells us that the Band at Moose Jaw did well last year. She says: "I find it harder to keep up the interest since little Herbie left us, but we will try and do our best, and God will do the rest. In July we had a pleasant visit from Miss Belton. After Sunday-school I called a Band meeting and she talked with the children about the little ones in the orphanage, and she and a converted Japanese boy, who lives here, sang "Staud up for Jesus" in Japanese language. The children were delighted. Since our Band meeting in June I have organized two Bands—one in Fort Rouge, and one in Portage la Prairie. The distances are so great between places in this country it is hard to go around very much."

[Surely the spirit of little Herbie must still rejoice over the success of the work so nobly carried on by his devoted mother—the work so dear to both true hearts.]