



### BY WINTER SEAS.

GRACE ADELE PIERCE.

I stand upon the shore,  
And watch the waves, all hear,  
Lone whit'ning o'er a leaden colored sea ;  
I watch the low clouds drifting,  
I long to see them lifting,  
But in my heart, I know it cannot be.

The piercing winds come blowing ;  
Far out to sea 'tis snowing,  
And soon, I know, the storm must reach the land ;  
But still in patience waiting  
The coming and debating,  
Safe in the cleft of *one firm rock* I stand.

The wild storm beats around me,  
The raging winds surround me,  
The weary heart is chilled almost to doubt ;  
But suddenly uprising  
There comes a thing surprising :  
A warmth of glory floods within, without !

The sombre clouds have lifted  
And where the wild foam drifted  
The glory of the sunset floods the sea :  
And with its promise tender,  
The quick'ning purple splendor  
Fills all the storm with gladness, now, for me.

For I in peace have waited  
Until the storm abated,  
And God has sent his smile across the land :  
While, flashing through the clearness  
Comes the sweet sense of nearness—  
The comfort in the pressure of God's Hand.  
*Woman's Missionary Friend.*

### HAVE YOU DONE ANY MORE ?

IT was just toward evening, in a little cottage down by the rocky shore of Nova Scotia. The door was open, and looking out, you could see the beautiful Atlantic dashing against the neighboring islands. On a bed lay a little sick girl. Mary and her grandmother had lived alone for five years. Be-

fore that they used to be so happy and comfortable ; but one Spring her father went down to the Banks, fishing, and never came back. Two years after, Mary's mother died, and since then she and her grandmother had struggled along, working hard, until little Mary's cough grew worse, and then it was hard to get along at the little cottage. They would have fared badly some days in the cold winter, if it had not been for kind friends. And now, as we look in the cottage door, we see the grandmother sitting by the bed, reading to the little girl.

"Grandma," said Mary, "what a lovely story ; read it to me again, all about the 'Man who died for me,' " and her grandmother picked up the little leaflet, and read again how even the wicked miner found a friend in the Savior. "Oh, how I wish we were not poor," said Mary, "for if only I had money, I would give so much of it to help tell others of Jesus ; but I have none—not enough to pay my Mission Band fee this year. I do wish that Mrs. Stewart would come, and perhaps she could help me."

"Never fear, little one," said her trusting grandmother, "some way will come that it shall be paid, for the Lord has never left us yet."

The next day Mrs. Stewart went down to the cottage to see them. They told her how they had been talking. "Now I will tell you what to do," said Mrs. Stewart. "I will get you a ball of knitting cotton, and perhaps you can crochet some little toilet mats, or do something that I will sell for you, and pay for your Band fee."

The next day she began her work, and she was so happy in thinking that she was going to help a little, that, though her suffering was great, she would put in each little stitch, saying to herself :

"Some work of love begun,  
Something for Thee,"

The weary days dragged on, and as it became colder, Mary began to get weaker, and her work progressed very slowly, but still she worked a little each day, until just about two weeks before she died, the four little mats were done. She waited anxiously for Mrs. Stewart to come back, and was so glad to see her when she came the very next day. The little mats had been sold, and Mrs. Stewart had come to get them and give her the money. How joyfully she gave the money back to Mrs. Stewart. "Had you not better keep what is over your yearly fee? You may need it for something else," said Mrs. Stewart, but they insisted that it should all go to the Mission Band. It meant much for them, for all their money had gone in getting medicine and necessary things for Mary. A few days later the minister's wife went again to the cottage, but found the grandmother all alone, for little Mary had gone away, that morning, from all sorrow and sickness. She had died so happily, without a doubt or fear; and almost her last words were: "Perhaps my Mission Band money will make some little heathen girl die as happy as I do."

The children of the Mission Band followed her to the grave, and although the poorest of the place, loving tribute was paid to her, for no life had gone out that was sweeter or purer in its influence than that of the fisherman's little daughter, Mary Parks.

Ritcey's Cove.

S. H. GRONLAND.

### A PARABLE.

ELAZABETH SHENEY.

RECITATION.

On worn gray stones within the castle hall,  
The swarthy merchant from the Orient  
Undid his wares and let the rich stuffs fall  
In shimmering heaps of rainbow beauty blent.

Strange, splendid broideries of silk and gold,  
Muslins like mist with gleaming tracery,  
Exhaling scent of rose from every fold,—  
Wonders in pearl and carven ivory.

The lady viewed the treasures at her feet,  
With eyes that glowed with woman's fond desire,  
For so rare setting to her beauty sweet;  
Yet shone in each clear orb a holier fire.

"Nay, traveller, nay," she said, I may not buy,  
I have no gold to spare for such as these;  
My heart's own kindred languish, doomed to die,  
In dungeons of our good King's enemies.

"Gold will release the captives. All I have  
I send to ransom those across the sea;

If I may break their chains, if I may save,  
O, what were all thy glittering gold to me?"

And so in joy I spread my meagre board,  
And wear nor costly garb nor jewel bright,  
For thus each day adds to the precious hoard  
The price of life and liberty and light.

W. M. FRIEND.

*From the Missionary Outlook.*

A member of a Mission Circle, upon whom pressed heavily the claims of mission work was led to give to the work a handsome ring she was wearing; others followed her example, until jewelry to the amount of \$350 was contributed. The Church was so moved by hearing of the self-sacrifices of her young people that a day was set apart for consecration and self-examination. Would not some of us rather have fewer jewels to sparkle and glisten now, so that later we may shine "as the stars" for ever?

### QUESTION DRAWER.

A correspondent asks if we think it wise to try and sustain a Mission Circle in a city church where there is a successful League?

*Ans.*—From our experience we would answer, by all means sustain your Circle. The League has so many departments of work that it cannot give as much time to the study of missionary literature as its importance demands; then there are schemes for raising money, legitimate in themselves, but out of the line of league work, which, to the Circle, composed largely of young ladies, mean pleasant reunions and enthusiastic effort. One Circle we note of has, for the second time, adopted the talent system, beginning with five cents as a basis. The returns will probably be as large as on previous effort, though the membership is much smaller. So much depends on genuine enthusiasm in the workers. We would also add that much depends on the Auxiliary of the Church. If the ladies show their interest in the Circle by seconding their effort to raise money, and by their presence at meetings of a literary character, results will accrue worthy of the cause.

Is it appropriate for the Circles to attempt to lead the prayer meetings occasionally?

*Ans.*—If your pastor is willing to allow an evening, say once or twice a year, we should think it a fine opportunity to give missionary information to the older members of the congregation, as they usually form the bulk of the audiences. See that the programme is reverent in tone, remembering that it is a prayer service and not an entertainment, but throw into it the brightness and enthusiasm which will convince your hearers that it is a pleasant task, and not a burdensome duty which you have undertaken.

A. G. McM.

## FIELD STUDY FOR MARCH.

## JAPAN.

**M**OST of our readers are now quite familiar with the names of our four stations in Japan, Tokyo, Shidzuoka, Kofu and Kanazawa. Still, let us refresh our memories by looking them up once more on the map. If you have not a large map, in last year's report you will find a small one having our stations marked in red.

We have twelve missionaries now in Japan and six of these are on their second term of service. Four or five give most of their time to evangelistic work. Our new worker is Miss Bessie Alcorn. She is the daughter of a Methodist minister in Nova Scotia and has spent a number of years, both as scholar and teacher, at Sackville, N. B.

Another Charity School has been added to our work in Tokyo. This work among the poor will soon be further extended by the opening of a dispensary. In reference to this Miss Blackmore says:—

"Life with so many hundreds in this district is, at its best, but a long, desperate struggle with starvation; and sickness to them means not only pain without the means to secure medical attendance; but inability to work, even for one day, means inability to buy the poor and scanty portion of food which from day to day barely makes life and work possible."

In Kanazawa this class is reached through the Industrial Schools. By enabling the children and young girls to earn their living during the day, we have the privilege of teaching them in the evening and on Sunday. Some of these are later taken into our boarding schools as supported girls. Though for the most part these are girls of somewhat higher rank—most of them belonging to the old soldier and student class who suffered much in the revolution. These are usually very intelligent people and will certainly educate their sons, and will often do something towards the education of their daughters also. After inquiring into their circumstances to see that they really need the help the teacher makes an agreement with the parents. This binds the pupil to remain at school till the course is completed (six to eight years) and then give two years work to the Society. Not one of these supported girls has left the school other than an earnest Christian. From these ranks have come the Bible-women, the teachers, the matrons, translators, workers in every line; so that with no larger foreign staff a much wider work is possible.

For three or four years past the teachers of the Shidzuoka school have given a little party to the old ladies in the church. At the suggestion of the Bible-woman they also invited two or three who did not attend our services. One of these was a pious Buddhist without a spear of hair on her head, having had it shaved as a religious rite. The room was prepared to receive them by arranging all the rugs available in the centre of the room, as it would have been very tiring for them to sit on chairs. They were very much interested in looking at the curious things in *Sen seis*,\*—the bed especially. They thought it so odd for people to sleep on a shelf. Some enjoyed the foreign meal, but one old lady smelled at the bread and butter but could

\*Pronounced 'sen-sé,' teacher.

not seem to induce herself to taste *anything*. *What was not eaten* was carefully wrapped up in white paper, according to Japanese etiquette, and carried home as a curiosity. After tea the Bible-woman came in and talked to them. In a pleasing, winning way, so common among these people, she explained to them why *Sensei* had given them this *gochiso* (feast), that it was the love of Christ constrained them. Now they had had a *gochiso* for their bodies, but if they came to the church Sunday morning they would have a *gochiso* for their souls! Sunday morning the old Buddhist was there early. Before the service she came up to where the teachers were sitting, bowed very low and thanked them for their kindness. Japanese etiquette requires this of those who have been entertained; however, she stayed to the service and afterward came quite regularly. Some time afterwards she applied for baptism. But she could not think herself a sinner. There was no need for her to repent, though she thought it would be a good thing if her *daughter-in-law* would do so! After further study with the Bible-woman she was led to see her need of pardon and she is now a devoted member of our church.

A very encouraging feature in the Azabu school is the Alumnae meeting, spring and fall. The girls delight to return to the school home. These gatherings grow in interest. The last year or so, at the girls' suggestion, the exercises have been almost altogether religious, as they felt they needed that most, many in their own homes not being able to attend any service. The girls have been wonderfully faithful, some of them winning over their own families to Christ. Our brightest hopes centre around those who have made Christian marriages. Here, in the united Christian household, is the promise of the nation's future. R. E. D.

## QUESTIONS FOR MARCH.

- What are the names of our four Mission stations in Japan?
- How many Missionaries have we now in Japan and what is said of them?
- Who is our new worker there and what can you tell of her?
- What addition has been made to the work in Tokyo, and how will it soon be still further extended?
- What does Miss Blackmore say in reference to the need of a dispensary for the poor?
- Through what is this class reached in Kanazawa and will you explain how?
- Of what rank are most of the girls taken into the boarding schools as "supported girls"?
- Are the parents in this rank intelligent, and if so, how will they show it?
- What agreement is made by the parents with the teachers?
- What remarkable fact is stated of these supported girls?
- What workers have come from the ranks, and what is the result?
- What have the teachers of Shidzuoka school done for two or three years?
- Who were among the invited at the Bible woman's suggestion?
- Who was one of them?
- Will you tell all you know about the party?
- How did the Bible woman talk to them after tea, and what did she say?
- On Sunday morning, what did the old Buddhist lady do?
- Will you tell the story of her conversion?
- What is an encouraging feature in the Azabu school? Do the girls love their school life?
- What suggestion of theirs has been carried out the last year or so, and why did they make it?
- What good things are said of the girls educated in these schools.
- Around what do our brightest hopes centre?

## ✻ PALM BRANCH ✻

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

MARCH, 1897.

We are looking forward with intense interest to Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop's book on Korea. We consider Mrs. Bishop one of the greatest Missionaries of the age!

"KOREA.—It is stated that hundreds throughout Korea are seeking Christ. Twelve years only have passed since Korea was opened to missionary work, yet now parents and children may be seen kneeling together at family worship, asking blessings upon their meals, and attending divine service together, even though a paper wall separates man and wife. Christianity is breaking down customs that reform measures could not touch, such as women being seen by men, and those of the better classes going out in the daytime. Ancestral tablets and objects of superstition are being destroyed, children are taught to pray to God instead of worshipping ancestors, while many quietly and bravely bear ridicule and abuse for Christ's sake.

We have had a great trial this month—no greater trial ever came to the heart of an Editor!

We were announced, without our knowledge, in the Letter Leaflet, as being able to supply the Feb. PALM BRANCH of 1896, at two cents a copy; when, in reality, we had only a half dozen copies on hand, the rest having been distributed among the Branches. If we had only known in time we could have had the article—"Methodist Orphanage in Newfoundland"—reprinted in Feb., 1897, which would have made it all right. As it was we were deluged with requests, some of which we could not meet in any way, after exhausting all our resources. If any of our friends, who sent stamps, feel aggrieved, we shall be most happy to cancel our indebtedness to them in any way they may point out.

We have just received, but too late for this month we regret to say, an interesting letter from Miss Cunningham, on the new school in Shidzuoka. We appreciate Miss Cunningham's kindness in taking for us these precious moments of her busy life.

"Evelyn's Bank," an interesting story from Ontario, will appear next month.

We again thank our Nova Scotia friends for their invaluable help this month. Nova Scotia Branch is to be congratulated on sending out a young lady so well fitted for medical work among the Chinese, as Miss Maud Killam. She and Miss Brooks, a teacher of Hastings, Ontario, sailed for China, via San Francisco, on the 13th February. We know that they will be followed by the prayers and best wishes of hosts of friends. We would ask also prayers for the mothers of these devoted ones, who give their best and bravest. Are they less missionary?

Among our returned missionaries we can speak of Miss Cartmell and Miss Robertson, who are doing good work at home, stirring up the hearts of many, and enlisting the sympathy and interest of our young people. We trust that they will not be wearied, but refreshed and strengthened by their visit to the home land.

Centenary Auxiliary, St. John, has to acknowledge the gift of \$10, in memory of Mrs. Frank White, the charm of whose lovely presence still lingers with us, and whose early death has left a blank in many hearts.

Also, the usual gift of \$20, in memory of Harry Bertram Hatchings, and \$1 in memory of little Willie Tait. By these tokens we know that our beloved dead are still with us, living on in the lives of others, and doing, perhaps more effectively, by their invisible presence, the work they were not permitted to do here.

As we go to press we are pained to notice the removal, by death, of one of our most devoted home workers—Mrs. J. Farrer Stewart, of West Cape, P. E. I. Mrs. Stewart was for some time our efficient Branch Rec. Sec., and later, Auditor. We quote from the P. E. I. *Guardian*, Feb. 16:

Mrs. Stewart was an active member and worker of the Methodist church, being especially zealous in the cause of missions. Her delight was in church, Sunday school and W. C. T. U. work, where she will be sincerely mourned, especially in Prince County, where her modest, womanly counsel was ever sought by her co-workers.

We shall miss her sweet presence and her gentle words in the Branch meetings to come, but we shall think of her as one who, amid the higher ministries of Heaven, still watches with unabated interest the growth and progress of God's work on earth.

"Seldom can the heart be lonely  
 If it seek a loneliness still,  
 Self-forgetting, seeking only  
 Emptier cups of love to fill."

MY THANK OFFERING.

MRS. J. H. KNOWLES.

Lord here is my hand, with its vigor and skill,  
 Or even its weakness, if this be Thy will:  
 Outstretched for humanity, tender and true,  
 Lord, here is my hand, for the good it may do.

Lord, here is my mind, with its power of thought,  
 With its treasures of knowledge the years may have brought:  
 To think and remember and purpose for Thee,  
 Lord, here is my mind, for the use it may be.

Lord, here is my heart, with its God-given store  
 Of faith, hope and charity—would it were more!  
 For grief it may soften, for pain it may share,  
 Lord, here is my heart, for the love it may bear.

So little and poor is the best I can bring,  
 To aid in Thy service, my Saviour and King!  
 But lo! with my gifts as I gratefully stand,  
 Transfigured is all by the touch of Thy hand.

THE MISSIONARY SACK.

SHOULD like to write you tonight a short sketch of some missionary travellers—not delegates to the W. M. S. to or from Brampton—but missionary gifts sent from that same vicinity where beat so many loving missionary hearts.

God's hand had rested heavily (humanly speaking) upon the home of one of earth's favored ones, and from that luxurious and worldly home four beautiful and promising children had been snatched. The broken but rebellious heart of the mother clung to the garments as well as all the other belongings of those loved ones, with the tenacity of a mother's affection. Through God's mercy, in a mysterious way, this mother's heart was brought under the ever-blessed influences of one of the Auxiliaries of our W. M. S., and rebellion yielded to loving submission. After some little time a call was made by this Auxiliary upon its members for ready-made clothing to be sent to some place known only as a needy mission station. It was then that the much-prized and carefully preserved clothes of her dead children seemed like so many voices to cry to the mother's awakened conscience, "Send us! Send us!" But ah! the thought of other forms wearing her darling's apparel, was like a knife severing the last tie. After a struggle, however, the bitterness of which was known only to her God, she sent into the Auxiliary the most useful of the clothes with this written message attached to each article: "God so loved that he gave." Many other contributions were made to the missionary sack, all more or less the fruit of personal sacrifice.

One young member, anxious to show practical sympathy for those in need, waived her intention of purchasing a rink ticket and nobly invested the price thereof in clothing to help fill the sack. Another made last winter's suit serve present demands and sent the sea-

son's new outfit to clothe a more needy case.

Now, let us follow the course of this precious freight after its delivery at the intended mission. It falls into the hands of those whose hearts are wrung with sorrow at the familiar sight of need, but whose means are limited to almost personal requirements. Imagine with what interest and love the welcome charities are distributed. Earnest prayers are offered for Divine guidance that they may indeed prove to be God's messengers, and go forth to do the Master's work.

What rejoicing came to Jonnie James' heart one night when a whole suit of lovely clothing was sent to her! Jennie was the only girl of a large family—a sweet child of twelve years—but unfortunately born of parents who knew or thought very little of the things of God. This child had been asked so often to come to the Sabbath school that her childish curiosity awakened in her desires to attend, and when the last obstacle was removed through decent apparel being provided, she started out and continued as a regular attendant at the school.

One in no way interested in missionary work can scarcely imagine the dark hearts and stolid indifference to be found even amidst the very blaze of gospel light. Such was the extreme condition in Jennie's house; and as her hungry soul feasted on the story of Jesus' love, so new to her, as taught in the Sabbath School, she became a subject of converting grace. After a few months, consumption made rapid progress upon her delicate frame, and kept her housed; but her constant talk was of what she had learned in the Sabbath school, and her grateful heart pointed to the missionary clothing as the means of so much good. After a year of weakness and suffering she slept in Jesus. During that time her personal and affectionate appeals to the loved ones of the home, sank as seed in good ground and sprang up in rich harvest in the hearts of Jennie's parents. They too have begun to learn of Jesus and are leading consistent Christian lives. Truly, love's sacrifice was not in vain.

A poor invalid boy was another to receive of the contents of the missionary sack. He was his father's idol. But alas! that father's feet never tended towards God's house, and his mind had only false and cruel conceptions of God. But when these gifts touched the interests of his boy, so dear to him, his mind was led to enquire the persons, the motives, etc., that had to do with bringing sunshine into his boy's life. On examining the gifts, the passage attached—"God so loved that he gave"—caught his eye. This proved an arrow of conviction and gave new direction to his queries. He sought the word of God, then the house of God and people of God. I need not detail the sequel. To-day, he, with many of his kin, are humble followers of Christ.

The value of that bereaved mother's gifts, who can estimate?

Quilts and warm clothing went to houses where hearts were pleading the promise "Jehovah Jireh," and widows' tears spoke the gratitude that lips refused to utter. But why prolong the tale! These few instances, out of many more, assure us that no sacrifice is vainly made for His name's sake, but that we shall receive an hundred-fold more in this present time; and in the world to come, life everlasting.

Nova Scotia,

A MISSION WORKER,



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

DEAR COUSINS:—When Cousin Joy was a little girl and studying the map of Asia, she found on the Eastern coast a little country, painted yellow, that jutted out into the sea. She did not know, then, that she would ever be so much interested in that little country as she is to-day. She understood that it was Corea, (sometimes spelled with a K), and that it was called the Hermit Kingdom, because it kept itself apart from other countries. Cousin Joy thought it must be a very proud, selfish little kingdom; but she did not know then, and it did not know how much it was losing.

Now, for ten or fifteen years it has been open to other nations; trade and commerce have begun; the condition of the people has improved, and, better than all, the entrance of God's Word is giving light. Cousin Joy will give you a story about Corea, this month, which is very sweet. Can you tell her what Bible story it is like, in which a little captive told of the healing power of God?

"Among many efforts made during the present century to carry the gospel into Korea, and with little apparent success, one seed of sacred truth was planted by a little Chinese lad shortly before Korea was opened to missionary efforts; and this, so far as we know, was the first in all the hermit kingdom to spring up and bring forth fruit to the glory of God. This little boy's name was Ah Fung. He had been taught at one of the mission schools at Ningpo to read the Bible, and to go to Jesus in prayer whenever he was in need of help. When he was about nine years of age, his father took Ah Fung with him on one of his trading expeditions to the Korean capital. By some mishap, while there, the boy was stolen, and sold to the governor, who presented him to his wife. She made him her page, and he would often attempt to tell his young mistress of the Saviour he loved and trusted, but without avail, until one day the reaper Death took away her baby girl; and then, in her great loneliness and sorrow, she recalled the words of her little page about Jesus and His love, and asked him to tell her the story again. Day after day did this Christian child talk of the Saviour, until she, too, came to love this same Friend."

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I think the PALM BRANCH is a nice paper. I belong to the "Wayside Helpers Mission Band." I think I have the answers to the February Puzzles. The first is, "Feed my lambs;" second is "Cheerful Toilers Mission Band;" third is "Thy Word

is Truth;" the fourth is "Queen Victoria." I got two new subscribers for PALM BRANCH to-day.

Yours truly, HATTIE POYSER.

Delta, Feb. 5, 1897.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—As I have never written to you before, I thought I'd write you now. I am Corresponding Secretary of the "Self Denial Mission Band," at Markham. We take the PALM BRANCH, like it very much, and find it exceedingly interesting.

Your friend, A SELF DENIAL WORKER.

Markham, Ont., Feb. 3, 1897.

[Will this dear Cousin please send us her name and address?]

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—As I have never written to you before, I thought that I would write this month. I belong to the "Willing Workers." Most of the members take the PALM BRANCH, and think that it is a very nice paper. Inclosed you will find a puzzle that you may print if you think it is worth printing.

Your Friend, ETHEL SMITH.

Maccan, Feb. 5th, 1897.

[We would like to print your puzzle, Cousin Ethel, only you have not sent us the answer. If the little Cousins would only do this always, it would save a lot of trouble. Please send the answer next time.]

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—We take the PALM BRANCH, and like it very much. I have never written to you before, and will do so now. I think I have found the answers of the February puzzles; they are as follows: first, "Feed my lambs;" second, "Cheerful Toilers Mission Band;" third, "Thy Word is Truth;" fourth, "Queen Victoria;" fifth, "David."

Yours truly, DON CARLOS DARRACH.

Kensington, P. E. I.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—As I have never seen a letter from our Band I thought I would write a short note this time. I think I have found the answers to the February puzzles. They are as follows: first, "Feed my lambs;" second, "Cheerful Toilers Mission Band;" third, "Thy Word is Truth;" fourth, "Queen Victoria." The answer to the Scripture enigma, is "David." We like the PALM BRANCH very much. I think this is all for this time.

Yours sincerely, BESSIE E. DURANT.

Margate, P. E. I., Feb. 11.

### MARCH PUZZLES.

I am composed of 19 letters. [Missionary work. My 9, 4, 19 10, is what we shall do if not discouraged in My 14, 18, 11, 3, 6, is what our Japanese Missionaries gave the old ladies.

My 2, 13, 10, 8, is used on shipboard.

My 17, 16, 13, 15, is a bird.

My 7, 18, 11, 2, 6, is what we love with.

My 1, 19, 5, 12, is a disguise.

My whole is a woman who is showing her love for God and her country. COUSIN JOY.

My first points out, as may clearly be seen;

My second belongs to the King and the Queen;

My third is a link of two letters alone;

My fourth indicates very plainly which one;

My fifth is a lodging for you and for me;

Our permanent home 'tis not destined to be;

My whole, at the last, shall be given to Him

Whose name and whose glory shall never grow dim.

COUSIN JOY.

What a pity that Cousin Joy has to make her own puzzles this month! and all the time she has three or four good ones on hand from the little Cousins which cannot be used just because no answers came with them!!!

From the Missionary Friend.

NOTES OF MARGUERITE WHONG'S  
JOURNEY.

MISS MARGUERITE WHONG, the Chinese young lady who recently visited this country, and whose winsome manner and bright pure Christian character endeared her to many hearts, sailed for her home September 14, in company with Miss Hartford and other Foochow missionaries. His Excellency, Li Hung Chang, was a fellow passenger as far as Japan. Miss Ruth Marie Sites has just received a long letter from her little friend which she shares in part with us, as follows:—

“S. S. EMPRESS OF CHINA, Sept. 14, 1886. Surely this is a delightful starting; the stateroom is large and comfortable for two persons to occupy. What a long time it seems since I started from the dear Newton home, and how much has happened! At Vancouver we had the honor to walk under the beautiful arches made of palms and flowers, which the people had put up for His Excellency Li Hung Chang; we also found our steamer bright with gay-colored flags. But I feel queer to be among so many Chinese men, and must again be a very proper Chinese lady.

“September 16. We stopped for an hour at Victoria, just on account of Li. Miss Hartford took me up on deck, and what a crowd of people rushing along near the boat to see him! Many Chinese came aboard to greet him. Each knelt before him to show respect. One man brought along his little boy only four or five years old, and when the little fellow knelt he was so cute everybody admired him.

“Li is very sensible, and dresses and acts like any ordinary Chinese gentleman. I rather like him; he doesn't put on any airs, as I thought he would. What a great surprise to me this 'letter box'! I know you are the foundation of it all. Miss Hartford hands me a letter each morning. Yesterday when I opened my letter I found it came from one of the dear girls at Island Heights. They did not know me very well, and yet they have shown in so many ways they do care for me. Strange! This morning when I woke our port-hole was closed, so it was pretty dark; but I got up, sat on my bed, and first thing I did read my text book and say my prayers.....Oh, I am so glad I can tell my dear Heavenly Father everything, and that He is with me all the time. To-day such a wonderful thing has happened. How I wished for you when the great man Li walked past your little girl and turned round and looked at her with a real grand-papa-like expression. Immediately afterward he sent his interpreter to inquire who I am, where I come from, how long have I been abroad, what school I enter, etc. We talked in English, as he could not talk our dialect. Then he went and brought Mr. Lo, the Foochow secretary of whom Dr. Baldwin told us. We had quite a little talk, for although he was a stranger and a Chinese man, I was so happy to meet one who could speak to me in my own dear native dialect. After Misses Hartford and Trimble join in the talk, I went down to our cabin and got the 'yellow book' which you remember I put all ready, when I packed my steamer trunk, for a chance just like this.” [The “yellow book” was a little volume

printed by her father, as is the custom of the Chinese, when he acquired his second literary degree in the national competitive examinations. It tells the official or literary rank of all his family for generations back, also the fact of his brother, a first lieutenant aboard one of the largest Chinese men-of-war, having lost his life in the battle at Port Arthur in the late Chinese war. R. M. S.]

“Mr. Lo took the book in to Li, and came back saying His Excellency wished to look it over, and was much interested to find I am the daughter of a title man.

“September 17. Oh! my heart is still jumping, and my hands still trembling. I've just come down from Li's room. This morning he sent word he wanted to see me at ten o'clock. Well, I want to tell you about the little private affair in his room. Soon as he sent for me I came to our cabin and put on my pretty silk suit, then asked Miss Hartford to go with me. When we came before him I knelt down real low, but the dear man, he rose from his seat, come and assist me up, and, bless you, he want to shake hands with me, and we did.

“We sat down, and he asked me all about the family from my father down to little Sa Muoi. He asked me how old I am, who is my English teacher; I told him you, Siek Guiong, my only teacher. I must not forget to tell you that Mr. Lo said he knew Dr. Sites in Foochow; so you see there is some one with this great man to whom your dear father preached the gospel. After many more questions Li said he wished to appoint me to represent our dear China in the World's Congress of Representative Women to be held in London in 1898. Just think of it! Your little girl have something to do with the Chinese Government!

“Miss Hartford, who was with me this morning, told Mr. Lo about our Dr. Hu King Eng, and recommended her to go with me to London, and I think she will. The reason Li wants me to go is because he read my father's yellow book and knows who I am—my father's daughter and my uncle's niece; and most of all because I am your little girl. You taught me the English, brought me to America, and now send me back at this time give me the chance to meet Li.

“His Excellency gave me three big English books—histories of the World's Congress—to keep. I am so glad I can have something from him, such a great man, next to our Emperor. I am glad, too, he has given me such an honor to carry home. I think father will be very pleased. You know he cares so much for honors; and this is from our government.

“This is really the first time I feel any happy to come home, and I think I understand now, God has the arrangement made before already, and put me on this ship with Li, and is going to use me to shine His light for China. Don't worry about your little girl should be proud or any thing like that, for she will learn to be more meek than ever from her Jesus her Master. I tell you it will be a great change for China on account of Li's visit to America and England. Why should China send women to meet with 'Representative Women of 'the World'? I thought Chinese government shall never have anything to do with women, and now so soon this new way is opened for all the poor women and girls of my dear country to be accounted side by side with men.

To be Continued.



## LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

## LONDON BRANCH.

Miss A. E. Cahill, Secretary Askin Street Methodist Church Mission Circle, writes:

On January 18th we held a "Crusade Evening" and had the pleasure of enrolling thirty-two members, making a total membership of fifty-five already. We are working for the "Banner" again this year, which was so nearly ours last year. We are now "The Missionary Department of the Epworth League"—hoping in this new relationship we may make greater advancement spiritually, socially, and financially. Last year we raised \$103, of this sum \$60 supports a Bible woman in China. We subscribe for fifty Palm Branches.

I would like to say the "Banner" to which I refer is one given by the "London Branch" to the Circle sending in the largest number of new members; we were two short last year.

## NOVA SCOTIA BAND NOTES.

The Secretary of "Willing Helpers" Band, Hantsport, writes: "Our Mission Band gave an entertainment on Wednesday, Dec. 23rd. A good programme, consisting of music and recitations of a Christmas character, was well carried out, after which lunch was served, and articles which had been made up in the band during the last three months, were sold from a Christmas tree. A large and appreciative audience was present, and all went away well pleased with the evening's entertainment. The sum of \$16.00 was realized.

The "Downing" and "Try Again" Bands had a united sale on Dec. 22nd. The sale consisted of fancy goods and confectionary. The proceeds were \$40.00."

M. E. BROWN, *Cor. Secretary.*

So. Farmington, Annapolis Co., N. S.

## N. B. AND P. E. I. BAND NOTES.

Eva M. G. Colpitts, *Cor. Sec.*, Pleasant Vale, Elgin, N. B., writes:

"The Snowdrop Mission Band held a concert on the evening of December 25th, 1896. At the close a collection was taken up amounting to \$3.37. We have a membership of twenty in our Band. We are hoping and trying to make this year, 1897, much more devoted to this work of missions.

Miss Annie Mellish, *Cor. Sec.*, Charlottetown, P. E. I., writes:

The tenth annual celebration of the Wesley Mission Circle took the form, this year, of a 'Baked' Bean Social. The girls and boys spared no pains to make this entertainment "the event of the season," and they were not disappointed, as the large number present

seemed to enjoy themselves in the truest sense of the word. After supper an excellent programme of music and recitations was admirably carried out by members of the Circle. Much credit is due the President, Miss Large, for the success of her first entertainment. Proceeds, \$25.00.

The "Lavinia Clarke Mission Band" held a most successful concert in the Methodist Church, Pownal, on Christmas Eve. The programme, which was bright and varied, was entirely Christian and missionary. Collection, \$7.39.

It was the pleasure of your Band Secretary to be present at a Concert given by the Coqualeetza Mission Band of the first Methodist Church, Charlottetown, on Thursday evening, Dec. 4th. The room was beautifully festooned and decorated with red, white and blue bunting. Rev. G. M. Campbell presided. The concert opened by a march and welcome song, with the Chatauqua salute by the Band, fifty in all. The programme consisted of dialogues, solos, recitations, and music. All the performers did splendidly, from the five little flower girls, who told in their quaint way how they made up a bouquet of flowers, to the much larger girls who went through "Aunt Polly" and "The Globe" so well. Perhaps the most instructive number of the programme was a dialogue, illustrated with colored ribbons, on "the different religions of the world;" a long black ribbon representing "the genuine heathen" who have no religion of any kind. The chairman, in complimenting the two performers, said it was only fair to say that while the facts were facts, the composition of the dialogue itself was the work of the President, Miss Annie Mellish. The last number—a Christmas Cantata—although long and difficult, was carried out in a manner that would have done credit to much older performers.

My dear Band Workers—how often letters come to me, saying it is impossible to get a bright and good programme without secular material; believe me, that large audience went home delighted, and with far more sympathy with the children, and a better conception of what Mission Band work really is, than a series of anti-mission concerts could have given them. To repeat the question of the President: "We tried to have the programme bright and varied; did we succeed?" Yes! they did, just as all my other Bands can do too. I believe the proceeds of the concert came to \$30.00.

Pownal.

I. TURNER.

A notable event of our times is the establishment of a Japanese line of steamers between Yokohama and our Pacific coast. This line is to compete with the Canadian Pacific, and its steamers are of the highest grade.

Korea has been re-divided into thirteen counties. First class post-offices have been placed in eleven of the cities, and second class in fourteen smaller towns.