

## 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.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY, 1899.

ANOTHER blessed Easter time has passed on to the "garnered years." Have the brightness and joy gone with it, or stayed behind to gladden all our after lives? Surely that is what the Master meant when He said: "That my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full." Let us not miss this precious legacy of our ascended Lord.

Our prayer subject this month is China—that great empire so full of interest to us all. "The signs of the times" are good for China when the Dowager Empress has a man sentenced to death for threatening the life of a missionary; when she decorates the missionary and declares by an imperial decree that Christian missions are promoting good morals in China!

It is pleasant to observe the spirit manifested by many of the Chinese Christians. A graduate of Peking University last session, after having secured a position in the Imperial Customs Service, voluntarily gave it up and offered himself for service in the church at a salary less than one-third of the lowest he could get in the customs. His brother graduated last year, and gave up a position in business of about Rs. 140 a month to become a preacher at about Rs. 14 a month. What a comment on the talk of those who try to attribute all conversions in China to worldly motives!

"No one among the great missionaries of China," says *The Outlook*, "has performed nobler work than Dr. Griffith John. No one would be less likely to mistake the signs of the times." Dr. John states, with great emphasis, that the authorities are supporting the missionaries, and that they call upon all the people in strong and vigorous proclamations to respect their rights and privileges, and warn the people that violence against the missionaries will be followed by penalty of death. Great results from missionary labour may soon be expected in China.

Let those who sneeringly assert, says the Boston 'Congregationalist,' that missions are a failure, and that it is an impertinence to offer Christianity to the ancient civilisations of the East, take notice that the present minister of the Chinese emperor at Washington is a Christian.

Unfortunately for China's daughters, Confucius noticeably disliked the "unquiet sex," and his philosophy has nothing to offer woman but "The Law of Five Obediences." She should obey her brothers, parents, husband, parents-in-law, and, after their death, her sons. "Women," the sage insists, "should not be known outside their homes either for good or evil." Consequently ladies in China are never "loaf-givers." No St. Elizabeth ever ministered to beggars and lepers, nor have Chinese prisons been brightened by an Elizabeth Fry. Chinese soldiers never followed a victorious Joan of Arc nor kissed the shadow of a Santa Filomena as she ministered to their dying wants. It is true that China's muse of history has proved the names of some delightful women, "On fame's eternal headroll worthy to be filed," but always for their fire-side virtues and self-sacrifice in the family—never for genius or philanthropy.

- W. M. Friend.

We are much interested in our young friend, Helen's True Story, on the next page. That faithful minister "built better than he knew" when he sought to interest a little girl in foreign missions. Perhaps from Heaven he looks down and sees with joy the results of his efforts.

Report from Hamilton Branch will appear next month.

## WORDS OF LOVE AND TRUST.

"IF the flood comes and catches us, it will only carry us up to heaven the quicker." A little Chinese boy, Chengsah, said this. He, with his mother and her two other children, was watching the waters rise, while the rain came down in torrents. In the country where they lived there is a rainy season, when day after day dreadful rains fall. Suddenly, during these rains of 1893 came an alarm such as is sounded in the great cities when fire breaks out. The neighbours cried: "Save your children! The flood is coming! An embankment has broken!" But the mother and her children could only watch and wait, while everybody around them was screaming and crying, and the flood seemed just going to sweep them away. Then this little boy spoke these words of love and trust in his Heavenly Father.

Suppose some dear little child, known to us, one of us, was in such danger, and his mother's heart was aching to see his fear and to think of the angry water coming nearer and nearer. How glad she would be to know that he was not afraid, but was just looking across the great flood to Heaven! she would be brave, too, if she was not brave before.

The flood passed by, and did not carry this mother and her children away. They are alive, to tell how sweet it is to have a Heavenly Father very near when fear and danger come, and to have his home all ready to take us in when the flood carries us out of this life.

[Is it not worth while to send the Gospel to China?]