

## CAN A BOX TALK?



CAN a box talk?

Yes, mine can!

Let me describe this box, and then see if you cannot guess its name.

It cannot speak out loud, and yet it has several very pleading voices. Sometimes it speaks by a picture on it, or by the words of a King written across it; sometimes it says a great deal by simply being in the shape of a book; and one sort, which comes from Germany, pleads by the figure of a little kneeling black boy, who has a very earnest, asking look, and if you answer in the way he wants, he gives you a hearty "thank you" bow. Besides these various voices, the box has always this one—an open mouth! Now you know—"A Missionary Box!"

Yes, and who knows where the first collecting box for God's work is mentioned in the Bible? Will you look at 2 Kings, xii, 9: "Jehoiada, the priest, took a chest and bored a hole in the lid of it, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one cometh into the house of the Lord." Did the money drop into that hole gladly or grudgingly? Let us read another verse: "And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in and cast into the chest, until they had made an end. (2 Chron., xxiv, 10.)

This money was spent on God's Temple, and they knew the honor it was to be allowed a share in the work.

There are a great many wonderful boxes in the world, some very large, some very small, but there is something more wonderful about a Missionary box than about any other. For a Missionary box actually means that although God could perfectly do the work by himself, yet He graciously allows you and me, and even the tiniest child, a share in sending away darkness and cruelties, by spreading His light and love into every country. For that is the use He makes of your half-dollars, and quarters, and pennies, and cents, which, along with other sums gathering into many thousands of dollars, stream into the grand central societies for missions. And then by their means, away goes the "precious seed" into many countries, and God's Holy Spirit causes it to take root, and it bears blessed fruit.

God also sends out noble men and women whose hearts are so full of love to the Lord Jesus who has died for us, that they go through a great deal of suffering and privation that they may carry to men, women, and children, the glad tidings of the Gospel.

Many are longing and thirsting for these glad tidings. When one missionary was travelling far up in North America, he found a tribe of Indians who had been waiting and watching for a missionary for thirty years. One chief had died in the meantime, and his dying charge to his tribe was to watch on and welcome the missionary when he

came, which they did heartily, and thus a great work was begun among them.

Numbers besides have already received it, and oh, the change in their hearts, and homes, and towns. The missionary teaches their hands and heads as well as their souls, and so they learn all sorts of useful things, and many are the churches, and schools, and houses, built by those who were once savages and idol worshippers.

Now, would you not like to have a share in all this grand work? The missionaries have often such hard and difficult work, with perhaps no human friend at hand to cheer them. Will you not cheer and help them all you can? Let us think of different ways.

First, by prayer. I heard a missionary, who had for years devoted himself to work in China, say that several times when he was cast down at seeing very little result, the thought that people at home were praying for the work, sent him forward with fresh courage, for he knew that God would surely answer. And of course the answer came. A great deal of blessing followed.

Another way of helping is by reading! Does that sound strange? But if you want to be a good missionary helper, you must know what is going on. There are most delightful missionary magazines published every month, which are meant for you.

If you help by prayer, and learn more by reading, I know what will follow: Your hearts will be stirred to listen to that pleading box, which, after all, is God speaking to you, and offering you a share in his work. Do you not think that, by a little earnest effort and self-denial you really could have the joy of putting in something regularly every week? And if it were at the cost of giving up something else, for love to Christ, it would all be more valuable.

Even a cent a week would mount up to fifty-two cents at the end of the year, and I know that friends or school-fellows would like to join you in this work. You have all heard of those wonderful coral insects which produce such great results from multiplied small efforts. If each insect stopped its work because it was such a tiny atom, it could do, where would all that lovely coral be? Will you follow the example of these earnest little coral makers?

I have spoken chiefly of foreign missionary work, but of course there is a great deal of blessed work for God to be done all through our own Dominion, and even at home many homeless children to be cared for, many old and young who know nothing of the love of Jesus.

"But I have no box!" does some one say? Oh! then, do make haste and ask father and mother about it, and I am sure that they, or some friend whom they could ask, would get you a collecting box for whatever part of God's work you would most like to share in. We do not want you to lose one opportunity of being in this way a "fellow-worker with God," or to lose his loving