



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

VOL. V.

JANUARY 1898.

No. 1.

We give our young readers this month the promised letter from Herbie Bellamy, a little boy, who, under great difficulties, is striving to do what he can, to let the dark world know about Jesus.

Herbie is ten years old, and he lives in Manitoba. There is a new Auxiliary there, and \$83.00 of the money sent by it to the Branch, came through Herbie Bellamy! When you know that Herbie is a little boy whose hands are helpless, and who cannot stand on his feet, you will wonder how he can work for Jesus.

This little letter was written with his foot! He has learned to write names in this way and so earns ten cents a name. Much of the money sent was raised by this means. He has a

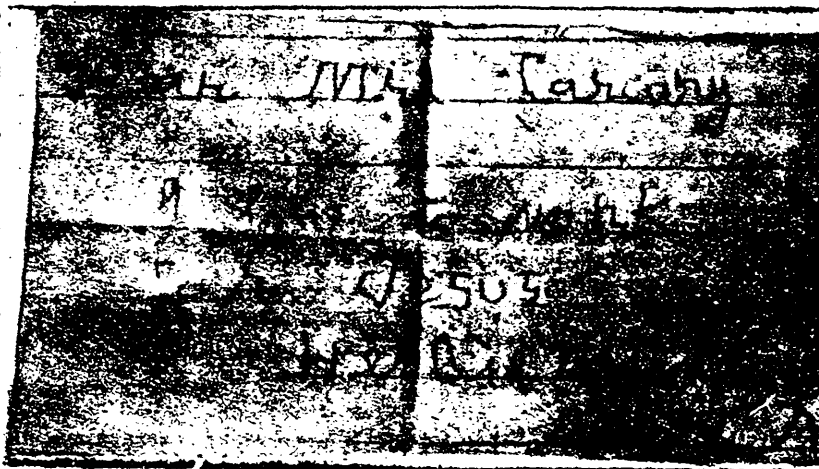
special object in working. The money goes to support a little orphan boy in Japan, and Herbie hopes that one day this boy will do work in the world that he might have done under happier circumstances.

Herbie is blessed in having a tender, devoted mother, who lovingly cares for him, and his father has made him a little carriage, so that he need not stay within doors all the time, but see a little of the outside world. He came down to the station in his little

carriage to meet Miss Veazey on her way home from Japan. He knew that she had come from the orphanage in which his Japanese boy is being educated, so he was anxious to see her and hear news of the boy in whom he is so interested, and Miss Veazey could tell him a great deal about him. We have a picture of "Herbie's boy" in an orphanage group, and perhaps some day we will give it to you, for you will surely feel an interest in him for Herbie's sake.

Dear children and young people, you have feet and hands too to work for Jesus, what do you think of this story of Herbie Bellamy? Have you done the many little things that you might have done while he has been doing the one thing possible for

him to do? Will it be said of you as it will surely be said of him, He "hath done what" he "could." Do not think that it cost him nothing—it must have cost many a pain and nervous effort. If any one has an excuse for doing nothing he has that excuse. What then is the secret of his work for Jesus? He tells us himself, "I love to work for Jesus." Ah, it is love—love in return for the Divine love which brought a Saviour down from Heaven. Herbie loves Jesus be-



HERBIE BELLAMY'S LETTER.

cause Jesus first loved him and Jesus still proves his love for Herbie by showing him how he can work for Him and in giving him this great interest in life. Let us all take the lesson home to our hearts at the beginning of the New Year.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR.

WHITTIER.

Scarcely Hope hath traced for me
What the future life may be,
Other lips may well be bold;
Like the publican of old,
I can only urge the plea
"Lord be merciful to me!"

Nothing of desert I claim,
Unto me belongeth shame.
Not for me the Crowns of Gold
Palms and harpings manifold;
Not for erring eye and feet
Jaspur Wall and Golden street.

What Thou wilt, O, Father, give!
All is gain that I receive.

Let the lowliest task be mine
Grateful, so the work be thine;
Let me find the humblest place
In the shadow of Thy grace:
Blest to me were any spot
Where temptation whispers not.

If there be some weaker one,
Give me strength to help him on;
If a blinder soul there be
Let me guide him nearer Thee.

Make my mortal dreams come true
With the work I fain would do;
Clothe with life the weak intent.
Let me be the thing I meant;
Let me find in Thy employ
Peace that dearer is than joy.

From Andrew Nykman's Prayer.

MISSIONARY GAMES.

There is always a demand in missionary bands for something new in the way of entertainment, and it may be helpful to learn some new games which may be played at the close of a week-day missionary meeting or at a missionary social. We find the following in a Sunday-school paper:

"Countries and Characters" may be played the same as "beast, bird, and fish." One player throws a knotted handkerchief to another and calls out "Africa," "China," "India," and then counts ten, if possible, before the second player can name some worker or place connected with the country specified.

Another game is to decide upon some letter for a starting-point, and have a contest to see who can write in a certain time the longest list of names of places or persons in mission countries beginning with that letter.

"WHY HE WENT."

A Missionary being asked what it was that directed his thoughts toward the foreign field answered: "In coming home one night, driving across the vast prairie, I saw my little boy John hurrying to meet me. The grass was high on the prairie, and suddenly he dropped out of sight. I thought he was playing, and simply hiding from me, but he didn't appear as I expected he would. Then the thought flashed across my mind: 'There is an old well there, and he has fallen in.' I hurried up to him, reached down into the well and lifted him out; and, as he looked up into my face, what do you think he said? 'O papa! why didn't you hurry?' These words never left me. They kept ringing in my ears until God put a new and deeper meaning into them, and bade me think of others who are lost, of souls without God, and without hope in this world; and the message came to me as a message from the Heavenly Father, 'Go and preach in My name;' and then from that vast throng a pitiful, pleading cry rolled into my soul as I accepted God's call, 'O why don't you hurry?'"—*Selected.*

O little mission workers, why do you not hurry to send the precious tidings of great joy?—*Dayspring.*

CURIOUS FACTS OF MANY LANDS.

The children of the poor in Japan are nearly always labeled' in case they should stray from their homes while their mothers are busy.

There are no undertakers in Japan. When a person dies, his nearest relatives put him in a coffin and bury him. The mourning does not begin till after the burial.

IRONING IN COREA.

White clothing is very commonly worn in Korea, especially by the men. It is also the mourning color. This makes washing and ironing also very common. The gowns are ripped apart, and when ready to iron, the cloth is wound around a long, hard roller. Two women then sit down facing each other, having in each hand a round, hard stick, like a small baseball bat. With these they beat the cloth; rat tat tat! rat, tat, tat! they go, sometimes all night long. This pounding gives the cloth a fine lustre, which is highly prized. Korean cloth must be tougher than ours, or there would not be much left of it after such an ordeal.—*Exchange.*

SOMETHING EACH DAY.

Something each day—a smile;
It is not much to give,
And the little gifts of life
Make sweet the days we live.
The world has weary hearts
That we can bless and cheer,
And a smile for every day
Makes sunshine all the year,

Something each day—a word;
We cannot know its power;
It grows in fruitfulness
As grows the gentle flower
What comfort it may bring
Where all is dark and drear!
For a kind word every day
Makes pleasant all the year.

Something each day—a thought
Unselfish, good, and true,
That aids another's need
While we our way pursue;
That seeks to lighten hearts,
That leads to pathways clear—
For a helpful thought each day
Makes happy all the year.

Something each day—a deed
Of kindness and of good,
To link in closer bonds
All human brotherhood.
And thus the Heavenly will
We all may do while here!
For a good deed every day
Makes blessed all the year.

—Selected.

FIELD STUDY FOR JANUARY.

SUBJECT—"Prayer for the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mission Fields and Workers."
(A Catechism for Mission Band Workers.)

Q. What is the significance of selecting this subject for the very first of a New Year?

A. No true, lasting work, can be done without the Holy Spirit. Humbled by the failures of the past, we feel the truth of the Master's own words: "Without Me, ye can do nothing."

Q. Who is the Spirit?

A. He is God, the Holy Ghost. Read John 16: 8.

Q. Do you believe in organization for special, and direct Missionary work?

A. Yes, because no other work is so near and dear to Christ, as that of bringing lost sheep into His fold. The majority of our Mission Band members are young, but not too young to be interested in the Mission and work of the Holy Spirit. Children can grieve, and quench the Spirit, they can honor the Spirit, they can pray, the promise is unto us and unto our children.

Q. How may we know that the Spirit will be given in answer to prayer?

A. Read Luke 11: 13. The command is, "Be filled with the spirit."

Q. Who may expect to be filled with the Spirit?

A. All who have given a true and hearty response to that question in 1st Chron. 29: 5.

Q. Dear Mission Band Members, have you done this? Or, are you waiting for God to do what He calls you to do? Tell us briefly, why this subject is of greater importance to-day than ever before?

A. Misapprehension, doubt, and indifference at home.

Our Missionaries suffer sore privations, their necessities are never fully met, their greatest need to-day, is the abiding presence of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Q. When shall we pray for the outpouring of the Spirit?

A. Now. Dear Mission Band Workers do not leave this important duty and privilege until night, when the body is tired; cultivate the habit of asking constantly for the Spirit, not forgetting your own part in the work of preparation, in order to be filled with the Spirit. When you are struggling with your grammar, think of the weary task our Missionaries have in learning so many difficult languages, and then of imparting the truth of God to such dark, benighted souls; pray that the spirit may be given to help them in this part of their work.

Q. Suppose that the Master Himself should come into every Mission Band to call the roll at this New Year's meeting, would He find all the members there to respond, who once pledged themselves to this work for Him?

A. Alas, No! Oh, the number who have grown weary, Where are they to-day? Christ will call the roll some day.

Q. Does He really know each Band—its name—its members?

A. Yes, Read Matt. 10: 30. Oh, heart breaking fact, that even some whole Bands have dropped out of this distinct and special work!

Q. Were the officers and members of these bands filled with the Spirit?

A. Let them answer for themselves before the great Searcher of hearts.

Q. From what source do we get our best suggestions for work.

A. From the Holy Spirit.

Q. Filled with the Spirit, will we never grow weary in well doing?

A. No, Never.

Q. Our field Studies are read by many people who are not practically identified with any Missionary Society, has this subject no claim upon them?

A. Yes, The Spirit is saying as distinctly to them, as to Philip of old, "Draw near, and join thyself."

Q. What will be the manner of the Spirit's manifestation?

A. Leave that to God. Lovingly, earnestly, we call upon each one to unite at once in fervent prayer for the descent of the Holy Spirit; redoubling our diligence, let us wait, work, and pray, for the glad time when the glorious prophecies shall be fulfilled and Jesus shall reign in every land and in every heart.

Springhill.

Mrs. JOHN GEE.

* PALM BRANCH *

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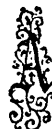
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MISS S. E. SMITH,
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JANUARY, 1898.



HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our readers! As we write 1898 we remember that only two years remain of the nineteenth century, and feel with regret that we shall soon be called upon to say good bye to an old friend, for it is the only Century we have ever known!

And a wonderful Century it has been—a good friend to the world. We are lost in astonishment when we think of all the progress the world has made throughout its years. It has given to the British nation a good Queen whose praise is in all lands. And then the wonderful discoveries, inventions and improvements, many of them within the last fifty years! Steamships, railways, photography, telegraph, telephone, phonograph and all the marvellous developments of Electricity. The very thought of it makes us disposed to pity the poor people who lived in an earlier age, just as the actors in the next Century will pity us—perhaps we could not fly.

Then, the wonderful progress of art, science and literature; the freedom of the Press; the rapid diffusion of knowledge among the common people, especially on our own continent; and above all, religious toleration even among other than English speaking people.

God is fulfilling his promise in giving man dominion over the earth. Man is harnessing the forces of nature and bidding them do his will, and as a result of all this God's will is being done, and His wonderful plans for the salvation of men are being carried out. The discoveries and improvements of the Century are being pressed into this service and the world is becoming a great highway for the carriage of the Gospel. Witness the wonderful opening up of such countries as Japan, Corea, the vast empire of China, India, the Islands of the sea and even Africa.

Scarcely any organized Protestant Missionary work was done before the dawn of the present Century. True, brave souls, here and there, struck out for God, but men and women had not then generally awakened to the fact that the evangelization of the world depended on them—that it was not to be accomplished by God or by angels, but by men and women filled with the spirit of God. Are we fully awakened yet to the magnitude of the trust? There is much lost time to be made up. Let us hasten to do our part.

We are glad to be able to give this month the tender little sketch of Mrs. Purvis (Maria Hart) written by one who was near and dear to her. No touch of ours can add to this pen portrait of one so greatly beloved, but we would fain place on record our own cherished memories of our friend; our keen appreciation of her high character and attainments, her many noble engaging qualities of heart and mind and her world-wide sympathies which endeared her to all who knew her, and made her so often a very angel of comfort in time of need.

Do not forget us in thy home afar.

Watch o'er us with thy holy spirit eyes,

So shall we hail thee as a guiding star,

So shall we follow to thy home—the skies.

This is the first month in the New year, so, of course, this is the time to subscribe for the PALM BRANCH, if you have never done so before. It will make a fine New Year's gift for a little friend. For further particulars see the heading of this Editorial page.

If you do not renew in time we cannot promise you that we will be able to supply all back numbers.

Hu King Eng, the first Chinese woman doctor, is a great success in the Flowery Land. Having studied and taken the degree of M. D. in the United States, after seven years' hard work, she is now in charge of the Siang-Hu Hospital at Foo-chow, and a story is told of a coolie who wheeled his blind old mother a thousand miles on a barrow to take her to the woman doctor. A double operation for cataract was the result, and the old woman can see as well as ever. Dr. Hu King Eng is to be one of the delegates to the Woman's Congress to be held in London next year. She belongs to the Christian faith, her grandfather, a mandarin of great wealth and power, having been converted late in life.

“Upon Thy word I rest,

So strong, so sure;

So full of comfort blest,

So sweet, so pure.

The word that changeth not, that faileth never;
My King! I rest upon Thy word forever.”

IN MEMORIAM.

MRS. WM. PURVIS.

One, who loved Mrs. Purvis, has suggested to me that I, who also loved her, should write a short sketch of her life for the PALM BRANCH. Many of your readers knew her as Miss Maria Hart. She has made that name an honored one wherever she was known.

Mrs. Purvis was the youngest of nine children. Two of these died in infancy, the others early gave themselves to God and His Church. Maria, after the happy and triumphant death of her twelve year old sister Sarah, came to Jesus and was by Him forgiven and taken for His own. Five years after she wrote her married sister, "I have been worried for some time for fear I was not really a child of God. I am determined from this time forth to be one if I never was before."

She now considered she should be the same help and comfort to all at home that her older sister had been. This fun-loving, merry girl, then commented the habit of denying herself and thinking first of others, a habit which increased as the years went by, and gave her the sweet, unselfish character she afterward showed.

For over thirty years she was the mainstay at the homestead, sharing the burdens and smoothing the paths of her dearly-loved parents, welcoming the children and grandchildren to the old home, ever finding time to help make her native town, Guysboro, an attractive place to strangers.

No one could be more faithful in the work of the Church. The sick and the poor were never forgotten by her. As a S. S. teacher, a class leader, and a W. C. T. U. worker she was faithful and successful.

An attractive feature in her character was her love for children. She was rewarded by their love for her. As for young people, they could never realize but that she was as young as any one of them. She was always anxious to prepare herself for future usefulness; ever learning something new, she kept herself interested in every bit of human progress. Above all, her interests were in the progress of Christ's kingdom. For that she longed and prayed and worked. Nothing was too hard for her to do if it would help on a Mission Band or Auxiliary. Five weeks from her wedding day, the call came to go in to the marriage supper of the Lamb. She was suddenly rendered helpless by apoplexy, and a few hours after her freed and joyful spirit was within the gates of the New Jerusalem.

The door is shut, but by faith we see within. We see the bright angel form with happy, tireless energy

-serving her God; at times, perhaps, bending down and watching us below. She now, no doubt, is a thousand fold more anxious for us to let the world know of the beautiful home God has prepared for all. Soon we too shall rest from our labors here. Let us work while we can.

N. S.

A.

A GIRL BABY IN CHINA.

Rev. Mr. Sadler, of the London Missionary Society in China, tells, in the News from Afar, the following story of a Chinese girl:

"Early one morning from a little house in a Chinese village came forth cries of a tiny baby girl. No one took any notice, because no one cared whether baby lived or died. Her father and mother were quarreling about what they should do with their child; they did not want her because she was a girl. Many ways of putting out her little life were named. Some one said, 'Take her to the blacksmith, and let him burn her on his forge.'

"Another said, 'Throw her into the pond, or put her in a box and bury her.' The father settled the question, and called for a grain of uncooked rice and put it into her mouth, for he knew she would soon choke and die. While the parents and the rest of the family were watching this cruel act, the door of the house was gently pushed open by a woman who, having heard the quarrel going on, came to ask if she might have baby to bring up as her own child.

"The bargain was soon made, the rice taken out of the little mouth, and under a promise that baby should never be brought back, or any money asked for its support, it was handed over to its new and kind foster-mother.

"Now, dear children, you see how cruel some heathen parents can be, and what a good thing you do when you put your pennies into the missionary box to send missionaries over to China to teach the fathers and mothers that it is wrong to kill their poor little baby girls. There are some Christian people in China, however, and that woman who took the child away from its unkind parents, had been taught by the missionaries to know and love Jesus Christ. Baby grew strong and pretty under her loving care, and she named her 'Ho-khoa,' or 'Handsome.' And she has now for many years been a true Christian."—*Dayspring*.

If we look down, then our shoulders stoop. If our thoughts look down, our character bends. It is only when we hold our heads up that the body becomes erect. It is only when our thoughts go up that our life becomes erect.—*Alexander McKenzie*.



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

DEAR COUSIN JOY,—Will you tell me why we have a holiday on New Year's Day and have a good time and give gifts to each other? I know about Christmas but I don't know about New Year's. Does the Bible say anything about it? I asked my Auntie and she said she did not know. I thought perhaps you would.

Queens. Your loving Cousin Mamie.

It is a very old custom. The Romans had it in the time of the early Christians, and as far as we know it has always been the great national holiday of the Chinese people. If you look in the 8th chapter of Genesis you will see that it was on New Year's day that Noah looked out of the Ark and saw that the water was dried on the face of the earth. He and his family must have had a great time of rejoicing that day. But we do not know of any command to keep the day. It is love and gratitude that makes us keep Christmas day.

In England they have mile-stones to mark the distances. New Year's Day may be called a mile stone, for it shows how far God has brought us on our way and that we are to take a fresh start on another year. So it is a good time for thought and to make good resolutions. If we try to make each year better than the last, every year will be good, and our whole lives a continued feast.

DEAR COUSIN JOY,—I am a member of the Cheerful Workers Mission Band. We meet every fortnight on Saturday afternoon. About thirty belong to our Band. A good many of us take the **PALM BRANCH**, it is a nice little paper. We do enjoy reading about those little Chinese babies who are being cared for by the good Missionaries. We hope they will soon get a suitable home to take care of them in. We have very good meetings at our Band. Good bye for this time, from

Port Greville.

DEAR COUSIN JOY,—This is the first time I have written to you. There are two weeks before Christmas, and then New Year's day. We are going to have lots

of candy and nuts. We were having such a lovely time on the shore this summer. I belong to the King's Messenger Band of Centenary Church. We are trying to do something to help the heathen in far-off countries.

John, N. B. Yours lovingly, Ellie B. Smith.

DEAR COUSIN JOY,—Although I am a little boy I am a member of the Mission Band and am trying to do a little work for Jesus. I take the **PALM BRANCH** and like it very much. Is Charlottetown the answer to the last puzzle in November number? I have a little puzzle myself and if you will you may put it in the paper.

Yours lovingly, Hill H. Cheney.

Bloomfield, Car. Co.

You are right, Hill—it is Charlottetown—glad to hear from you.

DEAR COUSIN JOY,—I belong to the Thanksgiving Mission Band. This is the first time I have written. The Band was organized on Thanksgiving day. I take the **PALM BRANCH** and like it very much. I have heard so much about you that I thought I would write. I will close. from

Nellie Anderson.

Pioneer, Car. Co.

A NEW YEAR.

"It's coming, boys,
It's almost here;
It's coming, girls,
The Grand New Year!
A year to be glad in,
Not to be bad in;

A year to live in, to gain and give in;
A year for trying, and not for sighing;
A bright New Year! Oh, hold it dear!
For God who sendeth, he only lendeth."

PUZZLES FOR JANUARY.

I am composed of 9 letters.

My 1, 3, is a pronoun.

My 8, 2, 9, is part of the head.

My 4, 5, 6, 7, is what a river does.

My whole is a Band in Carleton County.

HILL.

I am composed of 11 letters.

My 9, 6, 11, is not night.

My 2, 10, 7, is part of the body.

My 8, 6, 4, is to express,

My 1, 5, 3 is not old,

My whole is the name of a day.

ELLIE.

I am composed of 21 letters.

My 18, 16, 17, is a covering for the head,

My 21, 13, 1, 19, is a place for play.

My 18, 4, 8, 6, is a boy's nick-name

My 5, 2, is a pronoun,

My 9, 18, 7, 1, 11, means in that place,

My 15, 7, 12, 17, is a word in the superlative degree.

My 10, 20, 3, is something to eat.

My 14, is a consonant.

My whole is what we are commanded to do.

Nappan,

Minnie Blenkhorn.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

COMPOSITION BY CATHERINE NAHO, JR., IV. CLASS.

Miss Smith, Teacher in the Coqualeetza Institute, writes—I am sending you a Composition written and composed entirely by one of the girls, Catherine Naho. Perhaps you would print it and the readers of the PALM BRANCH might find it interesting.

We had a real nice time on the twenty-second of June. There were four waggon and two buggies full of Institute folks. The band boys were in the first one and the little girls in the second one and the bigger girls in the third, and the rest of the boys in the fourth waggon. We drove down as far as the Methodist Church, then we got off there and formed in line and marched on down to the Court house, and the school children all formed in line and the school teachers passed around the badges to all the children, then we marched up and down the street and while we marched the silver band played, and the Coqualeetza band played, and then the Indian band, then we marched on to the Fair Ground.

We had three addresses, first, Mr. Vedder; second, Mr. Wells, who spoke about the childhood of our Queen when she was a little girl, and how carefully she was taught and how she knew she was an heir to the throne of Great Britain and Ireland; he also told us about when she wanted to buy a doll but she did not have enough money to get it, so she told the man to keep the doll till she came for it again, so the man did as she said and after a while she came for the doll and then she bought it, and while she was on her way home she saw a little girl standing at a shop, wishing she had those cakes in the shop window, so she went back to the store where she got the doll from and gave it back to the man and went and bought the cake and gave it to the little girl. Queen Victoria is the best Queen that ever reigned in England.

Then Mr. McGillvary spoke, and before we sat down he said that we could do as we please, and after the addresses we went up stairs and had our lunch, and the other people had theirs down stairs. After lunch it rained so we could not go outside. The home boys played a piece or two in the building and so did the Indian band. After a while it stopped raining, we went outside and then we had boys race under twelve; two of the Coqualeetza boys went in and Tommy got first, \$1.50; and Isaac got second, \$1.00; one of the white boys got third; then they had boys tug-o-war under sixteen; it was eleven on each side, the white boys beat the Coqualeetza boys, but it was not a fair pull. So both sides got \$2.75. Next, they had girls race under twelve, two of the Coqualeetza went in and one of them got second, \$1.00. Then they had another

girls race under sixteen, just one of the Coqualeetza girls went in and she got second, \$1.00. Then they had boys race again under sixteen, two of the Coqualeetza boys went in that. After the races we came home so I could not say any more about that.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN CHINA.

All shops are closed, no business done,
The busy, bustling crowd is gone,
One seems to be almost alone,
On New Year's Day in China.

'Tis strangely still,—few folks abroad,
No coolies stag'ring neath their load,
No chair or barrow on the road,
On New Year's Day in China.

Anon we saunter down the street—
Some jugglers doing wondrous feat,
With Punch and Judy there complete,
On New Year's Day in China.

As usual we invite them all,
Our native friends, both great and small,
To visit us at "Jesus Hall,"
On New Year's day in China.

All bright and early comes each guest,
The men clean-shaved and neatly dressed
In hat and gown and Sunday best,
On New Year's Day in China.

The children decked in colors gay,
Their well-combed hair so smoothly lay,
With rose and poppy each a spray,
On New Year's Day in China.

Then bending slowly to the ground,
Each person makes a bow profound,
And hopes good fortune may abound,
On New Year's Day in China.

Soon, seated round the board, each guest
Attacks the food with eager zest,
And with his chopsticks does his best
On New Year's Day in China,

On pleasure now each one is bent;
In cheerfulness and merriment
The quickly passing hours are spent,
On New Year's Day in China.

When day begins to wear away,
And little folks are tired of play,
We gather round to sing and pray,
On New Year's Day in China.

The elders then, with solemn voice,
Invite all those who would rejoice,
For God and heaven to make their choice,
On New Year's Day in China.

And so, not vainly spent our day,
Should some poor souls one feeble ray
Of brightness gain to cheer their way,
On New Year's Day in China.

—China's Millions.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH.

Extracts from a letter from the secretary of "Jubilee" Mission Band, Springhill: "Our Band is only three months old, so we have not much to say. Each member is provided with a card Mite Box and Cradle, for putting all the self-denial money in. We expect to take a good many copies of PALM BRANCH next year as there are over sixty members in our Band."

MIDDLETON.—As many of the older members of the "Happy Workers" Circle were young married women, it has been thought better to form a new auxiliary, whilst the younger ones united with the "Par Bar Westward" Band, which will now be called the "Victoria" Mission Band. Members, thirty-five.

Maroia B. Braine,

124 Tower Road, Halifax. Mission Band Sec'y.

HAMILTON BRANCH.

Miss M. Frances Nichols, Cor.-Sec., First Church, Hamilton, Mission Circle, writes—Although we have never reported to PALM BRANCH before we are steadily doing a little to help "Thy Kingdom come." We have now three life members, and last year reported sixty-four annual members. The Watch Tower, which includes a herald for systematic giving and one for what other Missionary Societies are doing, we find most helpful. The larger part of our money is obtained from mite-boxes and the givings of our members, and last year we sent about \$106.00. At our last meeting we gave to our President, Mrs. H. Gayfer, a life membership certificate in the Auxiliary. Our noble little Band, who are guided in their work by our Circle members, last year sent about \$45.00, and they are now busily preparing for a sale before Christmas. They also use the Watch-Tower.

N. B. AND P. E. I. BRANCH.

Miss Jessie M. Forge, Cor.-Sec. of the Central Methodist Church Mission Band, Moncton, writes.—As you have not heard from our Band before I thought I would write you a short letter and tell you about it. We call it the "Do What We Can Mission Band," and we are endeavoring to do what we can in helping along the great work in bringing those who are in heathen darkness into light. During the last year we were greatly encouraged by the interest taken in the Band, and this year we hope for even better success. The membership this year is 73, of which 33 are new members. The average attendance is 44. Our Band meets every Friday afternoon at half past four. We have 18 boys in our Band with an average attendance of 12. The first Friday in the month we have a lesson, the second, a programme, the third we have candy and a review of what we have learned before, and the last Friday we have sewing. We are working for the Indian Home at Brandon. We are filling a box now which we are going to send them. The officers elected this year are: Mrs. Shorard, President; Miss Maggie Wertman, 1st Vice-President; Master Dick Moore, 2nd Vice-Presi-

dent; Miss Laura Hunter, Rec.-Secretary; Miss Jennie Dernier, Treasurer. I will close now and will write again when I have something new to report.

Mrs. Lawson, Dist. Organizer, writes: I have much pleasure in reporting a new Band organized by Mrs. C. H. Maneton, at Buctouche, Oct. 15th 1897. Mrs. Maneton was elected President, and Miss Theresa Smith, Cor.-Secretary. This Band has made a good start having organized with 17 members, and already increased to 27.

"Torch Bearers," St. Stephen, has reorganized with prospects of success.

"Help a Little," Moncton, reports an average attendance of 25 members for first quarter. Preparations are being made for a Christmas Service. I. T.

N. B. AND P. E. I. HANDS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE.

The Band having the largest combined percentage of increase of subscribers to PALM BRANCH and membership of Band, this year, shall be entitled to the Banner!

For instance—suppose the number of members in your Band last October was 25 and this year you obtain 15 additional members, making 40; your percentage of increase in Band membership would be 60—

If your subscriptions to PALM BRANCH at the same date were 40 and you obtain 20 additional subscribers, your percentage of increased subscriptions to PALM BRANCH would be 50, and your combined percentage of membership and subscriptions would be 110.

Any further explanation will be given, if necessary, and any questions will be cheerfully answered. Ed.

QUESTION DRAWER.

Q. Would you kindly tell me what is the duty of the Branch Band Cor.-Sec., in regard to PALM BRANCH.

A. Certainly, we are glad to do so. In the first place please try, by every means in your power, to increase the circulation of the paper in your branch, privately and in your meetings. Recommend it as far as you conscientiously can. As you obtain reports from the various Bands, from time to time, please condense for us, by culling the most interesting items, such as number of members, work done, amount raised, if you choose, increased interest, and so on.—In this way we could hear from each Branch every month, and perhaps from every Band in the course of the year.

Q. Please explain why we did not receive our papers in-time for our Band Meeting?

A. It was because you sent the subscription order and money to Toronto instead of to St. John. You will find the address at head of Ed. page.

Q. Will fifty cents pay for five subscribers to PALM BRANCH?

A. No, they will not. Any number less than ten must be fifteen cents each. We make it an advantage to get clubs of ten and we can afford to do so only by putting them in one wrapper.

Questions on any subject connected with the work invited.