

Do you never give more thought to self
Than you do to Christ your King?
Does your past neglect of duty's claims
No sad remembrance bring?
Can you not do more to honor Him
Whose boundless grace you know?
O will you not now, in plainest way,
Your love to Jesus show?

Did you ever feel, in your heart of hearts,
The blessed Saviour's love?
And do you not long for the glowing zeal
That seraphs feel above?
O will you not use what talent you have
In helping His cause along?
In doing His will His blessing is gained,
And faith becomes more strong.

Do you ever feel that your own, own souls
Were redeemed when Jesus died?
Do you know the joy of walking through life
(Close up to the Saviour's side)
Ah, surely, then, with tenderest love,
Your hearts within must burn;
And you ardently long that all mankind
Your Saviour's worth should learn.

Will you do some little deed to-day
That the angels will joy to see?
Will you publish abroad the Saviour's name?
Will you point to Calvary's tree?
Have you nothing to take to God's white throne,
When life's short day is done?
No record of faithful efforts made?
No gems for Jesus won?

Will you plead for those who plead for God?
Will you strengthen their hearts and hands?
Have you felt the solemn force and weight
Of your blessed Lord's commands?
Have you carried out the precept which
On Olivet He gave?
O will you not let the wide world know
That Jesus died to save?

Nictaux, N.S.

Certain "Musts" of Mission Band Leadership.

It is one of the cheering signs of the day that we need no longer attempt to prove the necessity of the organization of the children into bands for missionary study and endeavor. The mission band has come to have a recognized place in every well ordered church. Those who at first looked upon the movement with doubt or suspicion have long since given their hearty assent to it. It was so manifestly born of an inspiration from God, that none can raise voice against it. The question in these days concerns details of its organization and of work rather than its right to be.

Who shall lead a mission band? What are some of the qualifications of successful leadership? These are very practical questions. A woman, certainly; for there are children to be led, and a woman is the child's natural leader and guide. A good woman, certainly; one whose heart is loyal to Christ, and whose mind is full of interest in the progress of His kingdom. But even this is not sufficient; not every true-hearted, earnest woman is fitted for the task. There are certain requirements which must be fulfilled, certain traits of character which must be possessed, in order to secure the highest efficiency in the work.

I have called them the "musts" of mission band leadership, because I believe that their absence will be well-nigh fatal to real success. Of the many which come to mind, I have selected only four for your consideration. Perhaps the first of these to demand our attention is *Patience*.

The *must* is very imperative here. Only a patient leader can make a successful and prosperous band. And, in passing, let me say that patience may have a physical side as well as a moral. Patience includes the possession of a strong, well-trained set of nerves. Impatience is often the result of a weary body or a tired brain, or a sluggish liver. We have need to remember how closely the two sides of our nature are related. It is our duty to cultivate our physical selves, that our spiritual selves may have less temptation to dishonor God by fretfulness, complaining and impatience. It is comparatively an easy matter to interest children in the idea of the formation of a mission band. The more serious question is, how to retain that interest. You can do it, perhaps, if you are patient; you certainly can not do it if you are not patient. There are many things which will sorely tax and try your temper. The children will not all prove to be cherubs. Human nature will be strongly marked. Some of the band will be apt to forget the time of the meeting; and others will burst noisily into the room in the very midst of the exercises. Your most effective speech will very likely be interrupted by whispering. The fun of the boys will bubble over in the most trying way, and the thoughtlessness of the girls will often send you home heart-sick. In the midst of it all, be patient; speak gently or do not speak at all. It is easy to drive away the children. It is easier still to hurt them; the childish heart is easily wounded, and more easily than we often realize. Impatience is a kind of brutality whose effects are lasting. Then there is a temptation to impatience over the slowness of the results. You work hard month after month, and at the end of the year seem to have accomplished little or nothing. To lose heart is to fail. An enthusiasm which is like a blaze of shavings may do great things for a time. But there is necessary for abiding success a steady, persistent patience, like the fire of oak logs.

A second *must* is what may be called *Tact*, which is only another name for common sense, as applied in certain definite instances. She who wishes to successfully lead children, must have a warm and ardent sympathy with child life, which will enable her to enter into and understand their feelings, and thus to reach and influence them. Illustrations of the way in which tact will work are numerous. A tactful leader will bestow the same attention upon a homely, poorly dressed, unattractive child, as upon one more highly favored by nature and fortune; will speak pleasantly to all members present at a meeting, and make kindly enquiries after the absent; will put the youngest and smallest children to work, even though the work done be of no possible value. There is a pious kind of deceit (shall we call it?) which is not only necessary, but laudable. We have two or three midgets in our band who think that they help a great deal about the sewing, and they work with as much zeal and importance as those who are older and more competent. The dear little things are blissfully ignorant that their work is usually ripped up and made over by the efficient young lady who has charge of the sewing department. One of the smallest boys brought to me one day a piece of white muslin sewed in such a manner that it bore a very doubtful resemblance to a muff, with a strap to go around the neck. It was a comical looking thing, sewed