

"I would still seek an interest in your Christian sympathy and prayers that I may be found faithful in some humble service for my dear Saviour to the glory of His holy name!

"Very sincerely yours,
"N. F. LAFLAMME."

Young People's Department.

MISSION BAND REPORT (ONTARIO WEST).

The first year of the new Century has not been marked with as great progress on the part of our Bands as we could have desired. Indeed there has been a slight decrease numerically and financially in both the Home and Foreign Societies.

Sixty-nine Bands have reported to the Home Mission Treasurer, their offerings amounting to \$378.40.

In the Foreign Society ninety-two Bands have contributed \$827.58.

This is a smaller total than we have had before for twelve years. We must not, however, judge of the interest of our young people by the amount of their contributions alone. Numerous letters from workers in different parts of our Province, show that a quiet steady growth has been going on which will no doubt bear fruit "after many days." Letters from Directors too, speak of the lively interest they feel in the spiritual welfare and missionary training of the young people under their charge. They have been reaching out to unoccupied places, and as a result eight new Bands, and five re-organized, are reported in eight different associations.

True there have been and always will be circumstances that are rather disheartening. We hear, for instance, that "Ridgetown Band has disbanded for lack of children." An unusual plea this; the more general one is "Our Leaders have failed us." In some instances matrimonial engagements have affected the Society.

One Secretary writes: "I think we must have had a very attractive set of young people, for four of our members got married last summer and moved away. Others moved also, and the few who were left lived at such distances, that they found it impossible to attend, so we were obliged to disband."

Whatever the causes which tend to the advancement or decline of the missionary spirit in the hearts of young people, we would like to urge upon our sisters of the Circles that they take this department of our work under their fostering care during the coming year. Pray for your Band and its Leader, in your Circle meeting. Remind the children of their meeting. Encourage them to attend, going with them yourself when possible.

In one of the reports received last week, the Leader stated, "I am trying to hold the children, but the parents are so indifferent." Surely such words cannot apply to any of our Circle members.

From several of our Bands no report has come though we know that they have been doing good work during the year.

Bands may not realize that by failing to report, and to report promptly, they make it very difficult for the Directors and the Secretary to prepare their reports before Convention. Will not our officers remember this, and when they receive the blank forms fill them out as quickly and carefully as possible, and return to their Director.

One Life-member of Bands of the Foreign Society has been made this year. Mrs. I. L. Matthews, by the Port Arthur Band.

No Life-membership certificate has been issued by the Home Society.

Seventeen boys in Samulcotta, and thirty girls in Cocanada, have received support from Societies or individuals.

The Secretary is often interested by the names chosen by our Bands. "What's in a name?" Our Bands will tell you. A motto, an incentive, an inspiration. An "I'll Try" Band will be a "Sure-to-succeed" Band. "Golden Rule" Band will be a generous, loving, praying Band. The "I'll Try" Band of Bardswille, in the Northern Association, has more than once received special mention in the annual report.

The President, who now lives in Toronto, continues to influence her members (principally boys) through the postal system. That they are noble and ambitious workers is evidenced by the fact, that they have been contributing to the support of a boy and a girl in India.

Stratford boys Band have manifested their sympathy for the *lepers*, by sending them a number of scrap books and balls.

Several societies have sent barrels and bales of clothing and other useful articles to the Galicians and Indians.

From the "Wjn One" Band of Ingersol comes an inspiring message. The President writes: "In order to live up to the double meaning of our name, we must win one member for our Band, and one of our members for Jesus. We receive into our membership all who are willing to help in our work. Our object is to promote a deep interest in missions and to do all in our power to send the Gospel to those who have it not. Our watchword is "forward" and we are determined to go forward not in our strength but with Christ as our Guide and Counsellor."

Several Leaders testify that a deeper spiritual interest in missions has been awakened in the hearts of those who have attended the meetings.

Thus, "We thank God and take courage"

A. M. TAPSCOTT,

Band Sec.

MISSION BAND REPORT (EASTERN CONVENTION).

As only 19 of our Bands have sent in their reports, this report is necessarily incomplete. Three new Bands have been formed since the last annual meeting, one in each Association. The total amount collected is \$452.18, \$79.58 less than last year, but the amounts sent to our Home and Foreign Treasurer by the Bands in Kingston, Perth, and other places will