

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

VOL. III.

MAY, 1896.

No. 5

LIFE AND DEATH.

"What is Life father?"

"A battle, my child
Where the strongest lance may fail,
Where the wariest eye may be beguiled,
And the stoutest heart may quail;
Where the foes are gathered on every hand,
And rest not day nor night,
And the feeble little ones must stand
In the thickest of the fight."

"What is Death, father?"

"The rest, my child,
When the strife and toils are o'er,
And the angel of God, who, calm and mild,
Says we need fight no more;
Who driveth away the demon band,
Bids the din of the battle cease,
Takes the banner and spear from our falling hand,
And proclaims an eternal peace."

"Let me die, father. I tremble, I fear
To yield in that terrible strife."

"The crown must be won for Heaven, dear,
In the battle-field of life;
My child, though thy foes are strong and tried
He loveth the weak and small;
The angels of Heaven are on thy side,
And God is over all."

MRS. HEWANS.

"OUR WORK IN CHINA."

CHINA is a wonderful country. Her history dates back more than 4,000 years, 303 years after the flood, before the death of Noah. Their great wall was built to keep out foreigners 220 years before Christ was born, and that is the secret of her idolatry and want of Christian civilization at the

present day. She had a literature of her own before David wrote the Psalms. She invented the art of printing and the mariner's compass, and taught us to make porcelain, silk and gunpowder. We are told that the population of China is four hundred millions, and that thirty three thousand die every day! Many great nations have lived and flourished and died, while China lives on. Why, unless it is that she may be filled with the knowledge of Christ!

There are about 1,400 missionaries in the empire, but what are they among so many? Even one to every 50,000 people would require 8,000 missionaries, nearly 2,000 more than the church now sends in the whole world! In 1891 the first missionaries of our Methodist church of Canada went out to the Province of Ts-Chuen, western China; Dr. and Mrs. Hart, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Hartwell, Dr. and Mrs. Kilburn, Dr. and Mrs. Stevenson. We all know the story of the recent riots and how they barely escaped with their lives, losing most, if not all, their mission and personal property. Some of them have gone back, as we read in the Field Study to-day, to begin again.

When they saw the great need of the work there they sent back an appeal for twenty-five more missionaries by the year 1900, but they cannot be sent because there is not enough money! Whose money is it? Ours or the Lord's? He wants to save China, do we?

The condition of women in China is degraded, as in all countries where Christ is not known. The birth of little girls, so loved and prized in our own Christian land, is looked on as a calamity—if there are more than one or two in a family they are sold or drowned! What would you think if a man came round every year to ask at your home if there were

any babies you wanted to get rid of? What would be the answer of our sometimes weary mothers and tired little sisters? These baby merchants sell them to women to raise wives for their sons, for servants, and more frequently for worse than slaves. It is said that at least 200,000 baby girls are killed every year in China. That is a better fate than what generally awaits them. We can have some idea of that when we hear that the wife of one of the high Chinese officials said, "When my soul comes to my body on earth again, I want to be born a dog, not a woman!"

Our W. M. S. has sent out three ladies to China, Miss Dr. Retta Gifford, now Mrs. Kilburn, Miss Brackbill and Miss Ford, a trained nurse, and there is a call for more!

There is great need of a hospital, dispensary and other aids to their work.

The Chinese on our own American shores also need our aid. We hope soon to hear directly from our missionaries who work among them. They have brought their own terribly degraded practices with them and many white men, instead of helping to civilize them, are aiding and abetting, because of their own gain. Why has God allowed them to come to us, if not to gain a knowledge of Him? Shall we withhold it from them?

RESURRECTION.

It lay all day, and it lay all night,
Hidden away from the cheerful light!
It was dusted away, and swept aside,
And they said, "It has died!"
The thing is dead!
And that is the end! the end!" they said.

But lo! the chrysalis cracked and broke,
And the Thing that was sleeping inside awoke,
And it rolled and turned in its narrow bed.

"Why it lives!" they said,
And the outstretched Thing
Was a beautiful butterfly's fairy wing!

One day we too shall be at rest,
In this dull, cold shell of a body dressed,
In the dust we too shall be laid away,
"This is death," they say,
Is death a friend?
Or can this be really the end! the end!

But in God's good time we shall fling aside
The cold dead shell where our body died,
And out of the dust we shall rise again
Without fear or pain.
Nay do not weep!

For in God's good time we shall wake from sleep.

G. BUTT.

MISSION BAND WORK.

AS the subject is so very broad, for the sake of convenience, we will divide it into four parts, namely: "The Aim and Object of the Mission Band," "How to attain that Object," "How to build up the Mission Band," and "The Privileges and Responsibilities of Mission Band workers." The aim of the Mission Band is to instruct and interest the young people on the great and important subject of Missions; a subject that grows in importance as the way opens for the entrance of the Light. We want to get them filled with missionary zeal, so that even though they themselves may never be called as missionaries to foreign fields, they can be missionaries at home, grow up to be intensely interested in missions, liberal givers to this part of our Lord's work, understanding fully its importance, and willing to do all in their power to promote its interests. Now is the time, when their minds are easily moulded in any direction, for us to aim to mould them aright.

How to attain the object. In order to interest the children put the missionary teaching in as interesting a form as possible, but never forget the necessity of instruction in the effort to be interesting. Announce the subject a month ahead, and try to get each member to give some item of information on it. The PALM BRANCH is great help in this direction. If the Bands take the paper they will find plenty of information on the subject. It is a good plan to use the questions given in the PALM BRANCH; give each member a question to answer, and usually they will be willing to help. The "Watch Tower" is also an excellent plan for instruction, and is interesting as well. When necessary lend literature to aid in preparing the subject. How to raise money in our Bands without the aid of bazars, garden-parties, etc., is a puzzling problem. Some have tried public meetings addressed by a missionary worker; others have had entertainments with the entire programme furnished by the Mission Band, and envelope entertainments with voluntary offerings. These plans in some cases have been very successful. Sometimes a sermon preached by the pastor to the Mission Band, with a collection at the close, has been an excellent scheme for interesting the people in the work, as well as raising money. It would not be a bad plan to have a special committee to devise ways and means of raising money.

A. B. C.

(To be continued.)

Woman is looked down upon in China, considered as having no soul, and has to eat by herself. She lives in the back part of the house, and when spoken of by neighboring men is generally called "The broom and the dust pan."

"GOOD MORNING ROUND THE WORLD."

3. The sayages down in the Southern Pacific,
Where corals abound and tornadoes terrific,
Who care not a feather
For wind or for weather,
They salute by just rubbing their noses together.

4 But over in China the old mandarin
With a serious face does his bowing begin,
Then with palms closely pressed
In front of his breast,
"Have you eaten your rice?" he asks with a zest.

ST. NICHOLAS.

FIELD STUDY FOR MAY.

CHINA.

THE main interest of the year in China has centered in the riots. Many are the deeds of heroism that have thrilled our hearts, but perhaps nothing has touched us more than the rescue of her brothers and sisters by Kathleen Stewart, only seven years old. It was Herbert's sixth birthday. Kathleen, and her older sister Mildred, went out with him to gather flowers for the breakfast table. On returning they came on a crowd of Chinese carrying clubs and spears. These people had always been friendly, so they had no fear, till one of them caught Mildred roughly by the hair. Then they ran screaming to the house, the little girl wrenching herself from the grasp of her captor. However, their home was soon desolate. When all was still, Kathleen crept from her refuge, under a bed, to see her mother and father dead on the floor, and to hear the fire outside ready to complete the destruction. Her older sister was moaning under the coverlet. With strength, lent by the excitement of that terrible hour, she carried from the house, one by one, Mildred, the little brother and two younger children. I think of these four only one survived.

What do you think was Kathleen's thought expressed a few days later? "Who will teach the people now that papa is gone?"

The Stewart's were English missionaries. There is no need to tell the story of how our missionaries were forced to leave Chentu. With the promise of government protection, in January, this year, Dr. Hart and Mr. Hartwell again entered the city, and are living close to the old quarters, superintending the work of rebuilding. They were most heartily welcomed by old neighbors and friends. Mr. Hartwell says that

the real cause of the riots in the city is still a mystery, but suspicion points to a man from Hunan, a province of China still closed to Christian workers.

When last heard from, the W. M. S. workers, Miss Ford and Miss Brackbill, were well up the river. Most of the time since the riot they have spent in Shanghai, continuing their language study with a Chentu teacher. Last fall they visited the missions in Japan.

There are now working in China 66 missionary societies, about 1,500 missionaries and several thousand native helpers. This may seem a large number but is really small when we consider that China contains one-fourth of the population of the world. The number of the Methodist ministers, alone, in Canada, outnumbers all the Protestant missionaries in China.

D.

ERRATUM.—In the April study, the number of French Canadians in the United States should read one million.

QUESTIONS FOR MAY.

What has made us so interested in China this year?
What little girl proved herself a Christian heroine?
Whose birthday was it, and what did the little girls go out to do?
When coming back, who met them and what did they carry?
Why had they never been afraid before? What happened?
After the cruel Chinese had gone what did little Kathleen find?
What did she do? Will you tell the story?
What did she say a few days later?
To what country did these missionaries belong?
Were our missionaries forced to leave Chentu?
Who were able to return? How and when?
Where are they now and what are they doing?
Has the cause of the riots been found out? What do they suspect?
Where are our missionaries, Miss Ford and Miss Brackbill?
Where have they been most of the time since the riots? What doing?
What did they do last year while waiting?
How many missionary societies are now represented in China?
How many missionaries are there? How many native helpers?
Why is this number really small while it sounds large?
How do the number of Methodist ministers in Canada compare with Protestant missionaries in China?

"Is your father at home?" I asked a small child on a village doctor's doorstep.

"No," he replied; "he's away."

"Where do you think I could find him?"

"Well," he said, with a considering air, "you've got to look for some place where people are sick, or hurt, or something like that; I don't know where it is, but he's helping somewhere."

And I turned away with this little sermon in my heart. If you want to find the Lord Jesus you've got to set out on a path of helping somewhere, of lifting somewhere, of lessening somebody's burden, and to straightway one like unto the Son of Man will be found at your side.—*The King's Messengers*

✻ PALM BRANCH ✻

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MISS S. E. SMITH,
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MAY, 1896.



MISSIONARY writes: "The Chinese have been known to raise an objection to going to 'Mansions in the skies' after death. When asked the reason, they answer that we try to get everybody to go there, and they know the place will be crowded."

This is an unconscious testimony to the faithfulness and zeal of the missionaries in China. Oh, that it could be said of us all, at home as well as abroad, "that we try to get everybody to go there." Then the knowledge of the Lord would indeed soon cover the earth.

There comes to us, through the "Review," the account of a great revival in a girl's school in China, an outpouring of God's spirit on the whole school, the development of a spirit of intense prayer, so that they prayed night after night, sometimes till midnight, for themselves and each other, till most of them, if not all, over forty professed conversion, which there is no reason to doubt. The change is remarked on by the villagers around them. What holy influence may not radiate from such a school!

Archdeacon Wolfe says: 'A Mission without a large staff of devoted lady missionaries, I have no hesitation in saying, after thirty-four years experience, is destitute of one of the most potent agencies for the conversion of China to Christianity. The vast masses of Chinese women can be reached only by lady missionaries. I can bear testimony, with deep thankfulness to God, to the improvement seen everywhere in our Christian congregations which have had the privilege of their presence and teaching.'

A Chinese naval officer, captured by the Japanese during the late war, paid high tribute to the labors of an American missionary, Miss Talcott, among the Chinese prisoners in Japan. They could not understand the happiness in her face, it was a mystery to them, as she went round soothing and blessing them in their pain and distress. The most stubborn of them yielded to her simple-hearted love, their preju-

dice to foreigners was disarmed, and wrong impressions dispelled. Such was the result of "shining for Jesus"!

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Please renew *at once*, we do not wish to lose your name from our list of subscribers.

Our thanks are due to Rev. Mr. Kirby for his kindness in contributing to our paper. We will all be glad to hear from him again.

We are glad to be able to give part of the paper on "Mission Band Work," which has been on hand some time, waiting for a favorable opportunity—are sure it will be helpful to our readers.

N. B. AND P. E. ISLAND BAND NOTES.

Nearly all the Bands have returned the Second Quarterly Report Cards, and many Bands report progress. A few Bands mention discouragements, and those who have not returned the cards we are anxiously waiting to hear from.

Union Band, Union, P. E. I., held their annual tea and Christmas tree. Amount raised \$34.00. "Happy Workers," Summerside, gave an "At Home" a short time ago; collection \$5.00. At an entertainment given by "Cartwell" Band, Point de Bute, on March 14th, the sum of \$28.00 was realized. "Loyal Workers," Montague, have made \$15.69 since September, twelve copies of PALM BRANCH are taken and ten copies of "The Little Missionary."

Miss Mira Lowther, Searetown, writes: "Anchor of Hope" Band is making some progress. Our regular meetings are interesting. Each member takes her turn in leading. Preparations are now being made for a social to which we have invited all the young people around. We were not able to have a public Christmas service, but our president invited the members to her home, where tea was provided for all, after which we gave in our offering, amounting to \$2.00. We find the field studies in PALM BRANCH interesting and instructive. We like the whole paper, and would not like to do without it.

A new Band has been organized, by Mrs. (Rev.) Wm. Howard, at Winsloe North called "Pansy," with a membership of 16. Much interest is manifested by the members, who seem anxious to work for the Master.

In February Mrs. Lucas organized a Band at Sussex with a membership of 20. Miss Bertie Maggs was elected President, and Master Harry Hamilton, Cor. Sec. Their first meeting after organization was held March 4th. After the opening exercises Mrs. Lucas gave an interesting and instructive talk on Japan. Then the name "Never Give Up" was chosen for their Band.

J. T.

HOLINESS REQUIRED IN MISSION
WORK.



WOULD it not be very interesting to read the thoughtful answers given by each reader of the PALM BRANCH if asked the question, What did the blessed Saviour mean when He issued the command "Be ye perfect as your Father in Heaven is perfect." Some would no doubt say: to be perfect as our Father in Heaven is quite impossible. But would Jesus command us to do impossibilities? Surely not. Let us try and see what He did mean. We know that the eternal God in His infinite holiness and attributes is far beyond any human imitation. He has a holiness and perfection all His own. So we, according to our ability must have a perfection of character attainable to the humanity redeemed by the Saviour, who purchased by His death our restoration to the favor and image of God, in whose image we were first created. Jesus is made unto us wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption. While in these imperfect bodies we shall never be perfect in knowledge or in judgment, but looking to Jesus, trusting Him and trying to obey His commands, God accepts our feeble efforts and we may be preserved blameless and at last presented faultless. We read of Job, Noah, of Asa and others who were called perfect men, but there were many things in their lives which were faulty. Evidently their judgment and knowledge were imperfect and they made many mistakes, but if with our best energies we seek to know and do God's will, trusting in Jesus our righteousness, we "shall not come into condemnation." Our blessed Saviour said, "If ye love me ye will keep my commandments." His last command to His disciples was to go into all the world and teach all nations. The margin says, "make Christians of all nations." How we value the last words of our dear friends, just as they are leaving us. The disciples followed about their blessed Master after He had been restored to them from the grave, and treasured up every word that fell from His lips. On that memorable ascension day He led them out as far as Bethany, speaking to them of things pertaining to His kingdom and giving them His last commands. He knew they were at best but weak, imperfect men, but He promised them, if they were obedient, that power from the Holy Ghost should be given them, rendering them abundantly able to accomplish all that He required of them. They were to remain in Jerusalem in prayer and supplication until the promised power was bestowed upon them. They were to go forth into Samaria and all Judea, and to the *utmost parts of the earth*. How little those

loving disciples seemed to realize what was immediately to follow, but as their adored Master was speaking, lifting up those blessed nail-pierced hands in blessing and benediction, solemnly and silently He arose before their astonished gaze, until a cloud received Him out of their sight. While thus standing in awe-stricken wonder, suddenly two bright-winged angels appeared in their midst, who with comforting words assured them, that as they had thus seen Him ascend into Heaven, so in like manner He would come again. As their precious Master had been restored to them from the dead, they seemed ever after to have carried about with them the thought that He would again ere long reappear. So they went to Jerusalem as He had directed, and continued in prayer and supplication, until the promised Holy Spirit was given them, after which they went forth into all the then known world, preaching the gospel news, and multitudes by thousands, were won for Christ. While believers thus continued working under the power of the Holy Ghost, how were they blessed and what wonderful success attended their efforts. Had this state of things but continued, how soon the whole world would have been reached, and as the nations increased the apostolic doctrine of Jesus and Him crucified, would have continued to spread, until heathenism and Paganism would have been unknown. But alas! as we read in St. John's appeal to the churches in Asia, in the 1st chapters of the Revelations, we find they relapsed into Laodicean lukewarmness and indifference, overcome by the love of the world and worldly riches and honors, until bereft of the Spirit's power, as in the dark ages the nations sank into idolatry and heathenism, and now how many millions have never even heard of the name of Jesus. Thank God, in these later days the Holy Spirit is again working, and our missionary societies are seeking by His power to obey these last commands of our risen Lord. Wesley said, that God raised up the Methodist church in order to spread Scriptural holiness throughout the world. Oh how long have we neglected to fulfil this divine purpose. How many have gone down to everlasting death while we have delayed? My dear sisters, shall the blood of souls be found on our skirts? Let us arise and do all we can to hasten this soul saving work. But nothing can be done without the power of the Holy Spirit. It is still ours if we seek it as did the early disciples, waiting upon God in believing prayer and holy consecration. Thank God for those who have thus consecrated themselves, and are bearing the burden and heat of the day; but how many stand aloof as though they cared for none of these things. Oh if the thousands of our churches were thus anointed by the Holy Ghost, how many of our young people in their youthful strength and vigor would be offering for distant fields, while those at home would all aid by prayers and offerings and every effective effort, until speedily the kingdoms of this earth would become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ.

C. Koss.



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

Last month Cousin Joy gave her young cousins something to think of and write about, and she is much pleased to find that two of them have complied with her request so promptly and so well.

Cousin Winnie says: "I think Easter means life, Life for Christ, life for us." That is a beautiful answer and means just what Jesus said of it Himself. "Because I live ye shall live also." He said this to His disciples who felt sad and discouraged because He was soon to be taken from them. But He says it to us, too, to-day, for we are as truly His disciples as Peter and James and John if we really love Him and are trying to serve and please Him.

Little cousin Lucy shows the true Easter spirit when she says: "Easter is the day Jesus rose from the dead; we ought to be very thankful that He died to save us from our sins." Yes, indeed, Easter means joy and thankfulness, as well as life, and in that sense every day may be an Easter day.

You will all be interested in the Field Study this month, for it tells of a dear little girl who, for love's sake, did brave deeds. Cousin Joy thinks that dear little Kathleen will be heard from, in after days, on the missionary field. You must all pray for her, that God will make up to her for the friends she has lost awhile, under such sad circumstances.

Letters and puzzles received for which we have not room this month.

DEAR COUSIN JOY.—We take 20 copies of the PALM BRANCH in our Mission Band and like it very much. Enclosed you will find a puzzle which I would like published, if you think it is worthy.

St. John. Your loving cousin, LOIS BAIN.

You sent us no answer to your puzzle, Cousin Lois. We will print it when you do.

DEAR COUSIN JOY.—The answer to Cousin Alice's puzzle is "Junior Star Mission Band," and to Cousin Zelia's "Friendly Workers." Your loving cousin,
Petite Riviere, March 25. BERRY FOSTER.

DEAR COUSIN JOY.—I belong to the "Joyous Workers" Band. My sister takes the PALM BRANCH and I like it very much. We are preparing for an Easter entertainment. I think the answer to one of the March puzzles is "Miss Cartmell," and two of the April ones are "Junior Star Mission Band" and "Friendly Workers." Your loving cousin,

Cape Negro, N. S. MYSIE SWAINE.

DEAR COUSIN JOY.—I am a member of the "Day Spring" Mission Band. I take the PALM BRANCH and like it very much. I will send a puzzle and if it is all right you may print it in your paper whenever you have space. I think I have found the answers to both of the March puzzles and the first and third of April's: First of March's, "Anchor of Hope"; second, "Miss Cartmell"; First of April's, "Junior Star Mission Band"; last, "Friendly Workers."

Your loving cousin,

Nappan, N. S.

LILLIE BLAIR.

DEAR COUSIN JOY.—I think I have got the answers to the April puzzles. They are: 1st, "Junior Star Mission Band"; 3rd, "Friendly Workers." The second I do not know; I tried several times but failed. I am sending a puzzle to you, it is the first one I ever made, and I hope that it is worth publishing. Easter is the day that Jesus rose from the dead, and we should feel very thankful that He died to save us from our sins.

Your loving cousin,

Sackville.

LUCY DOULL.

Puzzle next month, Cousin Lucy.

DEAR COUSIN JOY.—The answers to the puzzles for April are: "Junior Star Mission Band," "Friendly Workers," and "Live peaceably with all men."

Your loving cousin,

Petite Riviere.

MAGGIE M. GEE.

DEAR COUSIN JOY.—I belong to the "Active Workers" Mission Band of Marysville. I take the PALM BRANCH and think it a very nice paper. I have found the answers to April puzzles. The first is, I think, "Junior Star Mission Band," and last "Friendly Workers." I have made a puzzle myself and if you think it is worth printing I might send it to you. I think I will close for this time, with love to you.

Your loving cousin,

Marysville, N. B.

MINNIE.

DEAR COUSIN JOY.—I think Easter means life. Life for Christ and life for us. The answer to the April puzzles are: "Junior Star Mission Band," "Live peaceably with all men," and "Friendly Helpers." May all the blessings of Easter be yours is the wish of

Your loving cousin,

Maccan

WINNIE HORG.

MAY PUZZLES.

I am composed of 14 letters.

My 8, 9, 10, 11, is what most men do.

My 14, 12, 3, 4, is what merchants do.

My 1, 2, 6, 7, 14, is what birds cannot do without.

My 13, 5, 6, 7, is what bells do.

My whole is what we all should be.

London.

LIZZIE MORTIMER.

I am composed of 9 letters.

My 1, 2, 6, is an Israelite.

My 2, 7, 6, is to mend.

My 8, 4, 9, is to apply,

My 5 is a consonant.

My whole is what Jesus did.

MINNIE MCCOME.

I am composed of 12 letters.

My 6, 7, 11, 9, is something we all do.

My 1, 2, 5, is a kind of grass.

My 3, 10, 3, 4, 10, 8, is something used for seasoning.


My whole is the name of our land.

P. E. I.

MILLY.

PIED TEXT.—Feechwoor yb erhit usrit ey ahsl onkw etnd.
Keswick. NEIL LIE.

HOW FRANK HELPED THE MISSIONARIES.

E had just come in from our annual Missionary meeting, and it had been such a good meeting too. The speeches were short, bright and earnest; the singing was lively and hearty, and there were quite a number present. But when we came to count the collection, it was, oh! so small. "Fifteen dollars less than last year!" I exclaimed in dismay. "Surely there must be some mistake," but no, the fact remained. "And, really, I cannot blame the people either," said my husband. "One of our men told me yesterday that he put fifty dollars into the mackerel fishing last spring and only took thirty out. His is not, by any means, the worst case. I fear some of them have lost everything."

Just then our seven year old Frank came and laid his head against my shoulder and asked, "Mamma, couldn't I do something to help the missionaries? I'd like to so much."

"I don't know, dear," I answered. "I'm afraid you're too little. "But," seeing the troubled look, "you can pray for them, and you know Mr. Cassidy said they wanted our prayers."

The next day Frank came rushing in from school shouting, "A hundred in spellings to-day, mamma!"

"Well now if that is not fine," I replied, "I believe I'll have to give you a cent."

"O mamma, will you really, and can I put it in the Mission Box, and will you give me a cent every day I get a hundred, to put in the Mission Box?" he asked, breathlessly.

"Yes," I said, "I'll give you a cent every day you have no mistake, if you'll give me a cent every day you have one mistake."

"All right," he replied, with a boyish chuckle, "I guess you won't get many of your cents back."

All through the long winter evenings the little fellow toiled patiently at the often long, hard words, and it was a very weary boy who sometimes lay down to sleep with the words, "But I know them all now, don't I mamma?" on his lips.

One day I happened to mention the matter to a friend, the wife of a merchant. "Well, I must say, I am ashamed of myself," she exclaimed. "Here is that dear baby trying to help the missionaries and I only signed a dollar, and thought I did very well. I think I'll try the cent a day plan too, and perhaps I'll put in an extra now and then just for good measure," she added, half laughing. As she was going away she said, "I shall tell some more of the friends about Frank's Mission Box," and she kept her word.

When our missionary monies were collected in the Spring, Frank's box contained one dollar and nine cents, the result of hard, faithful study, in order to help his beloved missionaries. Mrs. M. brought, as her personal contribution, five dollars and thirty cents, and, as a result of her vigorous canvass among her friends, to whom she told the story of Frank's Mission Box, twenty-five dollars were added to our funds, and the Missionary Report showed a net increase of ten dollars.

Canso, N. S.

J.

A LETTER TO THE MISSION BANDS.

DEAR CHILDREN OF THE PALM BRANCH,—I often promised to have a talk with you through your paper, but I see so very little in the PALM BRANCH from the ministers that I am half timid about writing now. However, as the poet says, or somebody else: "Nothing venture nothing have," I will write it and try if the genial Edithess will let me have a writing talk with you.

I am sorry that I have not a better pen to write with, mine does not seem to be like the one the little girl went to buy. She asked for "a pen which would not spill, nor splutter nor spell the words wrong." What fun if we could buy that kind of pen, we should never be kept in school for bad spelling then. Still I would rather be kept in school for bad spelling than for bad conduct.

Bad conduct! Well now, fancy me talking to Mission Band children about bad conduct! Well now, Mr. Pen, if you make a mistake like that again I will just put you out of the holder and you shall not write another line. All Mission Band children are good for something, and by the amount of money they raise for Missions they are good collectors, any way.

Well now, children, what shall I say to you? I hope you are not saying with the little boy who, when a minister had been speaking a very long time, said, "Now children, what more shall I say?" answered, "Please sir, say amen and sit down."

I intended to tell you something about the work of God in New Guinea, when I started, but here my letter is long enough perhaps. A few years ago there were no Christians in that place, and the people were cannibals, that is, they would eat human flesh, and the missionary out there says the people used to think those who did not like a good slice of man or woman were destitute of good taste. On one occasion the Rev. James Chalmers was invited to a supper where they had some roast man and woman, and one dear little child was also brought to be killed for the feast, but she was spared. Why, do you think? Only because she was too small, not large enough to make a good big feast.

Oh, dear children, think how awful to live in a country where they have no Sabbath schools or Mission Bands as you have, and where they have never learned to say:

"Our Father who art in Heaven."

I will not write any more this time, as I must first find out if my letter will get into the PALM BRANCH, then, if I find out you would like some more talk with me, I will write again. Wishing you a prosperous year for the Mission Bands and their meetings,

I remain, W. J. KIRBY.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., March 12.

THE PALM BRANCH.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

HAMILTON BRANCH.

Miss Jessie Watts, Cor.-Sec., Walsh, Ont., writes: Our "Cheerful Workers" Mission Band has been organized about a year and six months. We have, on an average, about fifteen members at our meetings, which take place once a month. Since our organization we have had two concerts and the proceeds we received were fairly good. We made one quilt which we sold for \$3.00, also some iron-holders for which we made quite a lot. A short time ago we had here a Persian who lectured to a large crowd on his native country Persia. The lecture was splendid and we learned a great deal about the savage way in which the people there live. There is great need of missionaries being sent there to teach the people the right way to live. We all like your PALM BRANCH very much and think every Band should send in some items of news to make it still more interesting.

N. S. BAND NOTES.

We have many words of cheer from the Bands and Circles this month.

The "Golden Rule" Circle, Dartmouth, writes: "We are preparing for a fancy sale to come off in the early part of the summer. Have six new members this year and have adopted the "Talent" scheme, thereby hoping to increase our funds. Take fifteen copies of the PALM BRANCH, and with such a competent president as Mrs. Rankin, we will no doubt do a good year's work."

The "Earnest Gleaners" of Yarmouth, held a 'Birthday Party' in January, at which they made over \$31.00. They report good attendance and a large number of new members.

The "Morning Star" Band, Musquodoboit, owing to prevalence of measles and scarlet fever, have been unable to hold regular meetings. At a sale held in December they raised \$5.00.

"Lone Star" Band, Hamilton, Bermuda, says: "We were pleased to have quite a number of visitors at our March meeting, among whom was Mrs. (Rev.) J. E. Hunter, who favored us with an address."

We are glad to hear that the interest is increasing among the "Willing Workers," Maccan.

"Coraline" Mission Circle, Halifax, has just held a very successful 'Birthday Party,' from which over \$60.00 was realized.

The "Little Helpers," Barrington, held a public meeting on March 4th, consisting of singing, recitations and exercises, which added \$3.61 to their treasury.

"Bonair" Band, Upper Port La Tour, is making excellent progress, attendance good, averaging 34, and new members are being added every month.

"Rope Holders" Band, Bear River, realized \$3.00 at their public meeting.

The President of "Silver Stream" Mission Band, Shelburne, sent a box to the Supply Committee, Halifax, some time ago, containing among other things a quilt made by two members of the Mission Band. They are now planning new work for the near future.

At a concert given March 26th, by "Buds of Promise" Band, Dartmouth, over \$26.00 was realized.

"Wesley Centennial" Band, Cheverie, reports: "From a tea, held in connection with the Sabbath school, \$3.90 was raised for Missions."

"Rays of Light" Band, Amherst, gave a public entertainment not long ago. A silver collection was taken which amounted to \$12.50.

Charles St. Circle, Halifax, reports the interest of their meetings steadily growing, membership increasing. M. E. B., Cor.-Sec.

BAY OF QUINTE BAND NOTES.

A Mission has been organized at East Manilla called "Nightingale."

Cor.-Sec., Miss Amy White, Peterboro, "Light Bearers," reports unremitting work with good meetings. A Social and Bazaar held before Christmas netted \$21.00.

Lindsay, "Excelsior." In December a bale of bedding and clothing, valued at \$15.00 was sent to Manitoba. In February a bale worth \$12.00 was sent to Hiawatha. A missionary entertainment, at which a collection was taken, amounted to \$10.58. A fee is never charged at the entertainments held in the interests of this Band as they do not wish to debar anyone from the good that may be derived from them.

Lindsay "Cheerful Workers" meet on alternate Saturday afternoons. At each meeting the time has been spent working on quilts, to be sold to increase their treasury. A collection at a lecture given by Rev. Mr. Cassidy is for the same purpose. This juvenile Band assists the senior Band to support a Chinese girl in British Columbia.

Napance Juvenile Band is doing well. An entertainment given the 3rd inst., by the members, was a great success. A large audience greeted the little ones. The boys won all hearts by their clear voices and manly bearing. The girls rendered dialogues, recitations, and choruses, in charming style and received encores. The evening netted the Band \$18.00 clear of all expense.

Smithville reports an average attendance of 33 during quarter.

Foxboro reports three new members during quarter. M. G. H.

L. J. Payne, Cor.-Sec., writes:—The record of the Tete-a-Gouche Band has not been quite all we would desire for the past year. Circumstances have not been very favorable to a thoroughly successful working, but we hope that this year will be a marked improvement to this end. We trust every member will feel her personal responsibility to retrieve the past. The Band opened the new year of mission work by an 'At Home,' to which the parents were invited. An unusually good programme was provided, music, readings and recitations. At the close of the entertainment refreshments of cake and coffee were served and a social time enjoyed by all. Our membership has increased and it is our prayer that the money we have raised may be owned and blessed of God, and that our Band may be a light to shine into dark places and will prove the power of God unto salvation.

(Continued on 4th page.)