

fit to call us to help in the work of bringing precious souls into His kingdom, who has promised the inheritance of the heathen to His Son, expecting much from His children in advancing His kingdom upon earth. O, how earnest and faithful we ought to be in our dear Lord and Master's service, in denying ourselves of home duties and cares in attending those monthly meetings, in casting our mites into the treasury of our Lord and in mingling our feeble prayers and praises in behalf of the poor benighted heathen who know nothing of Jesus and His love. Feeling assured that the blessings will descend from Him who is not backing in His promises. A few of us take the LINK. We find it very encouraging and a blessing, learning from it much that we did not know of the customs and sadness of the life of heathenism. Our Circle joins in the glorious motto of the year, "All the world for Jesus," looking forward to the precious promise "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that win many to Christ as the stars forever and ever." We are hoping for much in the New Year, earnestly desiring to be remembered by our sister circles at the throne of Grace.

MRS. J. W. MITCHELL.

#### QUARTERLY MEETING OF CIRCLES.

*Dear Link* - In December I went to Niagara Falls South to attend the quarterly meeting of their Circle, and thought I might let other Circles know how they conduct them. They are held from house to house, and wherever the quarterly meeting happens to be a plain tea is given and in the evening a programme of music, etc. is provided, the gentlemen being present and a collection taken. It was a very pleasant and interesting meeting, about fourteen being present in the afternoon. A full programme was not given on this occasion owing to evangelistic services being held in the church. The interest and sympathy with the work seems to be increasing, and I think the Circle there has reason to be thankful to God for blessing their efforts.

MAGGIE E. ROBERTSON,  
Thorold.

GLAMIS. - Our Circle was organized in June, 1887, by Miss Stovel of Mount Forest. We meet the first Wednesday of every month and enjoy our meetings very much. We have raised altogether \$53.55, of which \$20 was realized from a social we had for Bro. Garstide, and \$10 at a Thanksgiving Service, at which an address was given by Rev. J. C. McDonald, of Paisley, on mission work.

EDITH HOWSON, Sec.

#### Encouragement for Workers on the Home Fields—Old and Young.

A sister in one of our isolated districts writes "Last week I took it upon myself to gather the money which we should have sent in before for foreign missions, and though my faith was small yet I set out with an earnest prayer for success, and was fully rewarded by receiving more than was ever sent from here at once before. I was pleased to note that the 'Missionary Boxes' greatly helped to swell the funds. I had scattered several of them round, and my little niece, a child of eight years, thought she must have one also. You would be pleased to see what an earnest worker she is for foreign missions. Her box when opened contained \$2.25 which she handed me with a cheerfulness that I know was pleasing to the Master."

A. E. J.

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT.

To MISSION BANDS. - The Treasurer of the Ontario Board (Mrs. Elliott, whose address will be found on the last page), requests that the Mission Bands, in forwarding funds for the support of students, state whether the student is at Cooanada or at Samnicotta.

#### Mission Band Report, ending Oct., 1887.

The year's work has been on the whole encouraging, perhaps more so than on any previous year. From reports received the children have not only evinced great pleasure in the work, but it has been profitable to themselves and to the Society to which it is auxiliary. It is acknowledged that good mission work is done when the missionary spirit is called into activity, and we know not how this can be better done than by means of Mission Bands. The reports show that meetings have been well sustained, and that contributions have been cheerfully given, and all has been done with so much zeal as to augur well for a coming generation of devoted and trained missionary workers. As was the case last year, so during the present, quite a sum of money has been raised. There is no reason why this department of work should not be extended greatly, both as to numbers and efficiency, if Christian women, Christian mothers, would give the subject prayerful consideration. It has none of the drawbacks which are so familiar in Circle work, as apathy, lack of time, more pressing engagements, etc. As a rule, especially in smaller places, the meetings of the Bands is eagerly anticipated and its service entered into most heartily by the children. When it is considered that comparatively few boys and girls banded together have accomplished all that the report shows, it will be readily seen that with a little encouragement the result might be greatly increased. Most of the \$1,001.04 reported to the Secretary has been raised by 45 Bands. A feature of the work which surely ought to make the churches generally interested in it for its financial aspect, if for nothing else. Why should not the 45 Bands which have raised this commendable sum of money this year be increased to 200? and the \$1,000 be increased to \$4,000; it would need some thought, and a good deal of careful oversight, but with such material to work upon, and such a result in view the needed stimulus is surely not wanting.

Looking at the matter from the standpoint of Associations, we find in the Brant Association, out of 21 churches, only 4 Bands reported; in the East Ontario, out of 33 churches, only 6 Bands; Elgin, 19 churches, 1 Band; Grand River, 45 churches, 6 Bands; Huron, 45 churches, 1 Band; Middlesex and Lambton, 26 churches, 8 Bands; Midland Counties, 23 churches, 8 Bands; Niagara, 16 churches, 4 Bands; Toronto, 34 churches, 5 Bands; Western, 29 churches, no Bands. If now those who have oversight of the Home and Foreign work in these Associations, would take the trouble and persevere in this work, it would not be long before a large increase might be made. If each Association Director would set a Band to work in each church within her limits, she would be building a foundation for future usefulness, and future revenue.

And now the abandoned Bands must be mentioned, while the number of Bands are steadily increasing, 16 new ones this year. Each year tells the sad story of the death of some; this year quite a number have expired, and presumably the unreported ones are among the number of whom it must be written, "died of discouragement." This is a great pity, for the fault does not lie with the children, who are very ready and anxious for Band