

# PALM ❖ BRANCH.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH.

St. JOHN, N. B.

S. E. SMITH, . . . . . EDITOR.  
 SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, . . . . . 20 CENTS A YEAR.  
 FOR CLUBS OF TEN OR MORE TO ONE ADDRESS, 10c. EACH A YEAR.

All Band reports and notes must be sent through the Branch Band Corresponding Secretaries.

All other articles intended for publication, all subscription orders with the money, must now be sent to

MISS S. E. SMITH,  
 282 Princess Street,  
 St. John, N. B.

St. JOHN, N. B., JULY, 1899.

OUR subject for prayer and study this month is India. And why should we be interested in India when we have no mission there? Why, indeed, except that India is part of our own little world, that our own Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ died for India, too, and that the women and girls of India are our sisters, and living under conditions of such distress and misery that they need our sympathy and help. Are these not good and sufficient reasons why we should never forget to pray for India?

We know that the country is rich in many things, that she has great resources and much hidden treasure, but is poor enough in all that ranks as riches in God's sight. Ignorance and superstition always brings disease and poverty in their train.

Just now that fearful scourge, the plague, is raging there with terrible force. The government insists on inoculation as a means of checking the violence of the disease and preventing its spread. One thousand persons were inoculated in one week. The natives are so opposed to it that the doctors sometimes have to take a police force with them to prevent being mobbed. The foolish people say that the English doctors put poison in their arms, while they only put water in their own—"making believe" do it, because it is the law. How hard to cope with such ignorance and distrust! It is sometimes necessary for one of the doctors to be publicly inoculated from the same bottle with the people, to show them that they mean good and not evil.

The precautions about travelling are very great. One of the lady missionaries there went 100 miles away from her place of residence. Just before reaching the first station the doors of the various cars were locked. On arriving at the station a police force and a few doctors were allowed to enter. Then all the passengers, and there were between two and three hundred, were

examined specially, to see if they were any signs of fever on them. If there were, they were taken off immediately and taken to a disintegration camp, where they were kept for ten days, visiting the doctor under the escort of a policeman every day. Then, if nothing more developed, they were allowed to proceed on their journey. If any passenger had not been inoculated, his name, age, where he came from, where he was going, were all written down in a book. If he had been inoculated he had to show a ticket to prove it, which was then punched and handed back. After all this was done they were allowed to go on, but the programme was repeated at the station immediately preceding their destination.

One of our own Canadian girls, Dr. Louisa Hart, is a medical missionary in India. She was asked by the government to assist in the work of inoculating the people, and so is right in the midst of all this terrible plague. Let us pray for her that God will preserve her valuable life. She was inoculated for it and was very ill, so that now she is free to go in and out among the sick and dying. When ill she received several letters from those whom she had helped in sickness. One from a Brahmin lady, which, couched in beautiful Eastern language, read like a genuine "love letter." So you see how highly they value the lady doctor.

Dr. Hart loves her work there, as doctor and missionary. The meetings with the women are of especial interest, although the women are very, very dull. But after a time, when they do comprehend the truth of a living Christ, the change is wonderful and the life is faithful. The great need in India, as elsewhere, is more workers.

## THINGS TO THINK OF.

Love in the heart is power in the arm.  
 The more we love, the more we can see to love.  
 Adopt a golden text, and ask God to help you live it.

If we are willing to do good, God will give us a chance.

The important thing is not how long we are going to live, but how.

The only way to learn how to move mountains is to begin on grains of sand.

How easy to be happy today, if we would trust God with the burdens of tomorrow.—Selected.

There is a quiet garden,  
 From the rude world set apart,  
 Where seeds for Christ are growing:  
 This is the loving heart.

The tiny roots are loving thoughts,  
 Sweet words the fragrant flowers,  
 Which blossom into loving deeds—  
 Ripe fruits for harvest hours

Thus in our hearts the seeds of love  
 Are growing year by year,  
 And we show our love for the Saviour  
 By loving His children here.

—From the Child Garden.