

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., JUNE, 1899

OUR June subjects for prayer and study are Missionaries and Missionary Ships. Truly interesting subjects indeed for us all.

Perhaps those most naturally interested in our missionaries are the families from which they have gone forth: to toil for God in distant lands. Their own immediate, familiar friends, who miss them every day from the home circle and fireside. These, doubtless, tenderly remember and fervently pray for them. Can we do less for those who have gone to represent our Saviour as well as their own, in those lands from which a knowledge of Him has been so long withheld? When we are privileged to listen to them on their return after five years' absence from home and friends, with such a varied experience gathered in lands personally unknown to us, how we wonder at the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which makes it possible for them to "Endure hardness as good soldiers." We rejoice with them as they recount the victories won in His name, sympathize in all the difficulties of the way, the seeming slow but rapid progress and onward march of the Truth which breaks down all barriers and look forward hopefully through their eyes to a bright future for those lands now open to the light.

We were very much interested in Miss Crombie's address the other night, and especially when she illustrated the fact that Japan, which so many suppose to be now almost entirely won to Christianity, has many provinces still unpenetrated by its holy light. She told of a young woman from one of those provinces, who in some way (can we doubt how? St. John 1: 9), had got the idea of our true God, and had determined to leave home and friends to try and find Him. Such a thing is never heard of in Japan as a young woman starting out alone on any voyage of discovery, though men, as tramps, are often seen there. She went on and on; reduced to the necessity of part-

ing with one article of value after another (she belonged to one of the upper classes), that she might obtain food, until at last she was almost in rags. Everywhere she enquired for this one true God, and no one had heard of Him, till at length some one who had heard of the missionaries, directed her to them, and here at last she found light and comfort. Is not this an encouraging fact for our faithful workers, and does not this girl; in her earnestness to find God, condemn us who have had the truth so long in our homes and lands? Let us pray for our dear missionaries more and more, that they may be blessed and strengthened and encouraged in their great work for Christ.

"Missionary Ships" are great helpers in the "way," as some of our brave missionaries can tell, who have made long, perilous voyages in them along rough coasts and through stormy waters, that they may carry glad tidings to those who have never heard them, and we must still pray "God speed the Missionary Ships."

PRAY AND PUSH.

An old story I once read, about
 The launching of a ship;
 And it told of the crowd that gathered
 To watch its outward trip.

And a robed priest stood on the shore,
 And thus he prayed: "O Lord,
 Bless the goodly ship we launch to-day!
 May the skies be fair, and 'neath Thy care
 May she proudly sail away.
 We thank Thee for the men who dare
 To venture for our gain;
 For the good they do, then speed the crew
 Across the rolling main."

But a little boy with one eye,
 Saw need of help just then,
 And swift he ran across the sand
 And stood among the men.

"Let me help! I can push a pound!"
 With eager tone he cried,
 And push he did, with all his might
 Till the brave ship touched the tide.

"Hurrah! hurrah! the ship's afloat!"
 —The good priest looked around,
 "'Tis answer to my prayer," said he,
 Said the boy, "I pushed a pound!"

This story has its lesson, friends;
 It comes to me and you,
 As we review our mission fields
 And ask, "What can we do?"

Do? We can pray, and pray we must
 E'er Christ the world shall win,
 —"Thy kingdom come!" pray on! pray on!
 Till He hath conquered sin.

But Oh, forget not while you pray,
 To push with all your might!
 The least of you can "push a pound,"
 And thus speed on the right.

C. M. F.

—L. A. S.