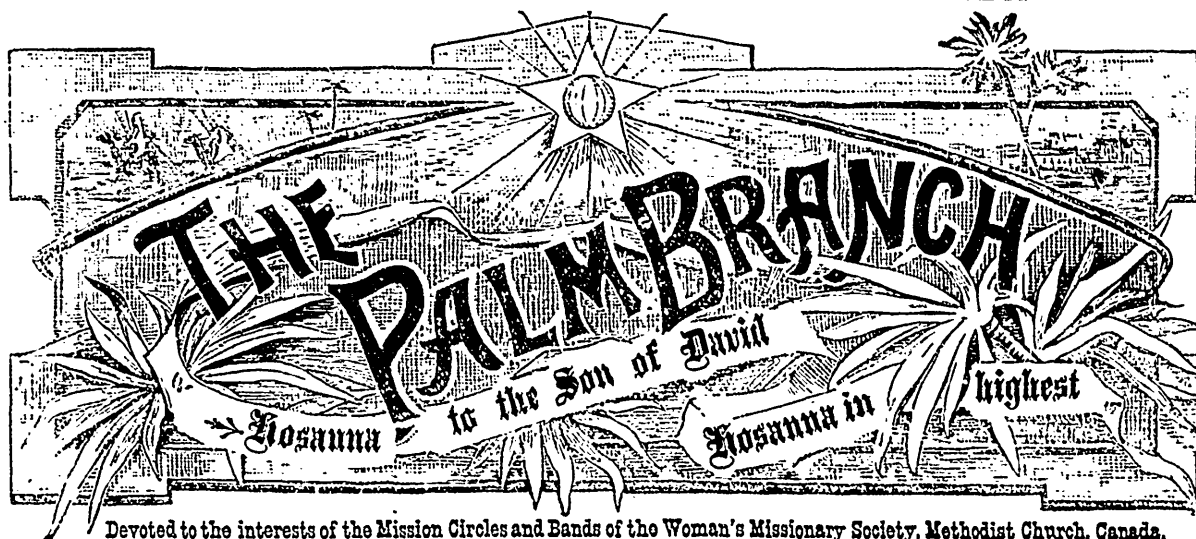


# CHRISTMAS NUMBER.



VOL. V.

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER, 1895.

No. 12

WE have thought to brighten our Christmas PALM BRANCH with the faces of a few more little Japanese orphans. You will remember that in our March number we gave you the picture of the girls and boys of Kanazawa Orphanage, and Miss Veazey, our dear Missionary, who has now gone back to that land in which she takes so deep an interest, and where she has done good service for the Master, gave us a pleasing description of them all, including the good Christian matron at the head. These who greet you today are a few younger ones, admitted later into that pleasant home-school. We wish we could tell you all about them. Of course each one has a "cute" little Japanese name with San at the end—a sort of title, we suppose, like Miss or Mr. We think this, because we know that the Japanese are so polite and have such nice manners. If we are wrong we hope some missionary friend will set us right.

Each one has a history no doubt. We all remember what Miss Veazey told us about one of the little girls, in the other group, who was rescued by the Missionaries when about to be sold as a slave for \$1. How delightful to think that any of them have been saved from such a fate, to spend their days in a happy home receiving help and Christian instruction from

kind teachers. You may wish them a "Merry Christmas," dear children of the PALM BRANCH, for, thank God, they know the meaning of the words now.

The latest news from Kanazawa is very pleasing. Miss Crombie says:

"In the Orphanage at present there are nineteen children. One has been taken in on trial this quarter, and another who was on trial having proved satisfactory, has been received. Masaki Okumura will go to Tokyo to enter the Azabu school as soon as there is some one for her to travel with. She is a bright and intelligent child and has a good disposition. Since the children recovered from the measles they have all enjoyed good health; and their conduct, always very satisfactory, shows a continual improvement."



JAPANESE ORPHANS.

"GOOD news on Christmas morning,  
Good news, O children dear,  
For Christ once born in Bethlehem  
Is living now and here!

Good news on Christmas morning,  
Good news, O children sweet!  
The way to find the Holy Child  
Is lighted for your feet.

Good news on Christmas morning, Good news, O children glad!  
Rare gifts are yours to give the Lord As ever wise men had."

## BAND WORK.

[From an excellent Branch paper by Mrs. Sherard, President of the Mission Band of the Central Methodist Church, Moncton, N. B., we give extracts.]

**I**N an Easter service, conducted by the President, we had the pleasure of an address from Miss Veazy on her work in Japan. The offering, which amounted to seven dollars, was in envelopes, which had been distributed the Friday before. Another entertainment for Band this year was in the form of a "Rainbow Tea," from which we realized thirty-seven dollars.

At the beginning of the year I talked to the Band about saving their cents and making some sacrifices for the great cause for which we were working and thought it possible that some of us might be successful to such an extent that we could become "life members;" with a result of at least six new life members, one of whom made her \$5.00 wholly by selling yeast.

You have asked me to make special mention of any particular points which I consider most helpful in the work. In reply, I will give my own experience.

I think it best to change the programme at least each quarter; otherwise the work becomes monotonous and the Band gets to be an old story which has been worn out. Another, the president and teachers should be well posted on the lesson or it is impossible to make it either interesting or instructive; and, again, there should be a system always in carrying on Band work and not in a haphazard way; for instance, each day's lesson or work should be planned by the president the week before, so that no child will come to Band wondering "what we are going to have to-day;" but knowing exactly what the subject is to be. It is also helpful to have the members find out for themselves some thing concerning the lesson, and on review days to have some tell what they can remember of the lesson. This helps to keep up interest as well as being attentive.

I find to carry on a Band even with a small degree of success, that the president must necessarily spend a great deal of time in thought, as well as in study and prayer. I tried to give up a short time of each day of the week, preceding a lesson day, in study for the lesson, and always an hour before going to Band in thought and prayer. It seemed to me the responsibility would have been too great without the help of the Master for whom I am endeavouring to work.

My own great drawback is the lack of knowledge of missionary work. Although I study to a small extent, yet I have not the time to spare in order to teach as successfully as I would like, and I feel quite confident that an ideal Band must have a president whose head as well as heart is full, and is not only a consecrated woman, but a student as well. It is not necessary that she be particularly clever, but it is necessary that she be enthusiastic enough in the cause to have a fair knowledge of the work.

[We think the following would make a grand recitation for eight boys, of all sizes, if you choose; each one to repeat a verse and all join in the refrain at the end of each verse or less often, if preferred. It could surely be made very effective if done in a spirited manner.]

## BANISH THE BAR.

BY R. L. WERRY.

There's one thing that we are determined to do—

We're going to banish the bar;

Its work of destruction is nearly through,

We're going to banish the bar;

Whatever else may be left undone,

We'll stick to the task we have now begun;

This battle it must be fought and won,

We're going to banish the bar.

We're going to banish the bar,

We're going to banish the bar,

For kindred and country,

For God and the Right—

We're going to banish the bar.

The word of warning we give to all,

We're going to banish the bar;

The temples of Bacchus shall shortly fall,

We're going to banish the bar;

Too long we have borne with habits of vice,

Our children we've given in sacrifice,

Our homes have been bartered to pay the price;

But we're going to banish the bar.

Strong drink is the curse the country o'er,

We're going to banish the bar.

It's a duty that should have been done before,

We're going to banish the bar.

In a million graves our dead are laid,

Proclaiming the havoc that drink has made;

It's time the hand of the slayer was stayed,

We're going to banish the bar.

To save our young men and maidens so fair,

We're going to banish the bar;

To take from their pathway a dangerous snare,

We're going to banish the bar.

How many for life have been ruined and wrecked! [neglect;

Through the wine cup they've suffered from want and

Our loved ones to shield and our homes to protect

We're going to banish the bar.

For the sake of the drunkard that lies in the ditch,

We're going to banish the bar,

That the labouring man may grow happy and rich,

We're going to banish the bar.

You will see a big change in this country soon,

Every day in the year will be bright as June.

We have done, for all time, with the licensed saloon—

We're going to banish the bar.

The poets have sung and the prophets have said,

"We're going to banish the bar."

That the naked be clothed and the hungry be fed,

We're going to banish the bar.

The day may come slowly but none the less sure,

The fight may be long but in faith we endure,

For youth sorely tempted and childhood still pure—

We're going to banish the bar.

The cause it is noble, the course it is right,

We're going to banish the bar;

Come, brothers, and help us, in union is might,

We're going to banish the bar,

This evil no longer shall blight and blast,

And o'er our Dominion its shadow cast,

Its doom is sealed, it shall cease at last—

We're going to banish the bar.

By the vote of the people—the sovereign voice,

We're going to banish the bar

The majority rules, and by its choice

We're going to banish the bar

Shall the children of poverty cry in vain?

Shall the wives and widows in sorrow remain?

Oh, husbands and fathers, your manhood maintain.

And help us to banish the bar!

—Montreal Witness

WHAT IS MISSIONARY WORK?

Can you take the Gospel message  
To the lands beyond the sea?  
Can you tell them of the Saviour,  
Of His death upon the tree?

Do it!

*It is Missionary work.*

Can you help a fellow-worker  
In some far off Mission field?  
Can you cheer him in his labor,  
Be a counselor and shield?

Do it!

*It is Missionary work.*

Can you point the poor and wretched  
To their Heavenly Home on High?  
Tell them of God's loving mercy,  
And His presence ever nigh?

Do it!

*It is Missionary work.*

Can you through your daily duties  
Do the good you find to do?  
Can you speak some words for Jesus  
Even though they be but few?

Do it!

*It is Missionary work.*

Can you, with what God has given,  
Do your utmost every day?  
Working, praying, trusting, loving,  
Helping others on the way?

Do it!

*It is Missionary work.*

N. B.

FIELD STUDY FOR DECEMBER.

**O**UR subject this month is the extinction of the Liquor Traffic, Opium and Slave Trades, and all covetous hindrances to Christianity.

The programme in the Letter Leaflet for December gives the story of the young Hebrew Captives, Daniel 1st chap. as a good lesson on this subject. And the prayer is to be: "That the members of this Band, and all the youth of Canada may be as true to principle as was Daniel."

We give our readers a few of the figures, made up in view of prohibition, as to the way our country is made poorer every year by the money spent in liquor, which we all know is worse than lost. It is calculated that nearly \$40,000,000 goes in this way every year. Forty million dollars! Think of it!

The country is made poorer by the waste of grain used in the manufacture of this liquor. Part of it is Canadian grain, which might have been traded away with profit to other countries, if not needed here. Part of it is grain brought from other countries, for which money has to be paid. Over \$1,000,000 is wasted in this way. This grain would have fed 1,000,000 people, it is said.

The Dominion of Canada spends over \$6,000,000 every year to keep up its penitentiaries, jails, asylums, reformatories, almshouses, half of which would probably not be needed were it not for the "drink habit" of the people; so \$3,000,000 are lost in this way.. One of our politicians says: "The wonder is that with such terrible waste our country enjoys any prosperity. If this waste could be made to cease, Canada in ten years would not know herself, so prosperous and wealthy would she have grown."

Worse than all, careful calculation shows that (3000) three thousand lives are cut short in Canada every year by intemperance. This means more than a loss to the country.

Now we all know that within the last few months our country has practically declared for prohibition, and it only remains for the government to make a law and enforce it!

It is to the shame of our otherwise glorious British Empire that years ago she forced the opium traffic upon China at the point of the sword, and now the poppy plant grows all over China, and men, women and children are becoming stupid and besotted every day under its deadly influence, and the poor missionaries find it the greatest hindrance of all to their Christian efforts. Why did they do it, do you ask? To increase the revenue, to bring more money into the country, at any cost. The politicians forget that startling Bible verse, "Ye shall be ashamed of your revenues, because of the fierce anger of the Lord."

Those of us who read the newspapers of the day are interested in the description of the grand reception given to General Kitchener, England's latest hero. What has he done? He has won a great victory for England over the Arabs who had control of the slave trade in Africa, so we trust that this terrible traffic will soon be a thing of the past. The English nation delights to honor him.

All these things, the Liquor, Opium and Slave Traffics have been covetous hindrances to Christianity, showing that we put love of self and selfish gain before Christ.

S. E. S.

Questions for December.

How many millions of dollars are spent every year, in Canada, on spirituous liquors?

What other waste is there which helps to make the country poorer?

How much money is wasted in this way, and how many people would this grain feed?

How much money does the Dominion spend every year to keep up its penitentiaries, jails, asylums and almshouses?

About how much money spent in this way is the drinking habit of the people responsible for?

How many lives are cut short in Canada every year through this dreadful habit?

What has been done by the people recently, and what remains for the Government to do?

How did the opium trade get into China, and what has it done for China?

Why did the English do it, and what did they forget?

Will you tell of England's latest hero, and what he has done?

# PALM ✻ BRANCH.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

S. E. SMITH, . . . . . EDITOR.  
 SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, . . . . . 15 CENTS A YEAR.  
 FOR CLUBS OF TEN OR MORE TO ONE ADDRESS, 10c. EACH A YEAR.

All Band reports and notes must be sent through the Branch Band Corresponding Secretaries.

All other articles intended for publication, all subscription orders with the money, must now be sent to

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

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER, 1898.

**I**N the first place let us wish all our readers a very happy, if not a merry, Christmas. Even in the homes where heavy shadows have fallen may still come the silver lining of peace and hope to the darkest cloud. Above all the sorrow of this sad world can be heard by the willing listening ear, attuned to harmony:

—the glad refrain,  
 The little children hear—a strain  
 Which, floating down thro' ages long,  
 Is floating still—the Angels' song  
 Of "Peace on earth, to men, good will."

Our Board meeting seems to have been a grand success this year, judging from all the reports which we have heard. Those of the Home and Field Corresponding Secretaries are most encouraging, and we can only wish that we had more space to give them. They showed an increase of two Circles and Bands. Epworth Leagues had contributed \$639.08 to the funds, an increase of \$60. The total number of Aux. 679, with 14,693 an. mem. and 916 life mem., an advance of 538. "It is always gratifying to increase" said Mrs. Strachan, "and we thankfully record this as the ordinary experience of our society, but compared with the thousands of women who are members of our church but yet 'not interested in missions' or not impressed with this special opportunity of work for their heathen sisters, the growth is not what it should be.

She paid a tribute to the faithfulness and earnestness of the young people who now number 279 Circles and Bands, with 7,223 members, an increase of 747.

The amount raised by Auxiliaries, Circles and Bands this last year has been \$38,031.11, an increase of \$1,575.79. From all sources our income has been \$40,824.96, being \$1,691.44 over that of the previous

year. In the bequest account, which is used for building or some special work, we have \$4,105.73.

The report of Candidate Committee showed that six missionary candidates had been accepted provisionally.

Ex. Com. showed a new building required in Tokio, Japan. The Board decided to purchase a new site,

"But the principal aim of the Society is 'to evangelize heathen women and children.' Various are the plans and methods used by our thirty-four missionaries. Among the Indians we have a flourishing Industrial Institute (carried on in conjunction with the General Society), and three boarding schools, in which are 170 or 180 children. Among the Chinese in British Columbia a Rescue Home, a day school and regular house-to-house visitation with prayermeetings, Bible-class, etc. In far-away Western China fourteen little girls in the two day schools, an orphanage, a hospital and dispensary, Sabbath Schools and Bible-class. In Japan there is work in five cities, comprising 24 stations, three boarding schools, with 138 in residence, and 93 day pupils; day and night schools for the poor, industrial classes, 29 children in two orphanages, 64 in the King's Daughters' school, 16 Sunday Schools, reaching 185 children each Sabbath; 245 other children gathered in little companies, 35 students assisting in evangelistic work; also 11 trained helpers and six Bible women. Some 5,322 visits were made; 27 women and five students baptized. In the work among the French we share with the General Society in the support of the institute in Montreal, and also carry on two day schools in the city and one in the country. Two Bible-women are also doing effective service in the homes of the people.

"Surely there is enough, even in this brief sketch, to suggest humble gratitude for such opportunities, increased enthusiasm, added friends, enlarged support and more earnest, expectant prayer."

Looking over the letters and orders received during the last year, we have been struck with the kind words of appreciation and encouragement that have come to us from time to time, and we have realized that they have often been helps over rough places, supplying, perhaps, just what we most needed of inspiration or comfort. So we thank all our kind missionaries and friends who have aided us in this or any other way in the past, and bespeak still greater favors for the coming year.

Will our Band Leaders kindly advise us whether it will be necessary or best to publish our Field Study a month in advance.

[This paper is supposed to be written in 1935, when our Society would be 50 years in existence.]

## SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY, 1885-1935.

BY MISS A. MELLISH.

(Concluded.)

So the Auxiliary ladies were awakened and began to help the Band leader instruct the members in the constitution, parliamentary drill and latest missionary tidings. These children in time grew up and conducted other Bands, and they are today our energetic and intelligent workers. Perhaps the effect of this change cannot be seen more clearly than at our annual Branch meeting. The solicitous president no longer spends sleepless nights and anxious days over the grave responsibility of her office, but arrives at the Branch meeting knowing that every member of the convention feels that the success or failure of the meeting depends solely on individual effort. The corresponding secretary no longer supplements her extensive literary work with a Klondyke journey through the country in mid-summer, speaking eight nights out of ten in order to arouse enthusiasm. Now, a private secretary is by her side, and the district organizers are responsible for any waning interest in their respective districts. The Recording Secretary no longer has an incomplete roll-call, for the expected delegate is either present or has forwarded the name of her alternate. The Band Secretary no longer writes in vain, for her letters are promptly answered by systematic little business-women. The Treasurer no longer waits until the eleventh hour for overdue returns. The former urgent appeal from the Branch platform requesting that the President, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer of every auxiliary meet and compare their books and forward an accurate statement to their respective Branch officers at the close of the year, has at last been effective.

Just one word about our far-famed Palm Branch. Formerly the faithful Editor, no matter what joy or sorrow crossed her path, was responsible for its monthly publication. But now, she is assisted by an efficient staff, and every Band in Canada guarantees at least one original article each year. In 1900 the Band President, realizing that the children were the mainspring of the Society, unitedly memorialized Board for a large supply of literature and a more convenient way of obtaining the same. They claimed to have had the same exercises many times and in refusing to sanction the use of secular pieces were greatly handicapped in their work. As the age progressed and the Society extended, the limited supply of literature by no means met the required demands. Therefore a brighter and more varied assortment of selections was imperative. The result was that the Board called for more writers in Canada, communicated with English and American markets, and in three months established in every District a literature exchange depot. We all know of the more recent changes; of the Reserve Billeting Fund, to which every Society is bound to contribute for the entertainment of the Branch meeting. We know that instead of the

former Banner competition, any Band with a certain average percentage is entitled to a certificate and mentioned on the Honor Roll. We know that every woman who has her name on the church record in the conference is a member of our W. M. S. We all know the perfect system under which the Branch is governed, the methodical business capacity of our women, the extent to which systematic giving has grown and the general Christ-like tenor of the whole Society. These developments are due to the recognition of the Band children and their claims. Dear friends, the W. M. S. is now a firmly established organization, second to none in America. And at this our Semi-Centennial let us thank God for the faithful Band of women who, by prayer and perseverance, broke down every barrier, overcame every obstacle, and laid the foundation on which we stand to-day. It was no easy task, the cold world frowned on them, the skeptic sneered, the critic prophesied that any society presided over by women would not succeed, and that its glory would soon fade. But another has said: "If this work be of men it will come to nought, but if it be of God ye cannot overthrow it."

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

### Christmas Missionary Exercise for Four Little Girls.

[Each child presents a gilt letter of G I V E at the close of her stanza.]

I.

"From Greenland's icy mountains,"  
So runs the hymn of old;  
Beside those mammoth icebergs  
Dwell hearts perhaps as cold;  
But warmed by Christmas sunlight,  
Illumining the land,  
Bleak earth becomes an Eden,  
And so for G I stand.

II.

You know how run the verses:  
"From India's coral strand"  
Comes forth the call for workers—  
A larger, stronger band;  
Buddhist and erring Brahmin  
The Saviour's call must heed  
And taste God's peace eternal,  
And therefore I must plead.

III.

From far-off Venezuela,  
To popish bonds a slave;  
From Van and Voroneje,  
Which Eastern waters lave,  
The same loud voice is calling  
Which sounded years ago:  
"Come over here and help us!"—  
The cry of Maccodon.

IV.

From Ethiopia's borders  
And wastes of burning sands,  
Which cruel, dark-skinned Arabs  
Infest with hostile bands,  
By day and night unceasing  
There comes the pleading cry:  
"Bring us the truth you cherish!  
O, bring it ere we die!"

[TOGETHER.]

Give of your prayers and blessings;  
Give of your store, though small;  
Give of your time and service;  
Give self—best gift of all.

In *Mission Dayspring*.

ISABELLE H. FITZ.



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

Cousin Joy has made a little poem expressly for the 'Cosy Corner. It will serve for a short recitation, perhaps, if you should need one.

#### THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

The Spirit of Christmas is everywhere,  
I know it, I feel it in all the air;  
Away on the mountain peaks of snow,  
And deep in the pleasant vales below,  
Around us, about us—everywhere  
The Spirit of Christmas is in the air!

It has glanced on Japan with its radiant light,  
It is parting the shadows of China's night,  
It is guiding the pilgrim in weary land,  
It is resting on Africa's burning sand,  
And spanning the darkened isles of the sea  
With a rainbow promise of victory.

The glow from the manger where Jesus lay  
Is touching the whole wide world today.

COUSIN JOY.

A merry, very merry Christmas to all the dear cousins, and, what is better, a very happy one. Merriment and laughter are all right, and it is pleasant to see the Christmas joy shining in bright young faces and bubbling over from the lips. No one likes to see and hear it more than Cousin Joy. But merriment and laughter do not dwell in the heart, as happiness does, so while Cousin Joy is making a wish she will make the very best.

True happiness comes through forgetting self and caring for others, as all the mission circle and band girls and boys must know by this time. We hope they will not forget to give the first Christmas present to Jesus. Nothing will ensure a happy Christmas like that. Does He need it? Yes, for the enlargement of His Kingdom, and He wants all the girls and boys to be sharers in His great joy and victory by and bye.

The answer to the last puzzle in the October number is "A Nurse for China."

Why did the "wise men" bring presents to Jesus?

Dear Cousin Joy—I think it a great pleasure to be numbered among your cousins. I have been a member of the "Wayside Helpers" Mission Band since I was a baby. Am now eight years old. Our president is Mrs. Chamberlain. We have 20 members, most of them taking the Palm Branch. We have five honorary members and eight under eight years old. They did me the honor of making me press reporter today, so you will hear from me quite often.

Your loving cousin,

Delta, Ont.

JORNE PIERCE.

(We shall be glad to hear from you, little Cousin).

Dear Cousin Joy—This is the first time I have written to you. I belong to the Star of Hope Mission Band. I take the Palm Branch and like it very much. We meet the last Saturday in every month. I think I have got the answer to the first puzzle for October. It is "Palm Branch."

I remain your loving cousin,

West Cape, P. E. I.

ELVA M. CROSMAN.

Dear Cousin Joy, I have been reading the Palm Branch and noticing the puzzles there; I think I have got the answer to the first one for November. It is "The Complete Angler." And I have made up a puzzle for the December issue. If you wish to publish it you may

I remain, yours truly,

484 Main St., St. John, N. B.

CLARA LEACH.

#### PUZZLES FOR DECEMBER.

I am composed of twenty-five letters.

My 25, 8, 6, 16, 20, 13, 23, 5, 25, is past and can never return.

My 15, 12, 3, 1, 10, means brought to view.

My 2, 22, 17, 7, 21, is to raise up.

My 11, 4, 14, 18, 24, is a kind of earthenware.

My 19, 9, is a personal pronoun.

My whole is a question which we should ask ourselves daily.

Hamilton.

G.

I am composed of 13 letters.

My 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, is a girl's name.

My 8, 2, 11, 10 is a plant.

My 3, 10, 2, 7, 9, 6, 4, means of a kind.

My 7, 12, 13, is a verb.

My whole is the name of a Mission Band.

St. John.

CLARA LEACH.

#### LETTER FROM REV. MR. KIRBY.

Dear Palm Branch:

I wonder if you can give me room for a letter in your December number? I want your readers to know two things about me; first, I am still living; and secondly, I have not forgotten your readers..

I have been to England this summer, and seen so much, and heard so much, I cannot get time to digest it all.

Dear me! if I was to try and tell you what I saw, there would be no room for any thing else in Palm Branch for the next three months. One day I went to the Crystal Palace and heard a concert, given by four thousand children from the London Sunday-schools. And what singing that was! I thought ever so many times about the happiness it will be to get to Heaven

and hear thousands upon thousands singing there; and amongst them there will be children from all lands.

Some from England, some from America, some from Canada, and even from the Indians of the North West, and the Africans, and the Chinese and Japanese, and from everywhere, all over the world, wherever the gospel has been preached. What a choir! I wonder how many Palm Branch readers will be in that choir! And I wonder how many will be there through the efforts of the Mission Bands!

Oh, what a time that will be when all these nations and peoples and tongues shall unite in singing:

"Bring forth the royal diadem  
And crown Him Lord of all."

Now we are going to celebrate another Christmas, and once more going to take a walk in imagination to a manger in Bethelhem; for we want to stoop down and pour our treasures of love upon that sweet babe. We want to hear the angels singing again:

"Unto you is born this day a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

"For lo! the days are hastening on  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever circling years  
Comes round the age of gold."

When Peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendour fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the Angels sing."

I am glad, and I feel sure you are glad that the world is hearing this same beautiful story you love to hear.

Let us do all we can to send, or carry, the news of a Saviour to the whole world, that everywhere the inhabitants may know all we mean when we say to each other:

I WISH YOU A HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

Yours, etc.,

W. J. KIRBY.

(We are all glad to welcome back to his home and to these pages our good Palm Branch Minister. We have missed him)..

#### To the Mission Band Corresponding Secretaries.

We do not yet know what changes have been made in your most responsible office. While we welcome the new, we are glad to see some of our old friends back again. For the benefit of those who are new we would tell you just what we hope and expect from you through the coming year. We want you, in the first place, to work hard in the interest of the Palm Branch. To introduce and recommend it on every possible occasion. That is as far, of course, as you conscientiously can! Then, when you receive monthly or quarterly reports from your Circles or Bands please cull out the most interesting items in each, whatever will help or stimulate other Circles or Bands, and send them to us in a condensed form. Any questions on this subject or any suggestions will be gladly received.

## STORY OF A STORK.

HOW THE GENTLE BIRD RETURNED TO ITS FRIENDS.

HERE is a story from Germany, says a writer in "Our Animal Friends," which is as quaint as it is true. Some children living in one of the northern provinces discovered that a stork had made its nest upon their roof. Being orthodox little Teutons, they hailed the newcomer with favor, as storks are supposed to bring luck to a house. All the summer they shared their nibbits with their long-legged-friend, which became very tame and companionable.

At the first sign of approaching cold weather the stork prepared to flit to warmer climes. The children were sad at the thought of losing their pet, but their parents consoled them with the assurance that the bird would surely return the next spring. The children, still uneasy at the idea of the stork not being cared for during the long winter, consulted together and evolved a brilliant idea, which they immediately proceeded to put into execution. They wrote a little note in their best German script, stating that the stork was very dear to them and begging the good people in whose country it might spend the winter to be kind to their pet and send it back to them in the spring.

They sealed the note, fastened it to a ribbon, tied it round the bird's neck and tucked it under its wing. The next day they sadly watched the stork wing its way toward milder skies. The snow and ice came; Christmas time brought the children gifts and fresh amusements, but their summer pet was not forgotten. When the spring came round again, their little feet used to climb to the roof day by day, looking and longing for the stork's return; and behold! one fine morning, there it was, tame and gentle as ever.

Great was the children's delight; but what was their surprise to discover round its neck and under its wing another bright band with a note attached, addressed to "The children who wrote the letter the stork brought." The ribbon was quickly untied and the missive opened. It was from a missionary in Africa, stating that he had read the children's note and had cared for the stork, and thought that children whose good hearts had prompted them to provide for the comfort of a bird through the winter would be willing to help clothe and feed the little destitute children of his mission. A full name and address followed. The children were full of sympathy, and the missionary's note won a golden answer from the family. Other letters came and went by post between them, until, by and by, the children learned to know the missionary and his little black waifs almost as well as they knew the beloved stork that had proved so trusty a messenger.

## LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Branch.

**BEAR RIVER.**—The regular work of the "Rope Holders' Band" was somewhat broken into during the year by the revival services. Several of the members were converted, and are more determined than ever to work for Christ. All the meetings have been purely missionary; a different field being studied each month. All the money raised goes to help support a child in the "Jenny Ford" Home. Twenty one members are reported.

**TRURO.**—The "Pleasant Street" Circle, which has been working under difficulties the past year through the illness of the president, is now doing well. Three new members were reported, making a total membership of eleven. Twelve copies of "Palm Branch" are taken. We are much indebted to the Circle for the success of the Mission Band evening at the Branch meeting.

This year there has been an increase both in membership and funds. Two new Bands were formed, one at Granville Ferry and one at Somerset. We also welcome the band in Newfoundland and hope soon to hear from it.

124 Tower Road, Halifax. **MARCIA B. BRAINE,**  
Band Secretary.

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

The basis of competition for the Banner this year is the largest proportionate increase in Band membership.

Bands will understand that a Band of ten members which increases to one of fifteen, has as large a proportionate increase as a band of forty members which becomes one of sixty.

I want to introduce to our family of Bands a new sister, the "The Pansy" Mission Band of Tay, York County, N. B. This Band, numbering eleven, has just been organized by Mrs. William Munroe, of the Tay Auxiliary. The officers are: President, Nellie Young; Vice-president, George Wheway; Cor.-Secty, Ethel Crouhart; Treas., Reeves Munroe.

I feel that I speak for all our Bands when I say that we heartily welcome this latest comer to our ranks.

**E. E. C.**  
Band Secretary.

Hamilton Conference Branch.

Mission Band and Circle work presented such an encouraging aspect at the close of the past year, and was in many respects so gratifying that we thought the Palm Branch readers would like to hear a little about it and about our Branch meeting, which was held in Palmerston in October.

We are glad to report a large increase in membership, having 826 Circle members and 510 Band members, in all 1336, an increase of over 200. There are 20 Circles and 20 Bands. Three new ones were organized during the year. \$912.99 was paid to Branch

Treasurer, of which our Easter thank offering amounted to \$139.26. An encouraging feature of our finances is the growth of the free-will offering principle; this is evidenced in many of the Bands and Circles, especially so in the case of the Circle which raised the largest amount during the year. Every cent was either free will offering, mite box collections or fees, and \$120 was the result. Another very encouraging feature, and one for which we are heartily thankful, was the generous donation from Junior and Senior Epworth Leagues, \$129 having been received from this source, mostly for the Jennie Ford Home.

One evening session of the Branch meeting was devoted to Band and Circle Work; a very interesting programme was well rendered by members of the Palmerston Circle, consisting of music, recitations and a very kind and inspiring address of welcome to the Band and Circle Delegates. Mrs. Crowe, Guelph, gave a very interesting address on the work among the French Canadians, and the annual report was submitted by the Branch Corresponding Secretary for Bands and Circles, which was accompanied by a few earnest remarks upon the work and its important features.

The prize Banner was won by the Guelph (Norfolk Street) Band, having gained an increase in membership of 108.

At the Branch meeting it was thought rather unfair for Bands and Circles to compete for the same Banner, and as an outcome a large amount was voluntarily subscribed by a number of ladies for the purchase of another banner to be competed for by the Circles, the former beautiful banner to be the property of the Bands. We look back upon the past year with a great deal of gratitude and rejoice that the seed sown has already taken root and is springing forth unto an abundant harvest. We urge the necessity of having all our work collectively and individually so firmly and securely built upon the only sure foundation that the whole building fitly framed together may grow into an holy temple of our Lord.

**JEWEL M. MCGEARY,**  
140 Park Ave., Brantford, Ont. Cor.-Secretary.

Bay of Quinte Branch.

To the Editor of Palm Branch:

At the recent Convention of the W. M. S. the following resolution was unanimously passed:

We, the Members of the Bay of Quinte Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society, desire to place on record our appreciation of your valuable work in connection with Palm Branch.

**A. B. COPELAND,**  
Deseronto, Oct. 13th, 1898. Secretary.

(Our thanks are due to this Branch not only for its token of appreciation now, but for valuable help in the past, of which we hope for a continuance through this new year).