



Devoted to the interests of the Mission Circles and Bands of the Woman's Missionary Society, Methodist Church, Canada.

VOL. III.

NOVEMBER, 1896.

No. 11.

A TWILIGHT VISION.

BY ELIZABETH E. FLAGG.

At the sunset's door of jasper,
 Lo! I see an Angel stand;
 Shines a star upon his forehead,
 Gleams a palm-branch in his hand,
 And he smiles as smile the Blessed,
 Safe within the summer land!

He "was made a little lower,"
 So the sweet old Scripture saith,—
 He, the wondrous Babe of Bethlehem
 He the Man of Nazareth;
 He whose lightest touch was healing,
 He who burst the bands of death.

Lower, that his love might reach us
 Through all depths of shame and sin;
 Lower, that his grace might fill us,
 As the sunshine entering in;
 Stooping, to his heart he bound us
 With the ties of human kin.

Walk we sunbright heights of Beulah,
 Looking toward the hills of God;
 Tread we deep in darkling shadows,
 Fainting 'neath our heavy load,
 One—the Traveller to Emmaus—
 Overtakes us on the road.

And when fall life's sunset shadows,
 And beyond the dim death-tide
 Pass we to the golden city,
 Gleaming on the other side,
 Not by Angel with the palm branch,
 Not by Seraph stary-eyed,

Shall our hands be gently taken,
 But a Voice will speak within
 From the unimagined splendour,
 Greeting us as kith and kin;
 And the Christ, our Elder Brother,
 He it is will lead us in.

—Zion's Herald.

READING THE BIBLE.

"GRANNY, I think the bible is the hardest book to understand that I ever undertook to read."
 "Do you, my dear?" her aged friend replied. "Perhaps, if you think a moment, you can tell the reason why it is so difficult to understand."

"Oh, of course I do understand a good deal of it. The stories are easy enough; and I know the meaning of the commandments, and a good many things it says we may or may not do. I wish I could read it to-day for the first time, and see how it would seem to me. It would be more like other books then; or it would do me more good; or something."

"You mean probably that the words are so familiar that they leave but little impression. You want to be startled by the freshness of something new."

"Yes, granny, that is just what I want. I wish I could make it seem that the bible is something to me in particular."

"What things *seem* is of little account; what things *are* is of the greatest importance. The bible is God's message to the world, to each individual in the world; therefore it is in particular to you, to yourself, as though there were no other to receive and profit by its holy declarations and promises and warnings."

"I don't realize anything about that, granny. I wish I did."

"Fanny Morris is a few years older than you are, Mary; she can just remember the year when her father was a soldier in the North West. I remember distinctly how lonely the Morris household was, and how they talked about father, and how they wrote to to him, and looked for his letters as the most precious

things that could come to them. One day a letter appeared that had a great deal of information in it, a good deal of advice also about the affairs at home, and some special messages to various ones in the family. Perhaps little Fanny didn't understand all her father had to say about the marching and camping and what not of soldier life, or all he recommended in business matters at home; but she listened with the rest in happy confidence that all father wrote was wise and good. One thing she *did* understand without explanation, and that was his message of love to herself.

"A few days after this letter arrived, Mrs. Morris was very busy, and, not wishing to be disturbed with the child's play, she asked Fanny if she wouldn't like to go and sit in the next room and read papa's letter all to herself. Fanny was delighted to do so. For a half hour or more the mother overheard her prattling over the letter, but every moment repeating the sentence so dear to her little heart: "Papa sends his love to Fanny." Sometimes she talked of other matters in the letter, revealing how much or how little she took their real meaning; but the loyal little daughter never failed to close her sentence with the words she could not fail to understand aright, "Papa sends his love to Fanny."

"The Bible is the letter of the Father in heaven to his family on earth. In it are some things the strong and the wise must study deeply to comprehend. But there is one thing in the letter that the simple ones and the little ones can make no mistake in; that is the message of love He sends to each one. It is to you, Mary, or it should be, what Fanny's message from her father was to her. It was the matter she perfectly understood and that she completely delighted in."

"But Fanny remembered her father, Granny. She had seen his face and heard his voice and taken hold of his hand, and so she could realize his love to her."

"Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." You asked me the other day what faith is. Here is one meaning and one opportunity of faith, just the faith that God asks and requires of you. It is, without seeing the Father in heaven, to believe as though you had seen. Fanny's faith, that is, confidence in her absent father and in his message to her, was perfect; no doubt troubled her little heart. She didn't say, "It doesn't seem as if papa sent me that word from so far off": she simply believed it; she repeated the message; she sang it; and her little heart responded to it in happy love and trust."

"I have thought a great many times I wish I could feel so towards my Father in heaven; I wish He could seem as real to me as Fanny's father did to her."

"My dear, it is the Holy Spirit who only can make this clear to your mind and true to your heart. Ask God to give you that Spirit, that you may truly know the word He has sent to you. And then, Mary dear, having thus asked God, you must do exactly as you would if He seemed as real to you as any one your eyes can see."—*Herald of Mercy.*

A RECORDING SECRETARY.

MISS E. THORNE.

 HERE are Recording Secretaries and Recording Secretaries. Allow me to paint an ideal one, and to point out some of her many duties: She records and reads the minutes of her Auxiliary. To do even so simple a thing well, she must possess certain qualifications: 1. A clear distinct voice in order that the minutes may be read so as to be heard by all pleasantly. 2. A certain power of written expression, so that her own impressions may be clear to others. 3. A quick brain; whereby she comprehends readily the suggestions given, and in this way prevents many wearisome discussions over insignificant details. 4. A discriminating brain; she knows what to record and what to reject. 5. A methodical brain; so that she arranges her resolutions and reports in the best manner to be understood by her successors or herself in the future as references. With this end in view she makes judicious use of red ink; anything important enough to be needed again, is carefully underlined, and so easily turned up when required. 6. A good memory for all business transactions; she keeps herself familiar with the past records and in this way often prevents contradictory or useless resolutions. She knows the Constitution and Bye-laws thoroughly. All this is a great help to the presiding officer, who, often in the excitement and worry consequent upon her duties, forgets little things. A wise secretary is ready to quietly prompt her weary chief. She will also help her in many other little ways. For instance, on coming to the meeting; she will bring a written list of Committees who have to report, and of any unfinished business recorded in the minutes, or any routine business that she knows should be attended to that day. 7. She is regular in her attendance. It throws a serious damper upon a meeting to begin it without the reading of the minutes. If she must be absent she notifies the president and sends the Record-Book. 8. She is punctual; indeed always a little ahead of time. This gives an opportunity to arrange little affairs with the other officers. 9. She writes plain and impressive notices of all regular and special meetings. 10. She assists the Cor.-Sec'y in the writing of the Annual Report. 11. She considers her office the most important office in the Auxiliary. Given an Auxiliary where each officer thinks this of her especial office, and we have the most successful one in this or any branch. 12. Of course she loves the missionary work—this is last but not least in the list of requirements and duties. She must have heard the Master's call to herself, "Go," "Send."

This is our ideal portrait. We trust it is not an impossible real one. Perchance the original sits before us as the representative from many an Auxiliary. She may not recognize herself—perhaps her President does. Do not let our picture depress anyone. If she feels she is not all "our fancy painted," but has conscientiously done her best, let her read Browning's words in Saul:

What stops my Despair?
This; 'tis not what man *does* that exalts him,
But what man *would* do!

ONLY A LITTLE SUNBEAM.

Only a little sunbeam,
But it fell on an opening rose ;
Only a tiny rain-drop,
But it helped a leaf unclose.

Only a robin singing,
But the song reached heaven above,
Only a pink-tipped blossom,
But its mission was one of love.

Only a look of pity,
That fell on an aching heart ;
Only a gentle hand-clasp
But it made the glad tears start.

Only a kind word spoken,
To a wretched outcast one,
Only a word that told her
Of the Father's loving Son!

Only the cry "Forgive me!"
And the Saviour looked and smiled
On a happy pardoned sinner
Whom the Father calls His child!

FIELD STUDY FOR NOVEMBER.

 HIS month we "thank God and take courage."
How surely the one follows the other! When
tired, perplexed and disheartened, nothing
cheers like counting our mercies.

One of the most notable points of David's character was his courage, another was his constant and varied expression of thankfulness to God. The one it seems to me explains the other.

We have reason for thanksgiving in that the lives of our missionaries have been spared ; for those who, after a period of rest, have returned to their work with renewed health. They have been a blessing to us at home, and go back fitted for immediate service, as those new to the work could not be.

In China the missionaries are again settled in Chentu. Dr. Hart, who is at present in Canada, says that the officials throughout China are now committed to the protection of the missionaries and their property. How our hearts thrill at their courage ! Surely, we may give thanks that we are sisters of such Canadians.

Our privileges as Canadian girls are many. While we have lived in peace and security, enjoying our restful Sabbath service, with abundant opportunity to develop the best that is in us physically, mentally, and spiritually, other girls have missed some or all of these blessings. What has this year brought to them? Many girls in Japan have been sold by their fathers, in some cases into a life of such sin and misery as happily you can not conceive of. Yet the position

of women in Japan is better than in most eastern countries. What has this year brought to the daughters of Armenia? There is no need to suggest the answer.

These things bring before us the second part of our subject—Thank-offering. "How that so laboring ye ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He himself said : 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" There are some things we can all give, sympathy, love, prayer. To give these we must have knowledge. The story of thousands dying of famine in India, or drowned by floods in China, move us less than one family in destitute circumstances in our own town, or a single boating accident in one of our own rivers. So there is necessity for giving thought and study. If we give these our money offering will be "as the Lord has prospered us."

I feel as I write that there is one at least, among those studying this page, whom God will honor by calling her to give her life to this work.

E. A. D.

QUESTIONS FOR NOVEMBER.

What ought we to do this month ?
Which act comes first ?
Mention two most notable points in David's character ?
As Mission workers what are our special reasons for thanksgiving ?
As Canadian girls what privileges and advantages] have we had this year ?
What has this year brought to the girls in Armenia ?
How can we best show our gratitude ?
What can we give ?
To give these truly and heartily what do we first need ?
Are we getting ready for service in larger fields ?

ALL THE SAME.

In a New England poem which has become one of the classics of the school-room, a dear little child "hates to go above" her schoolmate, and gives as her reason : "Because, you see, I love you."

The incident was lately repeated in a class of children in China, one of whom was able to make the Golden Rule his guide in a trying situation.

The youngest of the children had, by hard study, contrived to keep his place so long that he seemed to claim it by right of possession. Growing self-confident, he missed a word, which was immediately spelled by the boy standing next him.

The face of the victor expressed the triumph he felt, yet he made no move toward taking the place, and when urged to do so, firmly refused, saying :

"No ; me not go ; me not make Ah Jun's heart sorry."

That little act implied great self-denial, yet it was done so thoughtfully and kindly that spontaneously from several lips came the quick reply :

"He do all same ee Jesus' Golden Rule."—*The Gleaner.*

✻ PALM BRANCH ✻

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MISS S. E. SMITH,
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NOVEMBER, 1896.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE N. B. AND P. E. I. BRANCH.

The meeting began on the morning of the 22nd September, in the spacious school-room of Centenary church, St. John. There were present between seventy and eighty delegates from many parts of New Brunswick and P. E. Island. Among the distinguished guests were our most worthy General President, Mrs. Gooderham, of Toronto, and our no less worthy General Cor.-Sec'y, Mrs. Strachan, of Hamilton. These ladies, with Miss Robertson, our own returned missionary from Japan, and Mrs. Hart, the devoted mother of missionaries, made a quartette whom we all delighted to honor. Their presence with us was an inspiration as well as a joy, and not soon forgotten will be the loving, precious words of counsel and encouragement that fell from their lips. We wish that every Auxiliary and Band could have been privileged to hear them. Our own beloved and efficient president, Miss Palmer, had ringing words of cheer and hopefulness for all. She showed an intimate knowledge of the work of the year, an intense sympathy with discouragement, and a keen appreciation of the brave efforts made to overcome difficulties.

Tuesday evening the Anniversary meeting was held, and was a success in spite of the weather. Short and interesting addresses, given by Mrs. Gooderham and Mrs. Strachan and Miss Robertson, told us, in a bright, pleasing way, the history of some of the girls in the Japan schools. One of the most enjoyable features of the occasion was the singing by the children of the "King's Messenger Band." This Band is under the leadership of Miss Gertrude Allison and Miss Mabel Barbour. They occupied the end gallery of the church, and sang with great gusto and most

pleasing effect a "Welcome Song," and with every chorus gave the Chataqua salute. Another event, most interesting to the Bauds, was the graceful presentation by Mrs. Turner, Branch Band Cor.-Sec'y, of Mrs. Owry's beautiful Banner to Miss Durant, for the Margate, P. E. I., Band. The banner has been twice won by the Margate Band; this year, for the greatest improvement of Talent money made by an individual member. The talent money given was five cents, the largest amount gained \$10!

We are very glad to be able to say that in the committee of Modes of Work for Bands, it was decided to make the basis of competition, for the banner this year, the largest number of new subscribers to PALM BRANCH! So the Editor will expect great things.

On the afternoon of Thursday, devoted to Bands, after opening devotional exercises, led by Mrs. Turner, Miss M. B. Smith illustrated, on the black-board, a series of important suggestions to Band leaders, and Miss Mary Berry, of Mt. Allison, gave a model Mission Band lesson, illustrated by maps. Through the days of the meeting there were helpful papers, such as, "The Model President," "The Model Treasurer," and others—the discussions arising therefrom, were equally instructive and interesting to Auxiliaries and Bands. We hope that Mrs. Turner, or someone especially interested in Bands, will give us a resumé of all that was most helpful to the Bands in this meeting. Speaking of papers we must not forget Mrs. Chipman's admirable address on "The relation of the workers at home to our foreign missionaries." It is well worthy of publication.

The Consecration service, combined with a Memorial one for those faithful ones who had gone from us during the year, was tender and touching—Mrs. L. H. Vaughan and Mrs. Frank White, of Centenary Auxiliary, Mrs. Huntley, of Moncton, Mrs. Gardiner, of P. E. I., and others. We missed words of tender regret for two brave little workers lately dropped from the ranks—Nellie Seymore, of Carmarthen St., and Gertie Stevenson, of Queen Square Mission Band. Young in years, but devoted to the cause of the Saviour, whom they loved and trusted, they have gone to be with Him, which is far better. We miss them—who will fill the vacant places?

We hope other Bands will follow the example of the Montague Band occasionally, and send a boy delegate. We long to have the boys enlisted in this grand work.

One good recommendation of the Modes of Work committee, was that the Auxiliaries should take more interest in the Band workers, as their future successors and visit them sometimes during band sessions.

Cor.-Secretary's report for the year gave 50 Bands—4 new ones—but a decrease of 3. Of the \$5,108.29 sent to the Branch treasurer, \$1,122.44 was raised by the Mission Bands.

So closed this very successful Branch meeting, which we think and trust will be an inspiration to all of us who were present, throughout the year. We parted to meet next year in Sackville.

NEWS FROM INDIA.



Missionary physician in India went with an English lady to call on some of her patients. Word was sent that they would not be ready to receive visitors till four o'clock. Truly when we saw them we were not surprised, for it must have taken the extra hours to take out all their jewellery and put on all the fine paint and clothing.

A gentleman in a blue-and-white turban received us, and we were shown into a very large room, covered with a carpet, but there was nothing else there but a few bamboo chairs and a heap of silk and cashmere shawls, excepting that against the wall were about twenty pairs of boots and shoes, red, blue, and other colors, with pointed toes and no heels.

When the first lady appeared she almost took away my breath by her astonishing appearance. Her face was painted red and yellow, with a streak of black across her forehead and around her eyes; her finger and toe nails were stained dark red. Her wide yellow satin trousers were fastened round the ankles with huge gold anklets, and from these hung so many jewels that they nearly covered her feet. Her jacket was richly worked with gold. She wore heavy bracelets at the top of her arms as well as on her wrists; around her neck she had put on one gold chain after another, the lowest reaching to her waist. In her hair was one blue and one pink ostrich feather, two wreaths of orange blossoms, and a band of silk; and over that on one side was a black, and on the other a white, gold-spangled veil. On her fingers were nine enormous rings. Her voice was almost as shrill as that of a peacock. She seemed much pleased to turn the musical box with her jewelled fingers.

The second lady now appeared, dressed in all the colors of the rainbow, and, being very shy and foolish, did nothing but giggle, and went to the other end of the room. The door opened again for afternoon tea, carried on a brass tray, the teapot being covered with one large cashmere handkerchief and the cups with smaller ones.

One question weighed on the mind of the yellow-satin trousered lady, and this was, "How do you like my clothes?" The only answer I could think of was that I had heard and read of such grand clothes, but had never seen anything like them before.

As I could only nod and smile, and the Persian lady told and unfolded her hands so that every ring might be seen to advantage, I turned out my handbag, and she was enchanted, especially with a work-case, with its little holes for cotton and thimble. Then to crown all, I showed her how to use a safety pin, and made her a present of one.

It was a sad visit, for these poor women have no thought for anything but jewels and dress. They did not want to hear anything about the Bible, nor to look at our pictures; and when we spoke of the ornament the Lord cared for most, "a meek and quiet spirit," they accepted the remark with a rude laugh. —Lucy I. Tongue, in the *Missionary Link*.

A wee maiden, a member of King's Messenger Band, has tried her hand at writing a short work of fiction. It is entitled "The Good Boy," and it shows that she has a high ideal in regard to boys, and that she sees the beauty of self-sacrifice, at least for them. We give it with a few alterations:

A boy was sitting on the steps of his house thinking. He had some money in his pocket which his papa had given him on his birthday, to do whatever he wanted to with it. He thought and thought, and at last he said, "I will go up to the church and give it to the missionary." And he did, and the missionary said he was a good boy, and then he told how he had wanted to keep it to buy "drumsticks" (a kind of candy), but would not, and after that he saved up all the money he could get until he had \$4.00, and he took it up to the church, and it did so much good he was called a missionary. He never spent his cents for foolish things, and he grew up to be a man and had a Sunday school class of his own. ELLIE.

TAKE NOTICE.

The basis of competition for the Banner this year is the greatest number of new subscribers to PALM BRANCH. Now who will win the Banner and at the same time work for the general good? In the scale of subscriptions for PALM BRANCH, given in the report for the year, our Branch had the largest number by three hundred! Surely this is great encouragement to go on.

We print Miss Thorne's excellent paper in PALM BRANCH, because it gives the portrait of an ideal Recording Secretary for Circles and Bands as well as Auxiliaries.

Please use the blanks that we sent to you for renewal. Filled in by you they will contain all the particulars that we need. They can be used for new subscriptions too.

FOR SALE.—Pictures of the Chinese girls of the Rescue Home, Victoria, can be had for fifty cents (50 cts.), by applying to Mrs. Pendray, 92 Belleville St., James Bay, Victoria, B. C.



Address—**COUSIN JOY**, 282 Princess St., St. John, N. B.

What will Cousin Joy say to her dear young cousins this month? She has many things in her heart that she would like to say to them, but can only give them about one thought at a time in this little paper. Her thought this time is to advise them to make the most of every day that they live. And why? Because that is the right way to live and the only happy, successful way. Because the years are made up of days, and life is made up of the years, and if we live one day well, and every day well, our whole lives will be well spent. Think what it will be to look back, at the end, which is surely coming, upon a life whose every day has been a success. Life looks a dreary thing sometimes when we think of it as a whole, but when we take each little day as a new gift, fresh from the hand of God, to use for Him, it seems to make all life easier and brighter. We think that is what God means us to do, because He curtains off the night for us and gives us time for rest and sleep, that we may rise refreshed with new strength for the duties and pleasures of a new day. Try this plan of living one day at a time, little cousins, and see if you do not find in it the secret of a happy life.

DEAR COUSIN JOY.—I belong to "Mizpah" Mission Circle. I take the **PALM BRANCH** and find it very interesting. I think I have found the answers to the October puzzles. The first is, "Teach all Nations"; the second is, "Guysborough"; the third is, "Joyous Workers Mission Band." I will also send you a puzzle and hope you will find it worth publishing.

Your loving Cousin,

Manilla.

BEATRICE ELSIE BARRY.

The puzzle sent by Cousin Beatrice, as well as two or three others received, do not tell the answers. We are sorry for this; we should like to have printed them. Remember, all the letters must be used, the paper must be written only on one side, and the answer to the puzzle must be told to the Editor in confidence.

Ettie Schurman, of Bedeque, also sends three correct answers.

DEAR COUSIN JOY.—I belong to the "Parkdale" Mission Band. I take the **PALM BRANCH** and find it a very interesting paper. I think I have found the answer to the first September puzzle. It is, "Preach the Gospel."

Yours truly,

Toronto.

OTTO ZIEGLER.

DEAR COUSIN JOY.—We have found the answers to the September and October puzzles. They are: "Teach all Nations" and "Lavinia Clarke Mission Band," "Preach the Gospel," "Guysborough" and "Joyous Workers Mission Band." We enclose two puzzles if you think them worth publishing.

NOVELLA MARTIN,

PEARL VAN DER STEIN.

Montague.

The answers are correct and we insert one puzzle. But our little cousins must be very careful. The second puzzle does not include all the letters, and the writing is upon both sides of the paper, consequently it cannot be used.

Will Carria Bowness send the answer to her puzzle?

ANSWERS TO OCTOBER PUZZLES.

No. 1. Preach the Gospel. No. 2. Guysborough. No. 3. Joyous Worker's Mission Band. Answer to Word Picture: The four kings were the kings of Israel, Judah, Moab and Edom; the prophet of the Lord was Elisha. It is found in 2nd Kings, 3rd chapter.

NELLIE.

NOVEMBER PUZZLES.

ENIGMA.

I am composed of 16 letters.
My 8, 15, 14, 11, is a fragrant flower.
My 3, 6, 7, 12, is close.
My 13, 5, 1, is a boy's name.
My 10, 9, 4, 6, is a part of the body.
My 2, 16, is a preposition.
My whole is the name of a missionary.

NELLIE.

I am composed of 14 letters.
My 6, 2, 5, 4, is an animal.
My 10, 8, 12, is a color.
My 1, 11, 3, 14, is a pronoun.
My 9, 7, 13, is an insect.

My whole is the name of a pretty little village in King's Co.,
P. E. I. **NOVELLA.**

I am composed of 13 letters.
My 6, 7, 10, 5, is a very gentle animal.
My 1, 11, 3, 13, 4, is a Bible name.
My 6, 2, 10, 13, is used in plaster.
My 8, 7, 3, 9, means a barrel.
My 6, 2, 7, 12, is one who does not tell the truth.
My whole is the name of one of our missionaries.

Canso,

BESSIE.

AH SHANG.

HERE is in Macao a little boy I have learned to love very much. His name is Ah Shang, and he is now a little over five years of age. His father went into Kwang Sai to help open a station there, and as his mother was dead, he has been living with us.

At first he was very disobedient and self-willed, and I even had to whip him. He would kick and scream so that I often wept over his naughty little heart.

Once, before his father left for the country, he was displeased about something, and to take revenge, he took some paper and folded it just as idol-worship paper is folded, and burnt it, praying the idol to keep his father from returning home (he had gone out on an errand). But before night came he became sleepy, and as it grew dark he wanted his papa, so he got down on his knees and prayed to Jesus, and asked to have his father always with him. He was not four years old then. He is a very bright child and learns fast, and can repeat his "four-character classic" by heart.

But you will be glad to know that Jesus has made a change in the dear child. I have not had to punish him for a long time, for as soon as he is naughty, he only needs to be reminded that he has grieved Jesus, and he immediately goes to his bedside and prays for forgiveness. Then he comes to me with a smiling, happy face, and assures me that he is forgiven. I once asked him how he knew Jesus had forgiven him, and his reply was, "Because there is nothing left there" (pointing to his heart). Could we have given a better answer to the same question?

Like some of us larger folks, he finds it hard to ask pardon of those he has wronged; but his humility in this matter has been a wholesome lesson to me more than once, and an object lesson to our Chinese Christians.

Once the dear little fellow put his arm around me and said, "Mrs. Reeves, I love you all the time, although I am naughty sometimes." Do you wonder grateful tears came to my eyes, as I knew they were artless words, springing from a true heart?

Sometimes when I had found him unwilling to confess wrong I would simply leave him alone, and pray for him; and before long I would hear a little foot-step, and a shy little voice say, "I am ready to repent." I wonder if all of us are as ready to repent?

He prays every night for his relatives who are not Christians, and one day he came to me with tearful eyes and quivering lips, and said he wanted to go to Canton and see a relative with whom he had lived. I

wondered if he was tired of being with us, and was as much surprised as pleased to hear him say, "I like to be here, but she (his relative) does not love Jesus, and I want to go and tell her, so Jesus will love her." I explained that Jesus already loved her, and so he wrote a letter in his own handwriting, and we prayed that her heart might be touched by the love of Jesus. Now, don't imagine he is an angel, for he is just as truly a "boy" as any boy in America, excited over a horse or drum.

If he is sick or hurts himself, he finds his sole relief in prayer.

Going on a journey, his tin box containing his clothes was left on the steamer, and at night he was reminded to put his faith in God in regard to it, so he prayed, "Jesus, you know where my box is, and you won't let any other man get it. Amen."—Mrs. L. F. L. Reeves, in *Christian Alliance*.

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"YE SERVE THE LORD CHRIST," COL. III., 24.
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Helen Powers stood by the parlor table dusting the books. She had a scowl on her face, for she had just raised her eyes to the window in time to see her friend Alma Brown pass. They had agreed to meet with two other friends that afternoon to go and call on their little mission scholars down in the lower part of the city, and instead of being dressed in her neat walking suit, and starting out to go with the others, she was here, and her little sister had been sent with a note to the place of meeting to say she could not come. It was always so, she thought, whenever she wanted to do anything for Christ. Mother could not be blamed for getting sick, of course, but the good-for-nothing servant was severely to blame for neglecting to clean the parlor and then going off for her "afternoon out," in spite of sickness in the house and accumulated work. Helen dusted listlessly, and bitter thoughts rose the while. Just as she turned away from the table her duster caught in a book cover and fluttered the leaves back. As she turned to close it some words caught her eye, and she looked closely to read the rest:

"A servant with this clause makes drudgery divine;
Who sweeps a room as for Thy laws makes that and
th' action fine."

She closed the book thoughtfully and went on with her work, the duster moving to more purpose as she proceeded. Then her face brightened and she fell to singing a happy little song, for she felt that this was God's work just as much as visiting in the homes of the mission children.—*C. E. Hour*.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

N. B. AND P. E. ISLAND BRANCH.

The Cor.-Sec'y Pleasant Vale Mission Band writes: The Snowdrop Mission Band has been organized for almost a year. It was chiefly through the efforts of our worthy president, Miss Eva Welling, that our Band came into existence. We have 26 members enrolled, with an average attendance of 12. During the last eleven months we have raised \$11 for mission work. On the 22nd of August the Band held their picnic, and as a result some \$5.79 was raised as collection. We trust that all feel that the time spent during the year in our Band, has not been unprofitably spent. May we all pray that God's richest blessing rest on all the Bands and on the editor of our loved paper, the PALM BRANCH.

The Cheerful Toilers Mission Band, of Carmarthen St. Methodist church, was organized in April 1893, with 13 members. New members have been coming in gradually, but a number of the old ones have dropped out. Some have moved away, some through lack of interest, and others because they were too *big*. Our actual membership now is only about 20. However, our meetings are held fortnightly with the faithful few, who are always present. Since our organization we have held two concerts, two sales, and a public meeting. Subscribe for 20 copies of PALM BRANCH; find it very helpful. The children take great interest in the puzzles; one member is appointed to put them on the black board, while the others guess.

MISSIONS AMONG FRENCH CANADIANS.

THE consideration of the condition of these next-door neighbors of ours, presents at once a most interesting and important study. When the French people, inhabiting what is now known as Canada, came under English rule, the free exercise of their religion, which was Catholicism, and the retention of their laws and customs, was guaranteed to the race. Later, the use of their own language, in Parliament and Courts of Justice, was also conceded. Time and usage have strengthened and confirmed the exercise of the privileges thus granted, and to-day we find that the French race, and their religion, have taken almost complete possession of their own especial province of Quebec, and are extending themselves in other directions so rapidly, that not only politically, but with reference to their religious interests as well, Protestant Canadians are being confronted with the problem as to what can be done with and for the French Roman Catholics of Quebec.

It is with the religious part of the question that we, as missionary workers, have most to do. We recognize many points of agreement between Romanists and Protestants, but see as well, so many points of difference in matters of most essential and vital im-

portance, that as Christians we feel, we shall be verily guilty concerning our brethren, if we do not endeavor with all earnestness, to give the open Bible, so long withheld by priestly hands, to those who sit in darkness as to its truths. Ought we not therefore to feel that this especial mission has most pressing claims upon us, appealing strongly to our thought, our prayers and also to our means. Have we given it the thought it demands? Do we realize that this great mass of spiritual darkness, right in our midst, needs enlightenment, and that a great responsibility is resting upon us in the matter? There are over ninety thousand French Canadians in Quebec, and as yet but little has been done towards their evangelization. We know that there are great difficulties in the way of this work. Priestly intolerance, the whole training of the Catholic church, and the thorough grounding in its doctrines and practices, that even the youngest and most illiterate of its members receive, are all hindrances to the introduction of the Bible and pure gospel teaching among them. But we are reminded that we are not left wholly to our own resources, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." And so this work calls for prayer, earnest, faithful and importunate. The Romanists delight to call Peter the founder and head of their church. There is an instance in the history of the Apostle which may serve to illustrate the real condition of our Catholic brethren, as well as to emphasize and point out our duty in regard to them. We read that at one time Peter in prison was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and the keepers before the doors kept the prison; also that beyond the first and the second ward there was a great iron gate. But all these were removed, broken and unbarred by the faithful prayer that "the church made without ceasing unto God for Peter." Are not our Roman Catholic brethren similarly chained, bound and fettered by darkness, superstition and error; by the practices of confession and priestly absolution held in the grasp of the strongest and sternest jailors, and is not the intolerant priesthood, ruling and controlling their every movement, well represented by the great iron gate?

As missionary workers, let us learn our duty in this matter, and pray more earnestly than ever before, that the way may be opened for the freedom and evangelization of these our brethren, and that by Divine illumination, we may be taught, how best to help forward the work. Let us give of our means toward it. Our French Methodist Institute in Montreal, our schools and our Bible women, all need to be sustained, in order that throughout the length and breadth of the darkened Province of Quebec the true light may shine, that by the help of Christian education Christ may be so lifted up, that "all may be drawn unto Him." The need of French Canadian Romanism is the need of the Papal world. "Put the Bible in the place of the Pope, and Jesus Christ in the place of the priest, and thus shed rays of heavenly light into this dense darkness, and leave to God to bring many souls out of its depths into His marvellous light." C. J. S.