

meetings, and happy in Band work, but it is simply because no one can be found to lead, guide, interest and instruct them. What more acceptable service to the Master could any young man or woman be engaged in, than this of helping the children to do the work which they love to do. Another point must not be omitted. One Band reports three little girls converted through its influence. We cannot attempt to estimate the good that might be accomplished through faithfulness in this matter. May every leader in mission band work keep the highest aim in view.

In conclusion, the Secretary wishes to say, that she will be happy to furnish Mission Band Constitutions, and general information to those wishing to organize Bands, also names of Cocanada Boarding School Girls, and Samulcotta students needing support. Any desiring Mission Band Leaflets, or the address of Children's Missionary Papers, can also be supplied by her.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. DADSON, Cliftonmont.

Sec. of Mission Bands.

Bringing the Ranks up to the Standard.

When a boys' mission band was started in Fairview Church, with the popular and energetic Miss Nannie Bennett for President, and eleven members to begin with, they agreed to raise twenty-five dollars annually. This was a very fair amount for them, as nobody belonging to the band was rich, and some were what might be called poor. They also decided to raise the money, if possible, without resorting to the plan of giving entertainments.

The first year all went prosperously. The membership speedily increased to nineteen, and the promised sum was sent to headquarters in March, which was the time it was due. The next year things did not go on so swimmingly. Three boys, who gave the most money, moved away from the town. Several others were away all summer, and came back with empty pockets, so, at the September meeting, it was found that the treasury contained only four dollars and sixty-nine cents.

"Boys," said Miss Nannie, "this won't do. Half of our year has gone, and we haven't got one-fifth of our money in yet."

The boys said: "Oh, never mind; it would come out all right. They would get some new members; three or four new boys were coming. They would pay up their dues. Christmas was coming, and then they would have plenty of money, and would give extra amounts."

But, after once falling behind, it was very hard to pull up again. Boys who were able to give five or ten cents a month as they went along found it impossible to give twenty or forty all at once. Even Christmas did not help much. Some did not get the money they expected, and others could not resist temptations to spend theirs; so, when the January meeting came round, the treasurer had only ten dollars and ninety-three cents to report.

There were some very blank looks, and Miss Nannie said: "Well, here we are with less than two months in which to raise more than half of our money."

"I'm afraid we shan't get it this year, Miss Nannie," said Daniel Rosoman.

"It looks very much that way," said Martin Conway. "Won't it do to give just whatever we can raise each year?" Charlie Hope asked.

"You know we talked that all over at the beginning," Miss Nannie replied, "and agreed that it would be far

the-best way to fix upon a sum, and try always to come up to it."

"Well, can't we send in what we have this year, and start fresh next year?" Walter Green suggested. "We know now that every fellow must pay up as regularly in spring and summer as in winter, if we are to come out right."

There was some further talk. And the boys said they were sorry they could not come up to the mark; but there seemed to be no help for it now, the time was so short. They would try and get fifteen dollars, if possible, and that would have to do this time.

Miss Nannie listened quietly for a few minutes, and then sitting up very straight in her chair, with shining eyes, she said:

"Boys, I want to tell you a little story."

They all turned towards her.

"Once upon a time in a fierce battle, when many were falling around him, and his own company retreated, a standard-bearer was commanded to bring the standard back to the ranks. He refused (this does not seem like military discipline, but it's in the story), and called out: "Bring the ranks up to the standard!" The officer did so, and victory followed."

The boys looked at one another. It was a very good story; but it wasn't a missionary story, and this was a missionary society.

"I'm not very good at illustrations," Miss Nannie resumed, "and perhaps you won't think this a very perfect one; but it does seem to me that, after entering this missionary army and pledging ourselves to give a certain sum each year, we ought to strain every nerve to redeem our pledge. When we agree to make a smaller sum do, it is like retreating and bringing the standard back to the ranks."

Again there was silence. Some of the boys moved about restlessly, though none were ready to speak.

"Now, boys," came in the President's clear tones, "shall we retreat?"

"No!" shouted half a dozen. "we'll bring the ranks up to the standard!" And Lewis Birch, the Secretary, sprang up on a chair waving the minute-book, crying out: "Come on fellows!"

"We must raise that money," one boy declared.

"It would be a burning shame not to do it," said another.

"The meekest thing going," said a third.

The tide had turned, and now the only question was how the money should be raised.

When quiet was restored, Miss Nannie said:

"We will resolve ourselves into a committee of ways and means, and consider how we shall get fourteen dollars and seven cents by the middle of March."

"Stop a moment," said Frank Redner, feeling in all his pockets, and finally producing seven cents, which he handed to the treasurer, "let us make up that eleven dollars, and start it fair."

"Good for you, Frank!" the boys exclaimed.

"Now," said Lewis Birch, with mock gravity, "part of the sum having been donated by the liberal Mr. Redner, we shall proceed to consider how the rest may be procured."

"Can't we have some sort of a show, and raise the money that way?" Harry Young, one of the new members, suggested. "One of those funny art galleries, or something like that."

"We want to run this band without any shows," Frank Redner said. "Besides, the girls' band has just had some kind of a colored tea party, pink and white, or blue and yellow, or something; and folks don't want to