

IN LITTLE FACES.

"In little faces pinched with cold and hunger,
Look, lest ye miss Him! In the wistful eyes,
And on the mouths unfed by mother kisses,
Marred, bruised, and stained, His precious image lies!
And when ye find Him in the midnight wild,
Even in the likeness of an outcast child,
O wise men, own your King!
Before this cradle bring
Your gold, to raise and bless,
Your myrrh of tenderness!
For, 'as ye do it unto these,' saith He,
'Ye do it unto me!'"

FIELD STUDY FOR DECEMBER.

IN A NEW DRESS FOR THIS OCCASION.
CHRISTMAS AND MEDICAL MISSIONS.

Two young girls enter; one with a branch of fir or evergreen in her hand, singing softly to herself one verse of "Crown Him Lord of all" or some other appropriate Christmas hymn. Another approaches her and says—

I.—"I suppose this is some of the Christmas decoration—it is always pretty and fresh, but I have sometimes wondered whether it had any meaning."

II.—"Why, yes, I suppose the use of the evergreen means that we are keeping the memory of this precious season fresh and green in our hearts and perhaps too, it is a fitting type of the mission of Him whose birth we celebrate."

III.—"Isaiah says the birth of Jesus Christ was the breaking forth of a root out of a dry ground, the beginning of a growth which shall cover the whole earth and make the wilderness and the desert place to be like a garden."

I.—"It is certain that Christmas season does encourage and cultivate kindly feeling, forgiveness of enemies, love to little children and a thousand other good impulses and emotions, but tell me, is it not because we know the story of the wonderful birth and the lessons taught us by the life and death of our Saviour?"

II.—"Of course it is! What meaning can the Christmas season have to those who know not the story of the Manger and the Cross? What meaning does it have to the nations who are sitting in darkness—the heathen nations?"

III.—"I'm afraid there are a good many in our own land who lose sight altogether of the meaning of Christmas and only think of it as a time for the giving and receiving of gifts, a time for family re-union and parties and social enjoyments."

II.—"Oh, if they leave Jesus out of the Christmas

season they leave out all the beauty and significance of it. He is the gift which gives value to all other gifts."

I.—"Yes, I know he came to give gifts unto men, but then they were spiritual gifts."

II.—"Not altogether. He opened blind eyes, you remember; He caused the lame to walk and the dumb to speak. He gave bread to the hungry multitude and cured the bodies as well as the souls of men."

III.—"It seems to me that in doing Medical Missionary work people are following Christ more fully than if they only took the Gospel to the heathen."

II.—"That is just what our Woman's Missionary Society is doing and they feel that the women and children have special claims upon them, for they suffer most from the ignorance of the native doctors who are not doctors at all, but only jugglers who practice tricks. It is awful to read about them."

I.—"Isn't it grand that so many young women have studied medicine and nursing, and gone out, even from our own land, prepared to minister to both soul and body?"

III.—"Yes, I read in the leaflet how, while patients are waiting in the Dispensary for their turn to come, the missionary always tells them about Jesus and points to Him as the great Physician."

I.—"Do you know the names of any who have gone from Canada?"

II.—"Dr. Gifford went in 1893—she soon married but did good service for us in China as Dr. Kilborn, till the riots came, and indeed since then. She withdraws from our work in February, but it was decided at the Board meeting to send another doctor and nurse soon to China. Miss Ford went out there in 1894, as a trained nurse, but alas, her work there is ended. Isn't it lovely that the orphanage she wanted so much is to be built there now and to be called 'The Jennie Ford Home?'"

III.—"Lovely indeed! and Dr. Maud Killam went from Nova Scotia last year and bids fair to do valuable service. Her letters are so interesting, as indeed all the Missionary letters are. Then there is Miss Foster!"

II.—"Miss Spence, too, has done grand work at Port Simpson Hospital, also Miss Lawrence and Miss Stevenson. Oh, they are a grand army of workers altogether!"

I.—"I think that idea of the other Candidates going into training in the Deaconess Home is a fine one, for they do say that they need to know a little of everything in a foreign land, so many emergencies arise."

II.—"Well, I should think so—and I tell you what, girls, they do need our prayers. I think so more and more every time I hear them speak. This work grows upon me."

III.—"I wish it would grow upon the whole church."

I.—"The Church would grow more if it had more of the Missionary spirit. That's what I think about it."