



PERHAPS you would like to see what kind of a house Miss Cartmell lived in when she first went to Japan. Well, here is the picture of it—small but very neat and pretty. There was a parlor on one side of the hall and a dining room on the other. The largest room in the house was on the right of the dining room, and was called the chapel. Only a few of the first members are on the church roll now; but the scattered ones have nearly all proved faithful.

There was a very small kitchen and some little pantries and closets at the back. Upstairs, over the parlor was the study and over the dining-room the bedroom.

From the windows of the upper rooms could be seen the waters of the bay; across the garden, belonging to the larger house, since occupied by Dr. Macdonald, beyond the wide roadway, flowed the Sumida River. Could your eyes have seen the junks that floated upon the river, the nearest single mast, fluted sail and high stern would have held your attention long enough to make a lasting impression. These boats were built forty years ago, and are very clumsy, though picturesque. The open sterns make it unsafe for them to venture far from shore, and whenever a stiff breeze blows they hoist and fly for shelter, always glad, like the chickens, to get their tails turned from the wind. It is a pretty sight when the river is full of these, packed closely, with bows turned to meet the waves, and at night their lamps add to the beauty.

The view of the street from the lower windows was almost hidden by the fences of Dr. Meachan's garden and lawn, thus making the little house quite secluded. The walls of the rooms were covered with very pretty Japanese paper, blue, with a white sprig in it, for the study and bedroom; the hall was white; the dining-room green, the parlors a neutral tint, very pretty. The floors were covered with fresh matting, and the furniture, though second hand, was in good condition.

The carpenter who had been putting the house in repair made her a present of a nice little set of shelves to hang on the wall, and when Miss Cartmell had put up the lace curtains and lambrequins that she took with her, and the various little knickknacks and photos that reminded her of home, we can imagine how snug and cosy the little house looked. There was a flower plot in front to delight the eyes, and a nice organ in the parlor, which must have been a source of real pleasure to lonely missionary, who



MISS CARTMELL'S HOUSE IN JAPAN.

had left home and friends so far away. Here she studied the difficult language, here she taught the coveted English, and here she sowed, as opportunity offered, the seed of the kingdom.

Walking down the Jurikisha road from her house to the street and across that, one stood on the stone embankment of the Sumida River, where it entered Yedo Bay. When she first went there, at high tide, there was a broad expanse of waters; at low tide a green rush-

## THE PALM BRANCH.

had formed an island, made up of the sand continually being brought down the river. Now this island has become a peninsula of the main land, and has a busy village built upon it. Many boats ply up and down, and when a stiff breeze blows the Japanese junks come hurrying in, turning their open sterns away from the wind. They lie close together in the mouth of the river till the wind subsides, when they take up work again. Across the entrance to the harbor lie the stone forts, built during the few months Commodore Perry gave the Japanese to consider whether or not they would make a peaceable treaty with the United States. They are almost covered at high tide, and have never been made of use. Yet they could, at any time, easily be made defensive points, and that they have stood the wear of the flowing river and rising tide, proves the skill of the builders under such conditions, and that the spirit of the people, at that time, was anything but peaceful toward the "foreign barbarian."

### **The Extinction of the Liquor, Opium and Slave Trades, and all Covetous Hindrances to Christianity.**

How proud we are of our fair Canada, with her mighty rivers, majestic lakes, snow-capped mountains, broad plains and rolling prairies, reaching from ocean to ocean! Yet within her breast there is a canker, which if not removed, and that speedily, will consume her very life-blood, and bring this beautiful country to premature decay. This curse is the liquor traffic, and until this evil is removed from our land we cannot expect the national prosperity promised to that people whose God is the Lord. Canada's drink bill each year is nearly \$10,000,000, this amount being spent directly for strong drink. Besides this we have the money spent in keeping up our jails, &c., and that used for misdirected labor, and so the money lost to the country through this terrible traffic is \$143,258,716 each year. True, by the plebescite vote, taken last autumn, a majority of the people in all the provinces but one declared themselves in favor of prohibition, but our government declares that the majority was not sufficiently large and nothing can be done to abolish the evil which is doing so much to curse our boys and blight the lives of our girls.

This traffic is doing a great deal to hinder the advance of Christianity among the Indians of British Columbia, where the hearts of our missionaries are often wrung to see the ruin brought to the Indians through this traffic.

We are proud of our position as British subjects, and sing lustily

"Rule Britannia, Britannia rules the waves,  
Britons never will be slaves."

But alas! this government of which we are so proud, licenses traffics, yes, forces traffics upon poor, helpless people which make them slaves, body and soul. This

is the opium traffic in India and China, which is completely under the control of the British government. How sad the testimony of a Chinaman: "China has been a hell ever since you brought opium to us." So great are the evils resulting from this traffic that our missionaries confess they are ashamed to call themselves British subjects.

Africa is cursed by two great evils, the liquor traffic and the slave trade. Great quantities of liquor are imported every year by the government of Great Britain, the United States and Holland, and so much evil is wrought thereby that much of the good that our missionaries could otherwise accomplish is rendered impossible. The slave trade is also a great curse; this traffic in humanity being carried on to a very large extent. Steps have, however, been taken to restrict this great evil, and many Asiatic powers, Turkey and Persia among the number, have pledged themselves to prohibit the importation of slaves.

All these traffics are covetous hindrances to Christianity; that is, they are resorted to for selfish gain, without regard to the harm resulting therefrom. Men are afraid they will lose in their business if they oppose the liquor traffic, and so this terrible curse continues to exist. The British government reaps vast harvests every year from the opium traffic, and so fails to abolish it. But the people make the governments which control these things, and we hope and pray that when our Mission Band boys are old enough to vote, they will see to it that such men will compose our parliaments that this condition of affairs will no longer be possible; and all such selfish greed of gain will be unheard of.

But while we condemn others, let us look deep into our own hearts and see whether there lurks therein any form of selfishness, which hinders us from doing all we can to forward the progress of Christianity throughout the world.

Ont.

A. C. W.

### **BAND WORK.**

It was decided in one Branch that the best way to keep the interest of the children in Band work is to interest the mothers—who are supposed to be Auxiliary members. Take the Auxiliary to the Band, and the Band to the Auxiliary until they feel like mother and daughter.

The most successful Band spoken of was one that continually used the blackboard—maps also are great helps—use both eye and ear avenue.

#### **Suggested Programme for Mission Bands.—December.**

1. Opening Hymn.
2. An appropriate verse of Scripture in concert, selected beforehand.
3. Short Prayer for Mission Band work, and your Band in particular.
4. One verse—"See heathen nations bending."
5. Roll Call—responded to by one line of a hymn.
6. Regular Business and Appointments.
7. Field Study—Questions and Answers.
8. Solo or Recitation by Band member.
9. A few words from Leader and the Mizpah Benediction.

## SHINING FOR JESUS.

Are you shining for Jesus, dear one?  
 Shining just everywhere,  
 Not only in easy places,  
 Not only just here and there?  
 Shining in happy gatherings,  
 Where all are loved and known?  
 Shining where all are strangers?  
 Shining when quite alone?  
 Shining at home, and making  
 True sunshine all around?  
 Shining abroad, and faithful—  
 Perhaps among faithless—found?

F. R. H.

## FIELD STUDY FOR DECEMBER.

**Subject: Tokyo.**

Our Woman's Missionary Society opened work in Tokyo in 1882; Miss Cartmell, our first missionary, left her home in Hamilton, Ont., Nov. 25th, and arrived in Tokyo on the afternoon of Dec. 27th. Evangelistic work was the first work that she did there. She soon saw the great need that there was for Woman's work for women, and her first thoughts and plans were how to reach them. So she sent out invitations to them, and the first gathering was around Dr. Eby's dining room table, the doctor acting as interpreter. When Miss Cartmell moved to her own little home, which you see in the picture, she had a chapel there, so the work came to her. Here she held meetings with the women twice a week and Sunday-school with the children. She had also a class of young men to whom she taught English—some of them embraced Christianity. The work among the women was slow at first, and she was obliged to hold out inducements in the way of offering to teach them English and crochet work, which opened the way to tell them of Jesus. Property was purchased by the General Society, and two schools build in the district of Tokyo, called Azabu, and Miss Cartmell moved there in September, 1884. The Girls' school opened with two pupils, who were not long left alone, for these schools were opened just at the time when the Japanese had awakened to the importance of educating their daughters; when they had a strong desire to learn English and adopt foreign customs. The applicants were so numerous that in the summer of 1885 an addition was built, providing for 100 pupils. Then Miss Spence, afterwards Mrs. Large, was sent out from Ontario to take charge of this school, and under her excellent, careful management, and with her assistant missionaries it grew and flourished. In 1886 another building was erected for 250 pupils, and it was soon full, while many outside waited for admission; this building was enlarged in 1888. Then it was whispered disloyal to their own religion and their country. A that foreign schools were making the Japanese girls large school was built under the patronage of the Empress, which took away the high class girls from our schools, but the work then had been so thorough that impressions had been made never to be forgotten, and some of the native girls had become assistant teachers, evangelists and Bible women. The work spread from

Azabu to other districts of Tokyo. Last year a grant was given to purchase a new site for a new building; for the one built in 1886 had been really rendered unsafe by earth-quakes and typhoons—it was hoped that it will be ready for occupation in October. There are now in Tokyo Miss Blackmore, Miss Hart, evangelist, and Miss Veazey, who has charge of the school. They are sadly in need of more helpers to aid them in the good work which has gone steadily on in spite of all discouragements. We are glad to know that two more will soon be hastening to their relief.

## QUESTIONS FOR DECEMBER.

- (1) When did our W. M. S. begin work in Tokyo?
- (2) Who was our first missionary there?
- (3) What kind of work did she do there at first?
- (4) What great need did she see?
- (5) What was the result?
- (6) Tell something of the growth of the Tokyo school.
- (7) Tell all you know about our missionaries, our property and the work being done there at the present time.

## Subscribers, Please Give Attention!

You will hereafter be given only one month's notice before your subscription runs out. The paper will then be stopped until we receive further notice from you.

We would recommend to our readers a leaflet, "The Importance of Mission Bands," published by our Literature Committee, to be had at Room 20, and the other depots.

## QUESTION DRAWER.

## Echoes From Branch Meeting.

How would you select your delegate?

First, pray that God may guide you in your choice and then guide the delegate.

Select one who will be likely to become enthused and bring back a good report.

How would you prepare for convention—that is, for District or Branch?

The last meeting in Auxillary, Circle or Band before convention should be spent in preparing for it. Study the laws governing conventions. Give the delegate questions to ask. Let her understand what she can do to help, and what she can bring back.

What are the duties of the delegate while there?

She must first remember that she is the choice of the Auxillary. She must take with her three ideas—"Going, Getting, Giving." She must be prompt at every session, devotional exercises too—note-book and pencil in hand, jotting down all the good things said and done. Papers and discussions are not digested unless the points are gathered up—the blackboard is most helpful. She must be wide awake to the demands of the hour; keep the mind open; get into the spirit of the occasion. Forgetfulness of self makes a good delegate.

What are her duties when she comes back?

She must discriminate between the Auxillary and the public meeting. In the latter details are not necessary, but a general idea of the work done. Give the Auxillary the contents of her note-book. What most touches the heart is good to take back. The delegate of one year should educate the delegate of the next.

What is the most helpful report to take home from a Branch meeting?

Such a report as will make every member of the Auxillary feel that she has been there.

# PALM ✻ BRANCH.

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MISS S. E. SMITH,  
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ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER, 1899

## REPORT OF THE N. B. and P. E. I. BRANCH MEETING.

This branch held its fourteenth annual meeting in Charlottetown the last week in September; its first regular session on the morning of the 27th, in the lecture room of the First Church, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. There were 72 delegates present. One pleasing feature was the large number of Band and Circle delegates, both from Island and mainland. The weather was most propitious, from the time we crossed the capricious straits till we reached the beautiful island, which was just doffing her summer dress to array herself in the richer drapery of autumn. Her good people, as hosts and hostesses, vied with each other in making us welcome—and we did ample justice to their hospitality. This was especially evidenced in the generous supper and delightful social hour spent in the parlor of the church on the evening of the 27th. Afterward all adjourned to the church, where the public anniversary meeting was held. A large congregation gathered there. After the opening services the president, Mrs. J. D. Chipman, gave her address, which was admirable, touching, as it did, all points of the work. Good music was rendered by the efficient choir and a solo by Miss Collings. The Corresponding Secretary reported 82 Auxiliaries, with a membership of 1,732—increase of one. The Band Corresponding Secretary reported 56 Bands, with a membership of 1,463—increase 193. The Treasurer's report showed the amount raised this year in Auxiliaries, Circles and Bands to be \$5,162.53—an increase of \$34.57. Rev. Mr. Teasdale, pastor of the church, in a glowing speech, congratulated the workers and the work. "Giving—a mosaic," by Miss Knowlton, of St. John, was appreciatively read by Mrs. W. B. Coulthard. This gem has been published as a leaflet by our Literary Committee.

Every session was fraught with interest, from the reports of the district organizers, showing the success-

ful efforts of these busy women, to the smallest details of the work. Some helpful papers were read, followed by interesting discussions. One, by Miss Thorne, of Fredericton, read by Mrs. Coulthard, had many good points. Subject: "The Most Helpful Report to Take Home from a Branch Meeting." The points of this paper and of the discussion which arose from it you will find in "Echoes from Branch Meeting" on the third page.

Thursday's meeting was devoted to Band and Circle work, even the prayer service having relation to it. Mrs. Coulthard, M. B. Secretary, after having given her report of Circles and Bands, was asked to take the chair, which she did, and a very helpful, interesting hour or more was spent in gleanings from the delegates, by skilful questioning, the story of their difficulties, failures and successes. Some of the points gained here may also be found on page two—Echoes from Branch meeting. Palm Branch report gave a paid subscription list of 2,557—a decrease of 62.

N. B. and P. E. I. Branch, 850, decrease 3  
 N. S. and Nfld Branch, 535, decrease 45.  
 Toronto Branch, 289, decrease 2.  
 Montreal Branch, 243, increase 46.  
 Bay of Quinte Branch, 340, decrease 5.  
 Hamilton Branch, 206, increase 57.  
 London Branch, 92, decrease 50.  
 Manitoba Branch, 78—the same.  
 B. Columbia Branch, 17, Decrease 15.  
 United States, 2.  
 Missionaries, 2.

The name of one subscriber could not be found in Report, which is good and sufficient reason why the name of the Branch to which the subscriber belongs should always be sent with the order.

Thursday afternoon a very interesting consecration memorial and sacramental service was held in the church. In the course of the service Miss Howie, the young lady who will go from this branch to Japan, gave, in very modest, unaffected words, her call to this great work. She said that ever since she was a little girl she had felt herself called to the Foreign Field. Sometimes the impression had been stronger than others, sometimes almost faded away, but now it had come back with greater power, and she had given herself wholly for this service. It is anticipated that another young lady from this Branch will early be ready to offer for foreign work. What offering more noble, more acceptable to God than one's self. "They first gave their own selves to the Lord" is still told as a memorial of some who lived long centuries ago.

The officials elected for the present year are: President, Mrs. J. D. Chipman; the 3 Vice-presidents, Mrs. Strong, Mrs. Dr. Johnson and Mrs. H. Sprague; Recording Secretary, Miss H. Stewart; Cor. Secretary, Miss Palmer; Band Secretary, Mrs. W. B. Coulthard; Treasurer, Mrs. S. E. Reid, Tryon, P. E. I.; Auditor, Miss Hyde. Delegates to Board, Mrs. Strong, Mrs. Coulthard; alternates, Miss Stewart, Mrs. Hart. Conference Representative, Mrs. Enman. This Branch has been invited to meet next year at Woodstock.

## EARLY DAYS IN TOKYO.

Property being purchased by the General Society, and the two schools built in the district of Tokyo, called Azabu, about three miles across the city from Tsukiji, Miss Cartmell moved there in September, 1884. On Oct. 20th the Girls School was opened, with two of the most prominent pupils that ever encouraged a waiting missionary.

One was a married lady, very gentle, pretty and engaging. After many hardships and deepest sorrow she was received into the school as an assistant. Though never very strong, she still continues earnest and faithful. The other proved a bright pupil, but died soon after leaving school. These two did not long remain alone, many Japanese of position, lent their influence and commended the school to their friends. One of the noblest of these was a Mrs. Taneda, educated and led to Christ in a Presbyterian mission school, she prayed for a Christian girls' school to be opened near her only child, a little girl of seven years.

When visiting her school home one day the missionaries told her of our Boys' and Girls' schools in Azabu. She clasped her hands in surprise and gratitude, saying: "I prayed for a girls school where I might send Michiko as a daily pupil, but the Lord has given two—for boys and girls. I will do all I can to persuade my friends to send their children." This she did, and it was not long before we had an interesting group of little girls from the better class families. The schools opened just when the progressive Japanese were aroused to the importance of educating their daughters. Their advocacy aroused an inordinate desire for English and foreign customs. The applicants were so numerous that in less than six months we knew our accommodation for thirty would be insufficient. During the summer of 1885 an addition was built, providing for one hundred pupils. But popular favor waxed stronger till in the summer of 1886 another building was erected, making an accommodation for two hundred and fifty. In an incredibly short time the school was full, and a long list of applicants waiting their turn for admission.

This continued till it became whispered that foreign schools were denationalizing the Japanese girls; that Christianity was a foreign religion, and ought disloyalty. Then again a large school for girls was opened under the patronage of the Empress, which drew from mission schools high class girls. In 1888 the first and second buildings that were cheaply and hastily built, were taken down and more healthful and convenient ones replaced them.

Though many of the parents knew not what it meant to educate their daughters, and would not allow them to stay long enough for that to be accomplished—so thorough was the work done, so surprisingly new and interesting was all they saw and heard, that none left the school after the shortest stay without deep impressions having been made that would contradict many previously conceived false ideas.

Tokyo is an immense city of over a million inhabitants. It is divided into many districts. In those early

days Canadian Methodism had small churches in four of these districts, viz: Tsukiji, Shitaya, Ushigome and the recently entered Azabu. The lady missionary tried to encourage the Sunday-school work at each of these points, and get acquainted with the women and help them as opportunity offered.

It was slow and difficult, as few women came out, fewer girls over ten years of age, and no invitations came to call at the homes. The offer to teach English, knitting and crocheting induced many to come to the churches, who would never venture to hear Christianity. Later two or three Christian women were persuaded to help who would never venture to hear Christianity. Later gather in the girls and women to these meetings by personal invitation. So began the Bible women's work. Great care was taken that those who came for crocheting should learn something of the Saviour who died for them. In Feb. 1885 Miss Spencer, afterwards Mrs. Large, arrived, and a few months after it was opened, assumed charge of the school, as the work to which she was appointed. Her experience, quick intuitions, decision and strength of character admirably qualified her for those Kaleidoscopic days, of which we have spoken. A good foundation was laid upon firm principles in the fear of the Lord.

In 1887 ill-health obliged Miss Cartmell to return home. When she left 250 pupils were in the school, and Women's meetings were open in the four district churches. The abnormal desire for foreign ways swaying the people did not wholly deceive the missionaries, but they did their best to use this and make the gospel known.

After an absence of five years she returned to feel the change in the general sentiment of the people, and yet could see how the work had grown and become stable, notwithstanding the excitements and discouragements of the intervening years.

In the early days, we may say, there were no Christian workers, outside the school, except the pastor and his wife, and one or two inexperienced Bible women.

In 1892, though less than one hundred pupils were in the schools, a large number of whom had been years under instruction, many had become earnest Christians, and were preparing for graduation. Besides the class-meetings and Sunday-school, the regular religious services, and daily Bible lesson of half an hour, about thirty-five of the pupils had become King's Daughters, of whose good work later reports have told. Eighteen or twenty Christian teachers and pupils went out every Sunday afternoon to teach in the Sunday-schools of the various churches; two of the number visiting the sick in a neighboring mission hospital.

The evangelistic work had grown till there was sufficient to keep Miss Hart and herself busy six days in the week—holding women's meetings and visiting in the many homes now open to the Bible and Christian teacher. So had the Lord prospered the efforts made. We must not take space to name the ladies who had wrought to bring this about. Some had steadily remained at this post in Tokyo, while others had gone to

(Concluded on page 8.)



Address—COUSIN JOY, 232 Princess Street, St. John, N. B.

Dear Cousins:

"A little girl, on being asked her age, replied: 'Mamma says I'm five; but counting all the good times I've had, it seems as if I'm most a hundred.'"

What a happy thought for our little Band workers! If you want to fill the home with sunshine this year, don't think of what you cannot do or have, but "count your good times."

Did you ever notice how often thankfulness is mentioned in the Bible? One little verse ends with "And be ye thankful." The heart that is thankful is sure to get a blessing from God. Do you know why that is? Well, let me explain. Heat expands, that is, makes larger—so the warmth or heat of love and gratitude makes the heart large enough to take in the blessing that God waits to give us. This dear little girl was glad and happy because she was counting her good times. Japan is a better country than most heathen countries for children to live in, but if you lived there six months you would come back to your own Christian land ready to "count" your "good times," and more willing and anxious than ever to make a "good time" for those other children by giving them the "Light of the World."

Dear Cousin Joy,—I want to give you one little item of news from our Branch meetings—it is about unexpected help we got in an unexpected way.

Vega Grenlund, the little granddaughter of your Mr. Shenton, found her way to our meetings, with her mother; she was present at all the sessions, note book and pencil in hand, and went upon a good many errands for us in such a quiet, unobtrusive way. Once, when I read a paper, all the sheets went on to the floor, and before I had time to pick one up there stood the wee girl in her white cap handing them to me with the sweetest courtesy. With such a training as even some of our small Band members are receiving in vari-

ous ways, we need not fear a lack of good officers in the future.

In behalf of our boy members, I ask you to print the enclosed verses, which have just come to hand; they were not written by a poet, but by a plain, good man, who went to Sabbath-school with some of the ministers in your conference, and some in ours too; the missionary is the Rev. McKenzie Cobban. I am sure the boys will like to read this true story in the Palm Branch.

Springhill

Mrs. JOHN GEE.

[We are glad to hear from Mrs. Gee, especially when it is in praise of our Band members. Two young pages in our N. B. & P. E. I. B. meeting also deserved great praise for their attention and kindness to delegates and visitors. We are also glad to give space to the poem Mrs. Gee kindly sends us. We think it will make a fine reading or recitation.]

Dear Cousin Joy,—Now our holidays are over and we are back to work in earnest, both in school and in Mission Band. We are trying to get a great many more to subscribe for the Palm Branch than we had in the previous years.

Much pleasure is taken out of the puzzles. I think the answer to the last one is: "Let the peace of God rule in our hearts." Can anyone who wishes send puzzles to be put in the Palm Branch?

Our Band has raised enough to send a delegate to the Annual Convention in Brantford this year. We have never sent one before.

Your loving cousin,

Ontario.

FAX.

[Your Band has done well. Yes, indeed, we will be very glad to get a nice puzzle from you—we invite you all to send puzzles.]

#### HERE'S A DELIGHTFUL BIT OF RECITATION FOR TWO WEE GIRLS.

Mary had a little lamb,  
With fleece as white as snow;  
And everywhere that Mary went  
The lamb was sure to go.

I wish I had a little lamb  
With fleece as white as Mary's;  
I'd have it sheared, and sell the wool  
To help the missionaries.

—World Wide Missions.

#### PUZZLE FOR NOVEMBER.

1. Find but the numbers eight and two,  
A town they will disclose to you.
2. The numbers seven, one, nine will show  
A mount where a prophet used to go.
3. Number six, three, eight and nine are meant  
To reveal a place where two prophets went.
4. Eleven and five and two disclose  
What surely brings unnumbered woes.
5. Numbers four, and ten, and two tell you  
That under which there is nothing new.  
When you my whole have found, 'twill tell  
One whom Paul and Timothy loved full well.

—Word and Work.

## A MISSIONARY BOY.

I.

"A mighty crowd had gathered, in a busy Yorkshire town,  
To hear of Buddha's power broken and his temples overthrown,  
Through the preaching of the Gospel by the missionary bold  
Who with heart of yearning love had God's wondrous story told.

II.

The speaker was a missionary whose heart bled for India's woes,  
With flashing eye his fire-tipped words fell like a giant's blows.  
He spake till hearts like flinty rocks did melt at his appeal.  
Face to face with death he oft had stood, his faithfulness to seal.

III.

As the holy man sat down amid the deafening applause,  
Men prayed and gave more freely to the missionary cause,  
And some whose springs of sympathy had well nigh ceased  
to flow,  
Together with the young, now offered up the consecration vow.

IV.

When the service had concluded and the audience turned for  
home,  
The speaker saw a struggling lad, and his kindly voice said  
"come,"  
"For I see my bonnie laddie that you've something good to say,"  
And the bright-eyed little fellow to the platform made his way.

V.

There stood the bright-eyed laddie, a rich glow upon his face,  
With a look of honest triumph that a Conqueror's might grace,  
In the pew he'd fought his battle, now he wears the Victor's  
crown  
For to God he gave his treasure—it was his all—his very own.

VI.

It was but a bag of marbles that the little fellow drew  
From out his breeches pocket to the missionary's view,  
But each *ally* was a treasure, more precious far than gold,  
And that bag contained a greater prize than poet e'er had told.

VII.

It was the laddie's fortune, source of his daily joy,  
It was his dream at bed time, and did daily thoughts employ,  
No sailor better loved his ship, nor scholar wisdom's lore,  
For that soiled and homely marble bag, held all his earthly  
store.

VIII.

He gave his all—no *law* was left—the very best he gave,  
His martyr soul of all his wealth one *ally* did not crave.  
He gave the very best—his all—and God's servant knew full  
well  
This meant *surrender of himself*, and the tale he vowed to tell,

IX.

Both far and near, at home, abroad, in lands beyond the sea,  
"That British boys have still the stuff that makes them great  
and free,"  
"That reverent love for God, will make the heart as true and  
brave  
As ever hero of the past has shown on land or wave."

X.

No time was lost—a few nights more—down in the sturdy  
north  
That missionary stood, the same true story to tell forth  
"Of Buddha's power broken—both priest and devotee  
Forsake the heathen worship, and to Jesus bow the knee."

XI.

He spake with mighty unction, for in secret, earnest prayer  
He had asked for God's equipment, His message to declare,  
And as he spake, such quickening, came from God to one and all  
That conscience bowed, and the hardest heart said "yes" to  
the earnest call.

XII.

Then the box went round and they promptly gave from out  
their secret store,  
And the stewards' hearts gave thanks to God as they counted  
the money o'er.

The givers rejoiced, each heart was glad, as they found it  
blessedly true  
That the way to be happy and glad of heart is "To love as I  
have loved you."

XIII.

When all at once the missionary on the platform took his stand,  
And midst the pause in God's own house, he held high in his  
hand  
The humble little marble bag, which till now had been forgot,  
And in simple tones he told them how the marble bag he got.

XIV.

Then came a power—a softening power, that swept o'er all  
the place,  
The sturdy shook, voices grew thick, and tears gemmed many  
a face,  
A cry was heard through all the place, from heart to heart it ran,  
From seats below, to seats above, it rolled as from one man.

XV.

"Collect again," the crowd replied "Another collection make,  
Bring round the boxes a second time, and our *freewill* offerings  
take,"  
Whilst one man forth to the platform went, and wrote in his  
big check book  
His name for one hundred sovereigns, midst a joy that God's  
house shook."

WALLACE GIBSON.

## LETTER FROM REV. MR. KIRBY.

Dear Children of the Palm Branch:

I thought I would have plenty of time to write  
when I changed circuits, but, dear me, there's lots of  
work wherever I go.

However, I must find time to drop a line to Palm  
Branch children, for I do feel they are my friends; and  
now I come to think of it, the Bible says: "He that  
would have friends must show himself friendly;" (where  
does the Bible say anything like that?), and in order to  
retain your friendship I must be friendly towards you.

But, there, I am wandering away from my text  
again; I do believe its true, as I have read somewhere,  
that some preachers take a text and do with it as chil-  
dren do with a gate, get on it and swing backwards and  
forwards, and never get anywhere—but, and this is  
what I would like to do—some preachers take a text  
and it is also like a gate, but it opens into a glorious  
garden. Well, I forgot to tell you my text, but it was  
this: "And he opened the Letter"—but you must  
find it in the Bible. Well here's the letter:—

Dear papa

You can put a 100 for me to the mission fun here it is  
please papa do take it you can put it in that other fun  
if you like to

Please take it

Answer soon

No stops, no capitals, no nothing, except the 100  
which means \$1. It was only a little bit of a girl who  
wrote it, and she didn't know anything about punctua-  
tion or anything else in the writing line, but she had a  
\$1, and she had the desire to give it to the "mission  
fun."

This little girl's father was a minister, and talking  
to his wife, he said: "Well, now, I don't like to go to  
conference with the funds down below last year, but  
what can I do?"

Little Tot heard the conversation and started for her bank and got her only dollar, wrote this letter, and put it in an envelope and came timidly to the minister's study and laid it down.

"Did the father take it?" did you ask. Why of course—do you think he would say "no" and hurt that dear little heart?

Yes, and he did "answer soon," for he took the little Tot on his lap and gave her a great big kiss, and said "Thank you," and put it in the "fun." I tell you that little stocking was hung up at Christmas and somebody put something in which more than made up for the 100.

Thanks for the answers to my last questions.

(Good bye for this time,

Your friend,

W. J. Kirby.

## LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

### Nov'a Scotia and Newfoundland Branch.

We are glad to hear again from our "Lone Star" Band, Bermuda. The secretary reports 16 members, and the amount raised for the year \$11.77; also ten copies of Palm Branch taken.

AUBURN.—The secretary of the "Oak and Ivy" Band writes: "Our Band has, in addition to its mission work, been very helpful in church work. We had a gracious revival here last winter, and a number of our girls joined the church. Our Oak members have a sewing circle, while our little Ivy members help to do their share. We take seventeen copies of Palm Branch.

THE KING'S OWN CIR. reports: "Our number does not seem to increase. Palm Branches, much interested. We take thirteen copies and raised \$14.00 this last year. We hope to do something more in the year we are just entering.

The "Happy Thought" Band writes: "We have a larger attendance than usual. The children seem more interested, and have raised small sums for us in different ways.

The "Coralline Circle" have had a prosperous year. Out of ten mite boxes we raised \$62.00. Since the new year began we have two new members, and hope to gain a few more.

SOMERSET.—Our "Helping Hand" Band is getting along very well, although the last year has been quite a hard one, owing to sickness and stormy weather. The amount raised for the year, \$50.00.

The address of the new Mission Band Secretary is the same as last year: Miss A. M. Braine, 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Tower Road, Halifax, N. S.

Will the Mission Bands and Circles kindly forward me the names of the new officers?

N. B. and P. E. I. Branch.

The Banner this year, will be awarded to the District which has the largest proportionate increase in Circle and Band members. Will each Circle and Band work, not only for itself, but for others in its District?

We congratulate our Banner Band—the "Pansy" Band, of Tay Auxiliary—on the excellent work done during the year that is past. "Dayspring" Band of York Auxiliary stood next in proportionate increase of members. Many have done well. The largest increase in funds was in the "Excelsior" Band of Queen Square (St. John) Auxiliary, but nearly equal to it was the "Coqualætzta" Band, of Charlottetown.

And, now, dear Band Workers, as we, at the close of the year, look over the work and tabulate results, let us stop a moment and think of the results that may be written in God's Book. Do you think that we could find them the same? Ah, no, for He has counted every faithful effort made, every kind act done, and some day we will know His estimate of our work, and may find that some quiet member, unnoticed now, has done best of all.

Of this we may be certain—the results that He notes are written on our character.

Will each Band worker remember that what was learned and done last year was to fit us for better work this? Shall we not begin at once to make this our very best year?

E. E. C.

## EARLY DAYS IN TOKYO.

(Continued from page 5.)

establish work on the same principles in Shizwoka and Kofu.

That trying climate, earthquakes and typhoons had done their work till the building of 1886 was really unsafe, more so than was realized till being taken down. The ground upon which the Girls' School buildings were erected belonged to the General Society, and was kindly greeted us. Now the boys' school has grown beyond the limited lot on the hill, which is almost covered by the school and residences. They require the ground we have, and we need new buildings and more play ground.

The interests of both departments will be enhanced by the purchase of land by our W. M. S., and the new school, we hope, will be ready for occupation, even though not furnished, in October.

The requirements of the work at the other stations must be met at the sacrifice of the Tokyo Branch. There are now remaining in Tokyo Miss Blackmore, as secretary treasurer; Miss Hart, at the head of the evangelistic department, and Miss Veazey in the school. Work, which has kept six ladies studying the language very busy—cannot possibly be fully compassed by three.

The language study must be given up, and their strength given to holding the fort till reinforcement comes to them. Missionary candidates have been slow in coming themselves known, but we are thankful that promising ones are being pressed forward by and the voice of God. We hope, at least, some will ere long be hastening to the relief of our brethren.

before the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."

"Pray ye therefore that ye may be able to stand before the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."