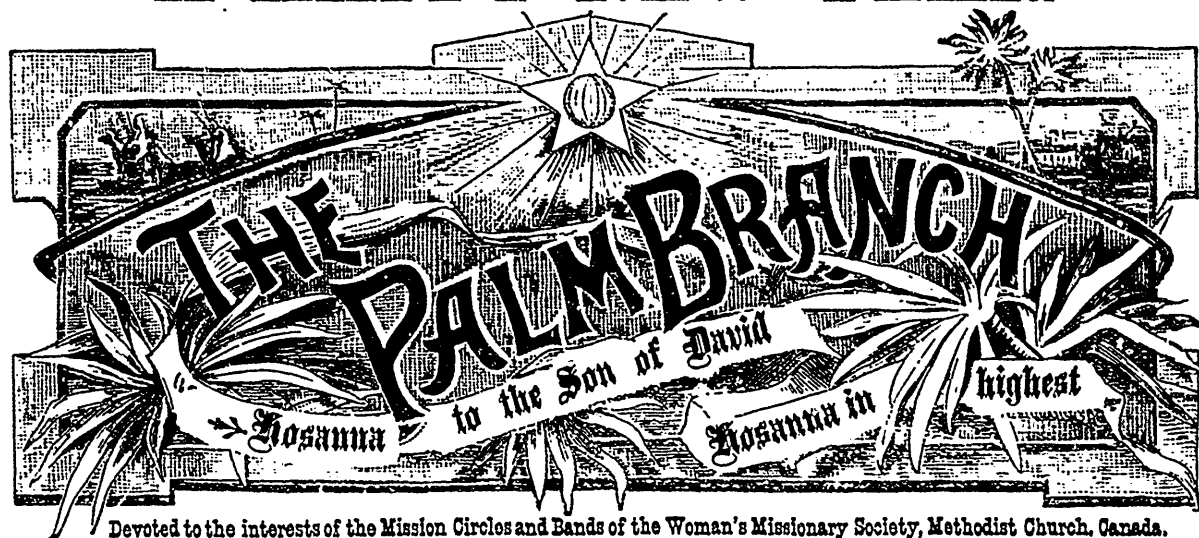


# A HAPPY NEW YEAR.



WE beg leave to introduce to our readers our two good trained nurses of Port Simpson Hospital, B. C., Miss Spence and Miss Lawrence. Also Dr Bolton's little daughter, Miss Belle, who looks very much like a small missionary herself and whose acquaintance we are pleased to make. Dr. Bolton went out from Ontario, in 1889, to British Columbia, "moved by love to the Master" to minister to the needs of the sick and suffering Indians of the Pacific Coast. And he has done grand work there, helping to save their souls as well. Our Woman's Missionary Society sent out a trained nurse in May, 1892—that nurse was Miss Spence—the lady facing you on the left.

The hospital was built in the summer of that year, and Dr. and Mrs. Bolton and Miss Spence moved in. Soon after her arrival Miss Spence wrote home: "Where the Gospel has not penetrated it is deplorable. Many sick in one room, and oh, the degradation! They will rattle an immense rattle box to scare away evil spirits. There is a little boy in the hospital now, over whom the box has been rattled all winter—we hope he will get well now for the sake of our work. I hope the members of the W. M. S. will pray for Dr. Bolton's work. I do not think there is a people on the face of the earth who need the united efforts of God's people more than the poor Indians."

Miss Lawrence went there in 1894. Last year Miss Spence came home on furlough after years of skilled, faithful service. While in Ontario she attended medical lectures, at her own request, for the purpose of gaining more knowledge

of the work. She went back to Port Simpson only to find poor Miss Lawrence ill of typhoid fever—Miss Stevenson the other nurse, after two and a half years of good service had married a missionary and gone up the Skeena River to new work. So poor Miss Spence is very much alone and feels the need of our prayers. Miss Lawrence, by the Doctor's advice, has now gone to Victoria for a few weeks rest. She, too, is a faithful, noble worker. No one knows the blessing this Hospital is to the Indians, and, indeed, to the white people too. Patients come from far and near to be treated, and some die there in the triumph of faith. Dr. Bolton greatly appreciates the work of our W. M. S. nurses. He says too: "It is hard to imagine a field that offers greater scope for humble, Christ-like work than that occupied by the nurses of the Port Simpson Hospital." Another is much needed immediately. Will not some one of our trained and consecrated young nurses enter the open door of service for God in our own Dominion?



The New Year's bells, the New Year's bells,  
What shall their message be?  
What is the wish you'll send afar  
Across the land and sea?

I'll ask the bells to ring some joy To Indian hearts so sad  
I'll send to every girl and boy Good news to make them glad.  
Then ring and swing, O New Year bells, From tower and  
from steeple,  
Ring in a better, brighter day To all earth's weary people.  
*Adapted from C. M. F.*

## MISSION BAND WORK.

In looking over Palm Branch, I notice that you ask for opinions on the method of choosing one field for special study during the year. I, for one, do most heartily approve of studying one until the children are so familiar with it, especially with the names of the mission stations and missionaries, that they cannot think of them apart from their proper place.

I have found that when we talk of Japan one month, China the next, and Canada the next, that the result is rather a confused idea of them all.

After a few months study of Japan we recognize a Japanese name and will never again think it like any other foreign name. In the same way if we live among the Indians long enough we must recognize Indian names, and in China, Chinese names.

It may take a long time to go over the fields in this way, but what children have once learned will not be forgotten. I hope you will get many opinions on this matter and let Palm Branch readers have the benefit of them.

Fredericton.

E. E. C.

## A CHRISTMAS SONG.

Over the hills of Bethlehem  
A white star hung one night;  
The low, gray walls of the little town  
All lay in a silver light.

Over the hills of Bethlehem  
Three wise men came from afar;  
"Where is the baby King," they said,  
"Who leadeth us by his star?"

Over the walls of Bethlehem  
The great, white star hung low;  
And they found the King on a manger throne.  
And the kine in a kneeling row.

Around the Baby of Bethlehem  
The heavens once touched the earth,  
And choirs of angels came thronging down  
To carol the Saviour's birth.

Oh, where is the cradle of Bethlehem?  
And where is the baby King?  
Thy heart, dear child, is the cradle throne,  
And around it the angels sing.

And the King the stars are under his feet,  
All worlds are within his hand,  
And when thou art grown in the grace of Him,  
Thy heart--it shall understand

- MARY A. LATHBURY in C. M. F.

## Suggested Programme for Mission Bands.—February.

Subject for prayer: "The Indians of our Dominion.  
"The stranger within our gates."

I. Hymn.

II. Prayer. "Thou hast made us for Thyself, and the heart never resteth till it findeth rest in Thee."

III. Scripture lesson.

IV. Regular business.

V. Hymn

VI. Map exercise, pointing out mission stations and naming missionaries.

VII. A short paper on the work in our Indian Homes."

VIII. Recitation.

IX. Solo.

X. Reading, "Christmas at Coqualeetza."<sup>(1)</sup>

XI. "Manners and Customs of Indians of Simpson District, B. C."<sup>(2)</sup>

XII. Scrap book. (Each member will bring an item on the Indian Work.)

XIII. Doxology and Benediction.

1. Annual Report, pages xxviii-xxix, lxxii-lxxvii, or Field Study.

2. "Outlook"—March, 1898.

3. "Our Work," No. 5.

## A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION,

OR HOW A PRAYER WAS ANSWERED.

MISS ELLIS looked worried and troubled. She hesitated some minutes before speaking, but finally, with a sigh, she said:—"My child I cannot begin to tell you how grieved I am to let you go, but after this month there will be no provision for you, and in justice to the rest, I cannot keep you any longer."

The young girl standing at the desk was looking at her with eyes so full of mute appeal and longing that she found it hard to go on. Continuing to gaze at her teacher a moment in silence, the girl stooped and laid her lips softly on the fair hand near her

"The Gracious Madam has been so kind to me. May God's love be around her."

Miss Ellis quite broke down. "Oh, Fairy Blossom! I know how much you wish to stay another year and fit yourself for a teacher that you may go back to your village and tell the blessed tidings to your own people. Oh, pray every day, Fairy, that God will send us help!"

"Every hour of the day, dear teacher, will I bow myself before him." Then the pretty, dark-eyed girl went patiently away.

\* \* \* \* \*

Away off in America, three bright girls between fifteen and seventeen, about Fairy's Blossom's age, were going along to school.

"Oh, girls!" cried Grace, "there is Eva waiting for us."

Little Eva was a great pet of theirs, and, nearly every morning, waited on the bridge and walked back to her home with them.

This morning she had her red cart and was giving her largest doll and tiger kitten a ride.

The doll *looked* delighted, but the kitten found it hard work to keep still so long

"Good morning, sweetheart. How is your family?" inquired Nellie.

"Quite comfortable," answered Eva. "Only I'm so afraid Snip will have the earache. I just can't make him keep it covered up." And she anxiously tucked Snip's ear, that was sticking straight up, under the red handkerchief, where it stayed about a minute.

Bessie helped her to draw the cart and Nellie undertook to keep Snip's ear under shelter until Eva reached home. As the girls left her she said: "Tomorrow is New Year's, so I don't suppose you will come."

"Oh, yes; we are going down to the church the first thing in the morning to see about the tables. Good-by."

(Continued on Page 7.)

"A singer sang a song of cheer,  
And the great world listened and smiled  
For he sang of the love of a Father dear,  
And the trust of a little child;  
And souls that before had forgotten to pray  
Looked up and went singing along the way."

[See Study for January on next page.]

### FIELD STUDY FOR FEBRUARY.

**Subject: Indians of Our Dominion.**

*"The Stranger within our gates."*

THE reports for the Indian work this year have been most encouraging, notwithstanding a great deal of sickness in the Homes. Measles, whooping cough and other sickness which comes to the children of our land and from which they usually recover, because of more healthy conditions, good nursing and diet, are generally fatal to the poor little Indians in their natural state. Even in the Homes and Hospitals the greatest care and attention are necessary to save them, as worse diseases often follow.

#### CROSBY GIRLS' HOME, PORT SIMPSON, B. C.

One little girl, Emma Gosnell, eight years old, died in her own home, having been nursed two months in the Home. Helen Nelson, six years, was taken home by her parents and could only live a few days. Helen had been nursed in the Home for three months. All the other children recovered. The good teaching they get is shown in the improved lives and conduct and greater earnestness of these girls. Five of them are taking lessons on their little new organ. In November, at their annual school examination, an exhibition of their sewing, knitting, darning and fancy work was made and received great praise from both white people and Indians. A skilled dressmaker, Miss Elliot, of Toronto, teaches them how to sew. There have been 40 pupils this year.

#### DR. BOLTON'S HOSPITAL.

Miss Spence has just gone back from Ontario, taking with her everything that a nurse would need in the absence of a doctor. She has had a hearty welcome back. The good nurses have never failed in their duty to the sick, at the risk of their own lives. Not only in the Hospital but in the villages and at Port Essington they have gone about like their Divine Master doing good.

#### COQUALEETZA INDIAN INSTITUTE, CHILLIWHACK.

This is a very prosperous Home-school for girls and boys to which our society gives a grant. Nearly 100 scholars live in the Institute, and they are growing in every way—in their studies and in various industries. The girls have earned over \$120 this year by dressmaking. There is to be a new building where they can accommodate 130. At the Chilliwack and Provincial Exhibitions they had good exhibits. The boys—vegetables, roots and grain from the

farm, neatly made shoes from the shoe-shop; the girls—bread, butter, biscuit, cake, etc., from the kitchen, dress-making, knitting, etc; from the laundry, soap and starch; from the school-room, writing and drawing; also from the kindergarten, weaving, sewing, folding and piece work. Coqualeetza Institute was awarded first prize for best exhibit of the Industrial Schools of the Province. There is a musical band that pays for its own instruments by playing at garden parties and entertainments. There is also a Mission Band with 16 members. Also a League. There is a growing Sunday School, and Bible lesson every day. This is a home of happy, contented girls and boys because they are so busy and useful. They too have had a hard time with the measles, but have all recovered. Two little girls died in the fall, one of consumption.

#### KIT-A-MAAT.

Poor Mrs. Raley and Miss Long also report a hard time with measles in the Home. "Not a girl fit to work." They need a new building and our Society has made them a generous grant this year. "Mr. Raley has unbounded faith in the work among the children. The older ones are often very discouraging." "In the Home the training of the hands no less than the head is part of the education and fits them for a decent after life. And more important is the training of the heart. The children of chiefs have been early taught that work is degrading; we try to make them believe that there is no degradation in anything but sin and that the salvation of Jesus Christ will save from unhappiness and misery." This Home has 30 children.

#### "The Stranger Within Our Gates."

"I was a stranger and ye took me in: naked and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me: I was in prison and ye came unto me."  
"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

#### QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

What are the reports from the Indian Homes?  
Why does sickness affect Indian more than white children?  
What of two little girls in the Crosby Girls' Home?  
How does their good teaching show—in what way?  
How do they employ their time?  
How did they pass at examination?  
How many pupils?  
What of Miss Spence in Dr. Bolton's Hospital?  
What do the faithful nurses do?  
What can you tell of the Coqualeetza Indian Home?  
How many pupils, and what do they all do?  
What did they exhibit at the exhibitions, and what did they gain?  
What Bards have they? What else?  
Why are these Indian girls and boys happy and contented?  
What is the report from the Home in Kit-a-maat?  
What are we helping them to do?  
What does Mr. Raley think about the children?  
What do they try to make them think about work? How many children in this Home?

# PALM ✻ BRANCH.

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MISS S. E. SMITH,  
282 Princess Street,  
St. John, N. B.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY, 1899

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our readers.

Will not one Band Corresponding Secretaries, and indeed all the members of our Society, take an interest in our Mission Band Paper this year and canvass for it as they have opportunity?

Will they not also bear in mind that nothing would so cheer the heart of an Editor as a pile of contributions laid up for use in the near future?

We congratulate our sister society in the United States upon entering on its 30th anniversary. The little seed planted that rainy March afternoon in Tremont St. Church, Boston, nearly thirty years ago, has borne precious fruit. The Society now numbers 151,865 members, supporting 175 missionaries. The receipts amount this year to \$328,488, an increase of \$14,000 over last year. The total receipts for 29 years have been \$4,668,859 87, and results not to be tabulated.

A kind friend in Hamilton has sent us the January Field Study and for want of space we have been obliged to put it on Editorial page. She will forgive us when we tell her that we are delighted to have so good an Editorial.

In our October number, in a short sketch of Miss Cartmell's pioneer work in Japan. this statement occurs: "After earnest entreaty she consented to teach a class of young men English, twice a week, on condition that they attend her Bible Class on Sunday. The result was that they were all converted before the end of the year." Miss Cartmell says: "I wish that were true. It is true that God sent his Spirit upon that English class and I do not believe one young man failed to hear His voice. But some made promises and ran well for a time, while others counted the cost and turned back. Will you tell your readers that I still mourn over a goodly number who love this present world too well to cast in their lot with the people of God! Plead for special prayer that these dear young men may be brought

to Christ. Some time ago I was mentioning some of them by name to a Japanese minister who I hope will look after them when he returns. May he not forget. May he find favour and be used of God in leading them to Himself. Will they not pray that the power of the Holy Spirit may rest upon the young Japanese pastor and leading Christians who look back to that early English Class, as the time and place when they were drawn to Christ"

## FIELD STUDY FOR JANUARY.

"That increased spiritual power may come to the Church at home and abroad, and that secret believers may be taught of the Spirit."

Closing behind us the door of the old year and standing upon the threshold of a new one, this subject comes to us with reverent thoughts and longing hearts and we earnestly ask the question: How are we to obtain this increased power? The answer comes to us—1st, By giving ourselves to God and letting Him take us, not only our possessions but our whole selves, by doing what He would like us to do and not what we want to do. 2nd, By finding out from God's Word just what He requires of us and what He will do for us, by believing His every word, and by a continual asking for this blessing. 3rd, By using the power which we already have, by improving our opportunities for doing good, no matter how small, remembering that there is a place which only we can fill, kind words which only we can say, and kind deeds which only we can do.

Again the question comes, How shall this power influence us at home and thus help the work abroad? 1st, By giving us new thoughts of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by presenting to us more clearly the beauty of His character and example. 2nd, By giving us a more constant victory over self and sin, making us more patient, gentle and unselfish. 3rd, By providing new power for daily service, a larger influence, a greater love for God and our neighbor, and an abiding in Christ. 4th, By removing our doubts and fears and giving us a more childlike trust.

This power spoke through Peter, in his wonderful sermon, on the day when three thousand souls were saved.

A Syrian lady once said: "You cannot understand what it is to be a Christian in my country. You have every help, to us it means persecution and often banishment from home and friends."

Let us not forget to ask for a blessing upon all workers abroad, so rich and full, that the heathen may be more speedily brought to Christ, and that light and help may come to those who must hide the Word in their hearts.

## QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY.

- 1 } How are we to obtain this Spiritual power?
- 2 }
- 3 }
- 4 }
- 5 } How shall the increased power benefit us?
- 6 }
- 7 }
- 8. Give an instance of its working.
- 9. What was said by a Syrian lady?
- 10. What should our prayer be?

Hamilton.

B. G.

## FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

## CHOY.

WHEN about to step on board the "Coptic," at San Francisco, a young man asked me if I would have some care over a little girl on the ship. As we talked together for a moment on the wharf, he told me the following, but not as though it were at all worthy of mention; he was from Philadelphia; had found little Choy a slave girl in that city's China-town; had sent her owner to jail; had taken her into his own family and sent her to school for two years, and now had himself brought her across the continent and placed her in charge of one of the ship's officers, to be met by a missionary lady in one of China's ports.

When out on the ocean, I said to myself: Only one to whom Christ had imparted His own spirit would do that. There are men on board, men of position, who would treat the whole matter as foolishly sentimental, and would say that a shipload of creatures, as unattractive as she, would not be worth one-half the trouble, especially when the coming years may show that, so far as the poor girl was concerned, all the sacrifice and love had been thrown away. Christ alone, of the world's teachers, has placed such value upon the lowliest. "How much then is a *man* of more value than a sheep?" Hence, one of the differences between the Far East and the West. Such compassion is not only Christ-like, it is *Christ*, and faintly reveals to us what His great heart has done and would yet do for us all.

"Would I suffer for him that I love!  
So would'st Thou—so wilt Thou!  
\* \* \* \* A hand like this hand  
Shall throw open the gates of new life to thee!  
See the Christ stand."

Aoyama, Tokyo, Nov. 3, 1898.

B. C.

14 Toin Zaka,  
AZABU, TOKIO, JAPAN.

Everything is going on in the work as usual, but there is a little undercurrent of excitement over the prospect of a new lot for our school. Girls and teachers—foreigners and Japanese, are delighted, and deeply thankful. Our King's Daughters, at their meeting last evening, passed the following resolution: "That we work harder than ever this year and give all our earnings, after deducting our tenth for China and paying the expenses of our Poor School, towards the new buildings to be erected." As they are usually on the watch for an opportunity to earn or save money for their King's Daughters' fund, we are wondering how much additional they will be able to do. It is certain they will do something, for very many of them are very much in earnest.

Sincerely yours,

I. S. BLACKMORE.

## THANKSGIVING DAY.

On the 24th of November was Thanksgiving Day. The day that we bless God for all the kindness he procure to us, during the year that came to finish.

Thursday morning the bell rang to tell us, to keep ready, for we went to Douglas Church. We had a very fine speak on the goodness of God and the things that we owe him, for his grace that he gives us.

After we came back to school we have had one of the most delicious meal as we can have. For my part I was very pleased, because we have had very much fun at our table. Afternoon the Vielard has given the permission to go to see our parents in the city. I went at my brothers' home, where I saw my old directree of Point aux Trembles school, she who took the largest part to my conversion. We came in at half past four and we are going to the chapel to the concert which made us glad. I will mention only two pieces, the elephant which could dance, and a song which made laugh every one in the chapel. At five o'clock we were going take supper, and grace to the ladies of Douglas church, we have had good cakes to eat. I think it is just to thank them for the privilege they procured to us and also for their troubles. As 't is my first English composition, I would not made you tired, and I think I will be better stop.

[First English composition written by one of the boys at French Institute] We think it does him great credit.

## "GO WORK TO-DAY IN MY VINEYARD."

"She lived to serve,"  
These simple words  
Gleamed from the marble stone,  
Above the quiet, peaceful grave  
Of one I'd known.

I paused to ask  
Wherein her life  
Secluded, and so full of pain  
Deserved this tribute sweet and rare,  
Nor asked in vain.

Of childlike faith,  
Of simple trust,  
In Him who doeth all things well,  
Of willing service for the Lord  
Her life could tell.

A patient life  
Of quiet joy;  
All self by suffering subdued,  
And vision cleared by constant pain  
To see Infinite Good.

And being dead  
She speaketh yet;  
Oh! if the praise of man is sweet  
What joy to hear the Lord's well done  
When we shall meet!

But shall we wait,  
While years go by,  
For sorrow's stamp upon the heart  
E'er we to Him our service yield  
And do our part?

Nay, count it joy  
That we today  
May something do for this our King,  
Who loveth us and will not scorn  
What thus we bring.

ST. STEPHEN.

E. VEAZEY.



Address—Cousin Joy, 282 Princess Street, St. John, N. B.

Dear Cousins, God is giving us another New Year—How shall we thank him.

“A New Year to work in  
To love and to give in;  
A New Year to grow and  
To learn how to live in.”

Shall we not best thank Him by working, loving, giving growing and learning how to live. Here is

*Mamie's Good Resolution.*

“This New Year I mean to be better,  
To bind myself down with a fetter,  
I'll write out a plan  
As strong as I can,  
Because I am such a forgetter.

Resolved—But I'm sleepy this minute.  
There's so much, when once you begin it:  
Resolved, with my might  
I'll try to do right!

That's enough! for the whole thing is in it.”

Dear Cousin Joy:—I now take the pleasure of writing to you for the first time I got the answer to the second puzzle in November, it is:

“Praise ye the Lord,” I have made up a puzzle for the January number and if you think it fit I would like to have you publish it. I take the PALM BRANCH and like it very much. I do not belong to any Mission Band, but there is one about 2 miles from here. I wish all of our cousins a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I must close now, hoping that this won't take up too much room.

I remain your ever affectionate cousin,

Baie Vert.

ETHEL FAWCETT.

Too bad that cousin Ethel is so far away from that Mission Band.

Dear Cousin Joy:—I am a member of the Mission Band, and I take the PALM BRANCH and am very much pleased with it. We hold our Band every month on the third Saturday. Our average attendance is about ten. Two meetings we had only 5 for an audience. I expect to go to St. John in the spring. I got a member to join but he went away again. I have got another to join next time.

From your loving cousin,

Bloomfield, Car. Co., N. B. WENDELL Y. STOKOE.

Dear Cousin Joy:—I am a little girl of ten years old, I take the PALM BRANCH, I like the paper very much. We have a membership of thirty-three, and we meet every fort-

night, on Saturday afternoon, at 2 p. m. We have good times talking about our work. We have concerts and entertainments to help our work along. I wish all the Palm Branches and Mission Bands success.

Your loving cousin,

Rose Bay.

ANNIE RISSER.

Dear Cousin Joy:—Although we had a rainy afternoon there were 12 members present at our Band. We had 4 new members. Our President (Mrs. Chamberlain) is offering a medal to the one who gets the most members. Of course I am trying for it too. I have one sister, younger than I, who belongs—she is helping me. One of our Band thinks she has the answers to puzzles. The first is “The Complete Angler.” 2nd, “Praise ye the Lord.” 3rd “Medical Missions and Deaconess Work.”

Your loving cousin,

Delta, Ont.

LORNE PIERCE.

Dear Cousin Joy:—You do look so cosy in your little corner, surrounded by such merry faces, it seem; hard to break in upon you, I know you are interested in Mission Band Work. I have written to you before. I belong to the Blackmore Mission Band of Ritcey's Cove; we have thirty-three members and meet once a fortnight, summer and winter. I think I have found the answers to the November puzzles: 1st The Complete Angler; 2nd Praise ye the Lord. I have a puzzle of my own and if correct please publish it in the paper.

Your loving cousin,

Ritcey's Cove, N. S.

SUSAN CREASER.

Dear Cousin Joy:—It is a long time since I wrote to you, so I thought I would write again. I still take the PALM BRANCH and am very much interested in reading it, but I always turn to the Cosy Corner first. I am glad I do not live in Africa like poor little Gava. I am nearly eleven years old now and have two little brothers and one sister. We all belong to Mission Band or Little Light Bearers. I have just made up a puzzle and if you think it fit you may print it.

Your loving cousin,

Badeque

ANNIE LORD.

#### PUZZLES FOR JANUARY.

I am composed of 18 letters.

My 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 is a verb.

My 2, 14, 12, is a kind of wood.

My 9, 10, 1, 16, is the name of an animal.

My 17, 9, 11, is the whole.

My 5, 13, 6, 3, means hasty.

My 6, 4, 8, is a body of water.

My 10, 15, is an interjection

My 18, is one of the letters in the Alphabet.

My whole is name of a man mentioned in the Bible.

Ritcey's Cove, N. S.

IVAN SPINDLER

#### CHARADE.

My first is a word meaning virtuous, valuable.

My second is something determined on—what we mean to do.

My third is a proposition.

My fourth is an article.

My fifth means fresh—untried.

My sixth is from January to January.

My whole is what each one of us ought to make right away.

## LETTER FROM REV. MR. KIRBY.

Dear children of the Palm Branch :

A Happy New Year to you all. Now don't forget on the first of January to write 1899. How often we forget to do that, and make a blot on the page of the new year. A New Year! How clean and pure it comes to us! Not a blot or blunder is to be seen on its clean life. We look over the year gone and almost feel like weeping to think it came to us so clean and pure and now leaves us all spoiled by our wicked thoughts, and words, and acts.

I think the best thing to do is to go to Jesus at the very beginning of the year and ask Him to help us, and I know He will, for He has said : "Those that seek me early shall find me." Early in life, and early in the New Year. Let us try it, and depend upon it, if *He* becomes our guide and helper, we shall manage to get through 1899 with very much more happiness and very much less sin.

Old Janus, from which the month of January is named, has two faces, one looking back and the other looking ahead. This is all right for the month that opens a new year, and should teach us to look back over the past to repent of the wrong, and to find out its mistakes that we may remedy them, and its good deeds that we may repeat and improve them.

But, dear me, its awful for a girl or boy to be two-faced! We don't want to be double-faced any more than we want to be double-minded—"A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways," says the Bible. Let us rather, be decided, settled, and determined in the right way. I do like those words which tell us that some early Christians were "taken knowledge of that they had been with Jesus, and learned of Him." Oh my! think of having Jesus for a teacher! "Learn of me," He says, "for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Rest! Why that's just what I want. Rest of conscience, rest of intellect. Rest of heart! Rest of hope! And then at last "Sweet Rest in Heaven."

I read a letter from the Superintendent of the Mission Bands yesterday, and I think she is doing perfectly right to ask you to plan for next year, and try and reach your ideal.

It will help you to plan wisely if you ask yourselves these questions, viz :

Would I like to be in the position of the girls and boys who never heard of Jesus?

If the knowledge of Jesus is so much to me, and has done so much for me and this country, would it not be a good thing to send this same gospel and help heathen children to our enjoyment?

Then what can I do to help to send this Gospel?

"My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine,  
For Thee all the pleasures of sin I resign."

Will you deny yourself some pleasure for Jesus this year? If every child would deny themselves some of the candy they buy, and give to the Mission Band the money, we

would send over the world hundreds of missionaries and thousands of Bibles.

Find your happiness in doing good, and then you will have A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Yours in His name,

W. J. KIRBY.

(Continued from Page 2.)

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.  
OR HOW A PRAYER WAS ANSWERED.

New Year's morning was very bright and pleasant, but the girls were rather sober as they came down the street. Each one had a generous allowance from well-to-do parents, and their Sabbath-school teacher had spoken to them about giving a certain sum each month for foreign missions and they were discussing the question as they walked along. "I don't see how I can," said Nellie. "My money never holds out until the end of the month now."

"Miss Ellis said that if each of us would pledge ourselves to give five dollars a year it would support a girl at the mission in China where her sister is. But I'm sure I don't know how I can. I do have to buy so much new music," argued Bessie.

"I wish we might," said Grace. "But I have so many things to get this year. Another year we must try to."

"What on earth has Eva in her cart?" said Nellie, as they came in sight of the bridge.

"Happy New Year! Happy New Year!" called the girls and Eva in a breath.

"Why, where is your family Eva, and who is this!" asked Bessie, looking kindly at the pale, pinched little child bundled into the small cart.

"Oh, it is Mrs. Riley's little girl. She's three years old and she can't walk a step 'cause she's got the crickets, or something, and I'm going to take her to ride every nice morning."

"She is more fun than the kitten and doll, you think?" asked Grace.

"No," said Eva gravely, "but I made some good *restolutions* this morning, just like other folks. I told mama I wanted to love Jesus and be a better girl, and she said that when we really loved Jesus we were willing to work for him, and if we were not, we were just make-believe Christians, and when we make good *restolutions* we ought to begin right there to carry them out. She hoped I'd begin to-day to be a real Christian girl, and not a make-believe, and so I've begun," she added, smiling radiantly up into the faces of her three friends.

The girls helped Eva give the little crippled baby an extra long ride, and each one kissed her with more than usual tenderness when they left her at the door.

They walked along silently without looking at each other for a few minutes. Then Nellie said huskily :—

"Girls, I'm going to give my five dollars, and not be a 'make-believe' Christian."

"I will, too," whispered Bessie, putting her arm through her friend's.

"And so will I," added Grace, "and with Jesus's help, I'll never be a 'make-believe' Christian again."

Miss Ellis, in China, wrote a long letter to those girls, but I can only stop to tell you one sentence, this—

"How strange and wonderful that our Father should allow you three girls, away off in America, to help Him answer Fairy Blossom's prayer."

Mary S. Hitchcock, in C. M. F.

**SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE!**

Because of the new postal regulations we have been obliged to raise the price of single subscriptions to PALM BRANCH from 15 to 20 cents per annum. Club rates unchanged.

**LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.****N. B. and P. E. I. Branch.**

The Do What We Can Mission Band held its annual meeting on Friday, Sept 30th. A large number were present and evinced unusual interest. The officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows: Mrs W. E. Sherard, President; Miss Helen Cole, Recording Secretary; Miss Edith Nugent, Corresponding Secretary; Miss Winnie Evans, Treasurer.

**IN MEMORIAM.**

The "Ruby" Mission Band, of Kenstngton, has been called upon to part with one of its most beloved workers, Miss Millicent Wright, eldest daughter of Mr. E. J. Wright, of New Annan Mills, being the first of our members who has been promoted to higher service. Our dearly loved co-worker joined our Band when it was organized, and was our first Corresponding Secretary, ably filling that office for several years.

Her sweet face is missed among us, being one of those of whom it is said: "To know her was to love her," but we have the assurance that she received gladly the summons to higher service for the Master whom she served.

Our hearts are touched with sympathy for the members of the bereaved family, but we know that our angel sister is but gone a little while before, and that "our loss is her eternal gain."

Miss Annie Kennedy, Maplegrove, Suasex, writes that a new Band has been organized at Millstream, Kings Co: President: Miss Jennie Deinstadt; Corresponding Sec'y: Miss Etta Folkins; and also that the Mount Middleton Band has reorganized with eighteen members; President: Miss Lelia Sharp; Corresponding Secretary: Miss Mabel Chapman. This is indeed good news. We pray for their success, remembering that every Band, and, indeed, every worker helps to hasten the time when all the earth shall know Jesus.

As it is now necessary for our Bands to remit quarterly to the Auxiliary Treasurer, the X. L. Mission Band, of Fredericton, has decided to send its Secretary and Treasurer each quarter to the Auxiliary Meeting to report. Will not other Bands adopt this plan? The Auxiliaries will be glad to see you and will learn more of what you are doing. Some of the Ladies do not know how very helpful the Bands are. *Tell them.*

This Band has a Secretary for Palm Branch who is getting many new subscribers. She does not find it difficult. The paper speaks for itself.

The Mount Allison Circle has begun the year well. It

reports an increase of thirty-one members this first quarter and \$36.25 raised.

Fredericton, N. B.

E. E. COULTHARD,  
Band Sec'y.

**Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Branch.**

St JOHN'S. The "Centenary" Mission Band has held regular meetings all through the year. Four public meetings were held, which were very enjoyable and successful. We have thirty-six members with an average attendance of thirteen. In connection with our band we have a society of thirteen members who are too small to attend the meetings, these are called "Little Light Bearers."

SOMERSET. The "Willing Hand" Band was organized last year with eleven members. It has now thirty-two, all of whom are much interested in the work. As far as possible each one is given something to do to make the meetings interesting. We are giving out mite boxes this year, and hope that they will be a blessing in the homes. We expect to be able to support an Innian girl.

DIGBY. The "Sunshine" Band is "shining for Jesus." At present we have nineteen members, and meet fortnightly. Ten copies of Palm Branch are taken, and all enjoy it very much. We use the material from Palm Branch for one meeting, and the suggested programme for Bands the next.

We gladly welcome two new Bands, the "Grace Methodist" Band of Parrsboro, organized with fifteen members, all of whom are much interested in the meetings; and the "Onward Circle," of Fourchie, C. B., with ten members.

MARCIA B. BRAINE,

124 Tower Road, Halifax.

Band Secretary.

**Toronto Conference Branch.**

The beautiful banner which was given by the Toronto Conference Branch to the Mission Circle or Band having the largest increase in membership during the year was awarded to the "Binders' Band," Barrie.

This year the banner will be given to the Band or Circle having the largest proportionate increase of members

MARION HALES,

Cor. Sec'y for Mission Bands.

**QUESTION BOX.**

Ques.—Did I do right in sending my subscription to Palm Branch to Miss Ogden, Toronto? ALICE.

Ans.—No, you did wrong. All subscriptions for Palm Branch must be sent to Miss S. E. SMITH, 282 Princess St., St. John, N. B. Please remember this.

Ques.—Has a girl going to school any time to attend Mission Band? TEACHER.

Ans.—All the girls of the Mission Band go to school, so we would like to have their answer to this question. We will ask another. Ought the schoolgirl be so pressed or oppressed with lessons and school work that thro' all the days of her youth she will have no time to obey her Lord's command to care for those more needy than herself? Will she not so grow up self absorbed and thoughtless of others? Change of work is good for young people as well as the older ones, and going to Mission Band may be made a pleasure and recreation, not a hardship.

Ques.—What time do you go to press? RON.

Ans.—As early as possible in the preceding month. Contributions for February must be in very early in January, say by the 5th or 6th at latest. Will be glad to hear from you.