

THE FOUR SUNBEAMS.

Four little sunbeams came earthward one day,
Shining and dancing along on their way.

Resolved that their course should be blest.
"Let us try," they all whispered, "some kindness to do,
Not seek our own pleasuring all the day through,
Then meet in the eve at the west."

One Sunbeam ran in at a low cottage door
And played "hide-and-seek" with a child on the floor,
Till Baby laughed loud in his glee,
And chased with delight his strange playmate so bright,
The little hands grasping in vain for the light
That ever before them would flee.

One crept to a couch where an invalid lay,
And brought him a dream of a bright summer day,
Its bird-song and beauty and bloom;
Till pain was forgotten, and weary unrest,
And in fancy he roamed through the scenes he loved
best,

Far away from the dim, darkened room.

One stole to the heart of a flower that was sad,
And loved and caressed her until she was glad,
And lifted her white face again.
For love brings content to the lowliest lot,
And finds something sweet in the dreariest spot,
And lightens all labor and pain.

And one, where a little blind girl sat alone,
Not sharing the mirth of her playfellows, shone
On hands that were folded and pale,
And kissed the poor eyes that had never known sight,
That never would gaze on the beautiful light
Till angels had lifted the veil.

At last, when the shadows of evening were falling,
And the sun, their great father, his children was
calling.

From his roseate couch in the west,
All said, "we have found that, in seeking the pleasure
Of others, we fill to the full our own measure,"
Then softly they sank to their rest.

S. S. Times.

WHY WE SHOULD HAVE A MISSION BAND.

In many of our churches, especially in country places, where the congregation is small and perhaps scattered, we sometimes find it difficult to have a Mission Band, in fact it is often thought to be an impossibility—if thought of at all. Yet if we, who profess to be interested in missionary work, are trying to fulfil our duty, in doing our part towards sending the Gospel to every nation, and are giving of our time, talent, and means towards the carrying on of this great and noble work, we shall prayerfully consider the importance of this branch, and the difficulties which seem so great will soon be surmounted.

Let us look at it from a business point of view. Firstly—Why should we have a Mission Band?

There is much that can be said and much that has been said in reply to this question. We will consider a few of the most important reasons. Many of us know how difficult it is often to get the members of our senior societies to take an active part in our meetings, such as leading in prayer or taking charge of a meeting. Whether this is want of confidence or lack of interest, it would not be the case had we been trained in a Mission Band when children to perform these simple acts of duty; hence it is a duty and a privilege to train and

develop the children of our church. The children of to-day are the workers of to-morrow. A well known writer has said that "Whatever is implanted on the nature of a child in the first seven years of his life, will go with him through his whole life, and never after will it be so easy to mould the mind aright and fill it with good resolves."

Thus the responsibility is great on those who have it in their power to organize and mother a Mission Band.

Secondly.—It is one of God's commands that we give one tenth of our income to Christian and benevolent purposes. We should obey this command for two reasons; because it is God's law, and, secondly, because it promotes our temporal as well as our spiritual welfare; and has been proved, by those who have made it a rule to lay aside a tenth for the Lord, to pay both in temporal prosperity and in giving peace of mind. Many of us think we cannot afford to do this, especially those of us who have small incomes and many calls on our slim purses, yet it must surely be as much a duty to pay our debts to God as a debt to our fellow creature, and God requires nothing of us that is impossible. His promises are, "With what measure we mete it shall be measured to us again." "Give and it shall be given unto you." "The liberal soul shall be made fat," and many more similar. Some may argue that it is wrong to do this with the object of reward in view, but do we not work for gain, and daily ask God's blessing on our worldly affairs that we may have more to provide for those depending on us? Also that we may have more to give to benevolent purposes, and thus for the spread of Christ's kingdom? It is not wrong to ask for temporal prosperity—with these objects in view, neither is it wrong to think of the reward that always follows doing right.

Wesley's advice was, "Get all you can, save all you can, and give all you can." We owe gratitude to God for His great gift, Jesus Christ, and the least we can do is to give of our time and means towards sending the blessed message to the millions who know Him not. Where should we begin but with the children?

Arouse their sympathy and interest for their brothers and sisters in heathen lands, teach them that by giving a part of their money they are helping to send workers among them to teach them of Jesus, and they will soon become willing workers as well as listeners, and do more for the cause when they come to be men and women than we who have not had the privilege of a Mission Band training are doing now; hence the reason our Bands should be carefully nourished.

Moncton. (To be continued.) E. S.

Suggested Programme for Mission Bands—October.

Hymn—"Hark, the voice of Jesus calling."
A few scripture verses in concert.
Short prayer and Lord's prayer together.
Solo or recitation.
Roll Call.
Business, Reports, etc.
Solo or recitation.
Field Study with questions and map.
Short prayer for missionaries and all in danger in China.
One verse of "Now the sowing and the reaping."
Benediction.