

* PALM BRANCH *

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DECEMBER, 1896.

PAST month it was the Editor's privilege to be present at the annual meeting of the Baltimore Branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, held in the Metropolitan church, Washington, D. C. It will be interesting to some of our readers to know that Mrs. A. H. Eaton, formerly Miss Hattie Smith of the Centenary Auxiliary, St. John, has been President of this Branch for some years. The meeting was opened with the communion service, administered by Dr. Hugh Johnston, formerly of Toronto, Pastor of the church, the presiding Elder and several other ministers, and was a most interesting occasion, giving a solemnity of tone not lost through all the session. Indeed the whole meeting was characterized by that intense earnestness, concentration of purpose and oneness of aim, which makes a missionary worker feel at home in any meeting of the W. M. S., no matter in what part of the wide, wide world she may chance to be. There were at least 120 delegates present. The devotional services, ably conducted, left impressions not soon to be forgotten, and the systematic way in which the business was disposed of, day after day, augured well for the future success of the Branch. The presence of two returned missionaries, Miss Bender from Japan, and Miss Ruth Sites from China, as well as Mrs. T. D. LaFetra from South America, lent great interest to the occasion. These ladies had evidently wrought their hearts into their work. Mrs. Esther Pak was also present. She is the first woman student from Korea, and is now taking a four years' course at the Medical College, Baltimore, in order to go back and teach and minister to her own people. The story of her conversion and call to the work added much to the interest of the meeting. Stirring speeches were made, and fine papers read, and once in a while an exquisite solo or duet broke into the monotony of business routine with pleasing variety. One afternoon the young people were represented by a young lady who read an excellent paper entitled "Under Orders." Another day the Band children entertained us most delightfully with "Wen Chung" and other recitations—even the babies were pressed into the service. By

the way, the "Little Light Bearers'" movement seems to have met with great success in this Society. Nothing, after all, was more interesting than the statistics read by the Treasurer, which showed that the Baltimore Branch alone had raised nearly \$12,000 during this year of financial depression, and would be able to meet all its appropriations.

Just now word comes from the Executive of the whole Society meeting in Rochester, N. Y., that \$285,770.48 have been raised this year, that "all appropriations have been met, and no foreboding debt hangs athwart the sky of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society." "This money has not come from the donations of the rich, but from the women of our Methodism from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, women who have toiled, wept, prayed and planned for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom, and never raised a dollar by any questionable method! It has come from the young people, many of whom give a penny a day, from the Bands and a thousand little-boxes distributed in the homes." We will only add in conclusion, as this letter is too long already for our small paper, that this society carries on an evangelistic educational work in Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia, Burmah, India, Bulgaria, Italy, S. America and Mexico.

Happy Christmas again to all our readers! And it is not only a form of speech, not merely a kind greeting—it does not come from the pen only, but from the heart. Our readers are all missionary workers, we take it, and they are the very ones who, unselfish in their devotion to the cause of Christ and constrained by His love, ought to rejoice in the anniversary of His birth. And they will, just in proportion as they seek to spread the knowledge of His wonderful advent and glorious mission to the uttermost bounds of the earth. Wise men were they who followed the Star, and truly wise will we be, if we not only follow it ourselves, but carry or send its rays into the farthest corners of the earth, to enlighten the millions who are still groping in utter darkness.

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE.

(Poetical recitations given by four little girls, the Bible verses by scholars somewhat older)

FIRST GIRL—

Under the skies of Bethlehem,
 Long ago,
 The shepherds watched their flocks of sheep,
 While all the world was lost in sleep,
 Long ago.

(Concert Recitation.)

And lo, the Angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid, And the angel said unto them:

(Single voice)

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."