

Our Mission Bands

THE MITE BOX ON THE SHELF

Home, at a skip and a hop and a run,
Dashed Johnny Jones with a face full of fun.
Tight in his fingers he held a small box,—
Hidden behind him, the sly little fox!

"Mother, oh, mother, just guess the surprise!"
Mother looked up and began to surmise:
"Nothing to eat, or to keep your own self?"
"No,—but it's something to put on the shelf!"

"Mirrors, or vases,—or clocks? None of those?"

"Mother, you're cold! Guess the color I chose!"

"Flowers, or pictures, or some pearly shell?"

"Mother, you're not even warm,—so I'll tell:
Here it is! See for your very own self.

This is a mite box to put on the shelf!
There! it looks fine. But it's empty, you know.
Mother, you'll help me, if pennies come slow?"

"Surely, I'll help, and we'll fill the box, too,
Mite after mite—that's how we will do.

Cents make the nickles, and nickles make dimes,

Dimes turn to blessings and royal good times."

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That was the way that the mite box arrived.
All through the month Johnny's int'rest survived.

Pennies and nickels soon counted a score,—
Sometimes a neighbor slipped in a dime more!
Then when the opening day came around,
Not a space left in the box could be found!
John clapped his hands and just shouted with glee,

"Think of the happiness money!" cried he.

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Off round the world went the money he gave,
Off to spread happiness, wave after wave,
Off till its blessing reached shores far away,—
While, back at home, it blessed John ev'ry day.

—Florence Scott Hurst in Junior Missionary Monthly.

OUR MISSION BANDS

Quite recently I received a letter from one of our Band Leaders telling just how she 'does' it. The letter is so full of helpful ideas that I feel it should be broadcast.

"We have 68 regular members divided into four groups—three of girls and one of boys. We meet on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. The groups hold separate group meetings during the week when they plan their programmes and practice group songs. The plan of separating the boys and girls into groups has been worked for three years and found to be a great success.

This year our boys called themselves the "Champions." They kept the best attendance and used all the talent, even bringing out some that we did not know was there. They always try to go one better than the girls.

Our groups and leaders are chosen in Sept. at the beginning of the fall work. The elder girls are the leaders. They choose a name such as "Beacon Lights," "Sunbeams", "Willing Workers", "Live Wires" (boys), "Busy Bees," "C. T. N." or "Carry the News", "Good Samaritans" and "Champions" (boys). I might say here that we get pins with these names on for 15c a dozen from the David Cook Co., Elgin, Ill., and they are very proud of their pins. They are always willing to pay 2c for their pin. The Supt. always pins them on.

Each group leader marks her own roll at each meeting. So there is no time lost in roll call. This roll and a copy of the programme is handed to the Supt. and she files them.

We have a birthday box and at each meeting all those with birthdays put in a penny for each year. In return they receive a birthday pin. This is a new idea this year. Other years cards have been sent to the members. This cost too much for the returns. So now the pin is given only to those placing their money in the box.

Our Honorary Member contest is conducted along the same lines as Walmer Road. It starts January 1 and ends March 31. This is