

## \* PALM BRANCH \*

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JUNE, 1897.

Ever we felt loyal to our Mother country and our Queen we should "set up our banners in this year of our Lord 1897—this year of "Great Jubilee."

There is an aged man in Baltimore who loves to tell of the fact that he was in England sixty years ago and witnessed the triumphal procession which attended the coronation of Queen Victoria. He dilates on the magnificence of the pageant, but evidently with greater pleasure on the graceful carriage and youthful freshness of the young Queen of eighteen summers, who smilingly bowed right and left to the cheering and excited crowds.

Sir Edwin Arnold has also memories of her coronation day. He says he saw on that day lucifer matches, being sold on the street as curiosities at a half-penny each. At that time railways and steam navigation were practically unknown. Today great fortunes are invested in British railways. Foreign trade is four times and shipping seven times as great as they were sixty years ago. The advance in education and the fine arts is simply marvellous.

"The Queen has borne an immense personal part in moulding her age, says Sir Edwin, and the age reflects back on her name and her greatness a lustre beyond the glory of all other reigns." This is great praise and well deserved. What then is the secret of our good Queen's success. Is it not her acknowledgment of God in every event and crisis of her life, from her earliest days? "The blessing of the Lord maketh rich." Let us thank Him for the long and prosperous reign of our beloved Queen and pray that by and bye His "Well done" may be sweeter to her ears than any plaudit that earth can offer.

While we rejoice in the fact that for the most part civilization and Christianity have gone hand in hand

through our great Empire, yet the sad story of India today with its scourges of plague and famine seems to point to a selfish greed of gain strangely antagonistic to the teachings of Christ.

Sir Arthur Cotton, who is an authority, says that more than the revenue gained by the Indian government from the opium traffic with China might be obtained from irrigation works which would be a blessing instead of a curse and the best possible safeguard against famine. He says "God is now sending us a second rebuke in this terrible famine resulting from a failure of rain of extraordinary extent."

We are sure that you will all appreciate the Band Exercise kindly sent us this month.—It must prove helpful to our Band Leaders.

Our thanks are also due to the young lady in Belleville for her interesting story of our little Home Missionary.

We are very glad to have a nice letter this month from one of our far away Missionaries, who also kindly sends us a letter from one of her Japanese pupils, who might well serve as a model to our Canadian girls.

### QUESTION DRAWER.

Q. Will you please tell the young folks the difference between the people of India and the Indians of our continent. I remember being very much confused on the subject when I was a little girl.

A. The people in India are called East Indians, and also take the names of the different parts of India to which they belong—such as Burmese, Bengalese, &c. They are quite a different race from the Indians who were first found inhabiting our continent, and who lived by hunting and fishing and were constantly at war with other tribes. The East Indians are very idolatrous, being mostly of the Hindoo religion which is very degrading—"We would be very glad if some one would send us a communication on this very subject.

Q. Do you invite contributions for your Question Drawers?

A. Yes indeed we will only be too glad to have such help—and if we cannot answer the questions we will propose to find some one who can.

A missionary writing from India in regard to the power of the word says: "There is a real spirit of enquiry among the young people of India. A lad said to me recently, 'I cannot tell you why I come, because I don't want to be a Christian, but somehow I can't forget the words I hear from your book, they are such simple words and seem to have such power. Why is it? Why do you people who read the Bible so much have such bright, happy faces?' Thus the way seems prepared and paths cleared as never before for the progress of the gospel. A large preparatory work has been done, and Christian converts are multiplying.