

ages, children's hats, a woman's bonnet and jacket, and a baby's cloak. Also a length of fringed suitable for church use.

'All these things are the products of our village working party, the members of which, thirteen in number, have come bravely once a fortnight, in all weathers, through the darkness and dirt of country lanes and fields, to work for two hours. Our house is very small, and we were at first puzzled how to arrange accommodation. At last we hit on the plan of introducing two trestles and a long piece of plank, two feet wide, by the window, so that lamps, work, and implements had room enough.

'I must tell you that all our members have also worked at home on their own materials.'

This is the substance of our good, energetic friend's letter. The scene of the working party is Southwick, and it was to be removed after Christmas. What other parish, having satisfied home claims, will follow Southwick's example?

Some of our courageous young collectors have done wonders for us in the face of great difficulties. Collecting money is not always pleasant work, we know. Now and then we hear of a faint heart giving in and another stepping into the breach. As, for instance, the other day when an elder school-girl, who could not face rebuff, was returning her card, a younger one asked leave to try, and took it with her on shopping errands with very good results. It is easy to offer a gift out of a full purse, but to beg from reluctant donors is another affair. It is often to suffer for the sake of those we are benefiting.

A little choir-boy of nine sends us 1s., the first money earned by his singing. It is for a little boy's Sunday breakfasts.

Our next entry is a cheque for 2l. 2s. 3d. from the Vicar of Little Langford; and this is the history of it:

'On Christmas Day evening, as there was no service here, we went out with our Sunday school scholars carol-singing for the benefit of the Orphanage. The people know of your work, and you may judge how liberally they gave to it when I tell you that most of them are only agricultural labourers. The children of Grovely parish, a little group of houses in the middle of a large wood, also went out carol-singing, and earned 3s. 6d. When these heard what the Langford children had done, they also sent their money for your Home.'

The girls of the Karleston working party have given an entertainment in a coach-house, by which they have earned 10s. This is sent

to us by the friend who organised it. The money is for the Gordon Memorial Schools.

'My little ones,' writes their mother, 'Gertrude, Pattie, and Albert, made a museum in the nursery, and when their collection was completed charged 1d. entrance, so they send you 2s. 6d. entrance money for Sunday breakfasts.'

Then follows 6s. 6d. for 'Penny Dinners,' saved in pence during the year. These Penny Dinners have a marked effect on the health of the children who come and eat them, and who would otherwise have nothing or next to nothing between breakfast and tea. It is astonishing how little pale thin cheeks 'plump out,' and eyes brighten, during the Penny Dinner season. 'Sultan' sends us 1l. 2s. 6d. for the Convalescent Home, calling it 'the combined effects of begging and sugar.'

We are so glad to have 'Thank-offerings' to record almost every month. Thus, this month we have 3s. from two laundry-maids who feel thankful for a good situation; 4s. from a 'Thankful Heart'; 10s. for 'late mercies vouchsafed'; 2s. from C. H., 'A thanksgiving for having been successful in my work'; and 10s. from a Grateful Mother. This grateful mother has lost two lovely boys. She is grateful for the knowledge that they are safe in Paradise. And our work amongst children touches her heart, so she makes this offering.

We have a very kind letter from a settler in the Backwoods, Ontario, Canada. He sends us a photograph of their nice little church. 'We had a parsonage to match,' he says, 'but it was destroyed by a bush fire five years ago. We are trying to build another, but it is hard work to raise money out here. The 100l. we have raised wants another 100l. putting to it before we can use it, and we can have no clergyman until we can give him a house. Although this country is not rich in money it is rich in health. It is just the place for any one wanting to lead a healthy, hardy life.'

We have 10s., a New Year's Gift from Ixopo, Natal, partly collected and partly sugar-money, saved by eating unsweetened porridge. The gift comes from the children of the missionary the Rev. R. Brittan. He has pressing wants of his own, too. He says, 'The church and burial ground are open to the cattle, we cannot meet the expense of fencing in; and a chancel carpet is a great need. Will any readers of THE BANNER help me either with money or by sending articles for a sale of work? I can sell anything pretty or useful well.'