

**H**ERE THEY ARE—Miss Whitfield's "little woolly heads," as I often laughingly call them. Though not quite sure that she approves of the name, I mean no disrespect to the bright

eyed little lasses who, from far-away Liberia, have come to visit us this month. As you see there are nine of them, and they are all "redeemed" children. Once they lived with their own people, and the head man of the tribe was supposed to see that they were, while very young, sold for wives. Miss Whitfield, finding that the lives of these little child-wives, were very full of misery and unhappiness, began to pray very earnestly for some way of rescuing them before they entered upon their life of cruel bondage. As usually happens when we are out and out in earnest, God opened up a way. M. Bands at home began to send money

to buy or redeem these children, and one by one the little black-faced native girls, found their way into the home of the brave woman who has to be really a mother to them. Sixty dollars was the usual sum paid

for each child. Of course it wasn't paid in bank bills, for African "head men" wouldn't have cared a bit for a bushel of such "trash." Guns, gunpowder, plates, calico, &c., were purchased in England, and in Africa

the guns and gunpowder were exchanged for bullocks and goats. Then Miss Whitfield was ready to pay over for each child, two goats, two plates, two mugs one knife, one red cap, one brass kettle eight yards calico, one gun. Quite a bundle of African money, but then you see these tiny bits of dark-skinned humanity have souls and these souls are worth more than "the whole world." So it can't be called a bad bargain after all. Once in Miss Whitfield's home the children are loved and trained into a life of better things, and could you look in upon them, you would



MISS WHITFIELD'S LITTLE SCHOOL.

just see as happy and hearty a family of children, as in any of our Canadian homes. At first, of course, they don't know a word of English, but there is a rule that every child must speak the new language at meal-

times, and this, you may be sure, very soon loses their tongues. While at play they talk in their own native tongue, for some day it is planned that they will return as missionaries to their own tribes, and Miss Whitfield doesn't wish them to forget their native speech. I wonder if some of you are asking just how they spend their days? Well, the older girls rise at five o'clock, and at six-thirty every one is astir and ready for a seven o'clock breakfast. Rice, sweet potatoes and other vegetables, fish, meat, bananas, &c.—these are the kind of things that you would usually find on the table of this Liberian home, but on Sunday, those who have been good have also tea and bread—butter is rarely seen.

Can you see in fancy nine dark, earnest faces reading in turn the morning Scripture lesson? How good it is to feel that these African children have a *right* to break the seal of the King's message.

Some share of the morning work falls to the lot of even the wee tot of four, and the two big girls of 12 and 13 are Miss Whitfield's right-hand workers. "Mary" stands at the left in the picture, and "Victoria" is guard of honor on the right. At 9 o'clock school opens in the dining room. Mary and Victoria read very well in the 3rd book, and the smaller children follow on with their simpler tasks. After dinner the little ones have a sleep while the older ones attend to domestic duties. Then comes an hour or two of sewing. The larger children make all their own underwear, and also help with the making of new dresses and the mending. I expect you have visions of stockings with pathetic looking holes in them, but not so. These African girls usually wear neither shoes nor stockings. Last Xmas Mary and Victoria received boots as presents, and proud and happy girls they were. I am afraid, however, that some of the poetry may wear down to solemn prose, when they find that boots means stockings, and stockings holes, and holes—darning. Exquisitely neat is some of the sewing done by the children of Miss Whitfield's home. It would put to shame much of the work turned out from the homes of Canadian girls. From five to six is play hour, real, genuine, rollicking play, in which no one joins more heartily than the cheery faced head of the household. At evening prayers each child gives a verse of a psalm, the older girls teaching the little ones the memory verse. Some of these girls of only six years of age, can repeat correctly whole psalms. At 7.50 the tired little ones go to their rest, and after an hour's study very soon comes the 9 o'clock bed hour of the older children. Sunday is just the bright, happy day that it should everywhere be. Morning service, and home Sunday

school in the afternoon. They sing the dear old familiar hymns and Miss Whitfield tells the same "old story of Jesus and His love."

Thus these little African children with heads and hearts as bright and true as yours, are growing up to be stalwart, lovable women. Of course they are not always good, but their faces are toward the light.

Can you reach your hands across the stretches of land and sea, and grasp the hands of these little black-faced sisters? And can you hear them say—"There are millions more just like we were, only—there is no money to redeem them?"

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### THE LEGEND OF THE CHRIST CHILD.

---

"One golden morn to Adine's home there came  
The Angel-bearer of a sweet behest,  
"With loving care,  
Adine, thy house prepare,  
For Christ, the Lord, this day shall be thy guest."

With awe, Adine the heavenly message heard,  
A holy hush fell on her heart and face;  
And going to and fro,  
She whispered low,  
To-day His presence shall make glad this place."

Long hours she watched, and while she bent her ear,  
And through the twilight strained her eager sight,  
A shadow crossed the floor,  
And at the door  
A sad eyed child begged shelter for the night.

But Adine, waiting for the Kingly guest,  
With hope and fear at war within her heart,  
No thought or care  
The weary child could spare,  
And with ungracious alms bade him depart.

Then suddenly the childish form was changed,  
And with a look that smote her like a sword,  
All fair and bright,  
In robes of silvery white,  
He turned and said "Adine, behold thy Lord."

And while with trembling hands her face she hid,  
The glory paled that through the place had shone;  
The sheen of pinion fair  
Swept thro' the air,  
And in the twilight dim she stood alone.

Still for the Master's coming Adine waits,  
But help from those that need no more with-holds,  
For evermore  
In all who seek her door,  
Adine the image of her Lord beholds."

## HYMN.

TUNE,—HOLLINGSIDE.

Christian workers far away—  
 Now for them we bow and pray :  
 Jesus, Saviour, let the light  
 Flood their way with blessings bright ;  
 For Thy work sustain and nerve,  
 And wherever called to serve,  
 Lord, wilt Thou prepare the field  
 For a rich, abundant yield ?  
 Freely give the Spirit's rain,  
 The ingathering of the grain :  
 Precious souls, a harvest great,  
 Lifted to their true estate ;  
 Make them with Thy word to smite  
 All the enemies of light ;  
 Sweeping heathen gloom away  
 With the opening of the day.

W. M. S. HYMNAL.

## FIELD STUDY FOR JANUARY.

" I think when I read the sweet story of old,  
 When Jesus was here among men,  
 I should like to have been with Him then."



E often think what a privilege those people had who knew Jesus on earth and were able to talk to Him face to face. But when we think over the matter carefully, had they more than we? Especially women and girls, surrounded as He was by a crowd of men, many of them rough and forbidding. He did talk to the woman of Samaria, but His disciples were astonished, and from the customs of the time and country there must necessarily have been but few women that came into personal contact with Jesus. Now we have His promise, "Lo I am with you alway."

A building may be filled with machinery for some purpose, well equipped and in good order, but without some force it would be nothing. To accomplish anything there must be water, steam, electricity, some power to set the machinery in motion. In our Society we have excellent machinery, good organization: what is needed is the force to make it effective. It is "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord." So we pray that increased spiritual power may come on our membership.

For the most part our missionaries are deprived of public worship conducted in their own tongue. Very often they are isolated even from other missionary workers. Our teachers in Kofu were for a long time the only foreign ladies in the city. Cut off from so many of the aids that we possess, let us earnestly pray for them that the Spirit Himself may guide them into all truth.

The preacher in a Christian country appeals to a prepared people as the missionary cannot. There is a familiarity with the facts of the Gospel. Our holidays, Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving Day, all teach their own lesson. Even the most ignorant could give some reason. The heathen not only have not this knowledge but they have another set of religious customs wrapped up with their everyday life. What is entirely new to us has no meaning. Our missionaries in Japan speak of the great lack of spiritual ideas. Miss Blackmore told of once trying to make a Bible lesson as simple as possible, and as the women questioned her, they said, "Oh, yes, you say the words right, but we don't know what you mean." In this darkness of mind how necessary is the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

I think it will be profitable as we are directed to this subject this month to study what the Bible says of God the Holy Spirit. Use a reference Bible and begin with the 14th of St. John's Gospel and the 2nd chapter of Acts, or better still take the subject Index of an Oxford Bible, reading under one or two headings each day. Memorize at least one passage a week. Ask God to bless His own Word and in our day, as in the days of the early church, will be fulfilled the prophecy of the Prophet Joel. "And it shall come to pass afterwards that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. And also upon the servants and upon the handmaidens in those days will I pour out my Spirit."

D.

## QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY.

Can you give any reasons why we have a better opportunity of knowing Jesus than the women and children in Bible times?

What is necessary to set machinery in motion?

What three forces are mentioned?

What is said of our Society?

What force is needed to make it effective and for what shall we pray?

What is said of our Missionary workers?

Of the teachers in Kofu?

What prayer must we make for them and why?

What is the difference between a preacher in a Christian country and a missionary?

What is the difference between the people in a Christian land and a heathen one?

Of what lack do the missionaries speak?

What was Miss Blackmore's experience?

What only can enlighten such darkness?

What will it be profitable to do this month?

What two ways are given of studying the Word of God on the subject of the Holy Spirit?

If we ask God to bless to us His own Word what prophecy will be fulfilled in our day, as in the days of the early Christ?

# \* PALM BRANCH \*

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH.

SAINT JOHN, N. B.


S. E. SMITH, . . . . . EDITOR.  
 SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, . . . . . 15 CENTS A YEAR.  
 FOR CLUBS OF TEN TO ONE ADDRESS, . . \$1.00 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.


JANUARY, 1896.

 As we take our pen to write the first editorial of the New Year, the gentle rebuke of the Lord to Samuel, 1st Saml. 16, 1, comes forcibly to mind. "How long wilt thou mourn?"—"fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee." Could anything be more appropriate than these words for us, dear readers, standing as we do on the threshold between the old year and the new? They come especially to those who are disheartened and prone to dwell on the failures and disappointments of the year that has gone. And are we not all too apt to be discouraged, forgetting the source of our strength? There is no doubt that there is a dark side for many of us missionary workers, and often to this burden we are bearing for others, comes a burden, perhaps a sorrow, of our own. What then? "How long wilt thou mourn?" God's remedy for all sorrow is action! but first, fresh consecration to His blessed service. "Fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee." So let us go bravely on to meet the unfoldings of the new year, feeling that we go not "to this warfare at our own charges," but that with it will surely come His own grand compensation.

We must put aside other editorial matter to give our readers Mrs. Thomas' admirable paper, so much appreciated at our Sussex Branch meeting. We confess we would also like to see it published as a leaflet.

We wish all our readers a very happy New year.

## WHOM SHALL WE SEND TO BRANCH?

 The momentous question we are now to consider, and I would like all present to unite with me in trying to find an answer. Realizing that every delegate would naturally be interested in this subject and that probably many would have some bright practical ideas to which they would like to give expression. I have tried to make this paper simply suggestive, hoping with your co-operation to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the difficulty.

My own idea of the matter can be summed up in a word—"Reciprocity." I would like always to send a delegate who would bring a great deal to the Branch

Meeting and who would also carry a great deal away.

First, I would like her to bring to the meeting a full realization and appreciation of the responsibility resting on our W. M. S. as a Society. Has it ever seemed strange to you that this work of proclaiming Christ to the nations has been taken in hand not by Kings, Governments, or even Churches, but by Societies? So far as is known only one church—the Moravian—gives as a reason for its existence the fact that it is, not *has*, a Missionary Society.

The great and good Carey, "Father of Missions," favored this idea. "Let the work be carried on" he writes "by Societies organized for the express purpose and controlled by those who long for the universal coming of His Kingdom." It being the fact then that this work is entrusted to Societies, how great the responsibility resting on those Societies, particularly on the leaders and officials. I wish every delegate could feel to some extent, what only God and themselves can fully realize, how heavy the burden resting on the hearts and minds of those who direct our work. Could they (the delegates) feel the responsibility they would surely help to bear it and so "fulfill the law of Christ." Next in order I would have every delegate bring a comprehensive *knowledge* of the work of our Society. What has been done, is being done and especially what is yet to be accomplished. Familiar as household words to her should be the names of our missionaries, fields of labor etc. I would like her to have definite and practical ideas concerning the work to be done at the present meeting, also a knowledge of parliamentary forms, why we use them, the state of treasury and so on. A general knowledge of mission work as carried on all over the world will wonderfully enlarge her horizon. A delegate prepared in this way will not only be able to take an intelligent interest in the work of the meeting, but also render valuable aid in carrying it on. Further, without this *knowledge* she is apt to lack the *third* qualification which is I think, *zeal in and for the work*, for zeal, in more senses than one, is often "according to knowledge." How can one be zealous in a cause of which they know little or nothing, and what can be accomplished in any cause without zeal? "No one does much without it, everyone does better with it." It overcomes difficulties as fire overcomes every resisting object, and we have need of it for there are difficulties yet to be overcome, for great as our success has been in the past the main result has been to open up the way for still greater work in the future, therefore let us be "zealously affected in a good cause." And surely a delegate should bring a heart consecrated to God and God's work. This indeed should rank first, as herein lies our power. John Wesley said that if he had one hundred men who loved no one but God and feared nothing but sin, he would set up the Kingdom of God on earth and shake the gates of hell in twelve months. Yes! we must give ourselves. Organization does much for us but organization is not *life*, and it is life we need. A poet represents Christ as saying:

"Who gives himself, with his gifts feeds three,  
 Himself, his braving neighbor and Me."

Also, I would have my delegate bring to the work a cheerful, sunny spirit. Do not bring discredit on

your Father, the King, by a doleful countenance or a dejected spirit. No matter what the record of the year. If you have passed through deep waters; if you have had trials and persecutions—What then? Did you find no Balm in Gilead? No physician there? Are you not a Christian? And has a Christian any right to "go mourning all her days." Even worldlings can meet in Convention when all goes well with them with cheerful faces, and can we do no more? Yes. Let us take our trouble to Jesus and let us as He bids us leave them there at the foot of the cross, taking with us

A heart at leisure from itself  
To soothe and sympathize.

A young man in Massachusetts, possessed of splendid attributes, mental and physical, looked forward to a useful life in Mission work. But God willed otherwise and he now lies crippled and partly paralyzed. A friend was condoling with him one day when he lifted his withered right hand and said, "Hush! God makes no mistakes." Let us feel that God has made no mistakes in ordering our lives and let us "rejoice evermore" as well as "pray without ceasing." Remember the Golden Rule. You know how it cheers you to meet bright, sunshiny people. Act then so that at the close of our Branch meeting the language of each heart may be

And if our fellowship below  
In Jesus be so sweet,  
What heights of rapture shall we know  
When round His throne we meet.

And further I think each delegate should feel a "sense of partnership." In a blackboard lesson recently published in PALM BRANCH, our W. M. S. was compared to a tree. The name "Branch" is suggestive. The Auxiliaries were compared to the various ramifications of those branches, the Bands to the twigs, etc. The Board of Managers represented the main body of the tree and the root. Let us hope that we are rooted and grounded in love, the love of Christ. How appropriate the illustration. How every smallest part has its work to do, how that work is utilized, and with what grand results, as a whole, when either work or parts would separately be comparatively useless. How it will help us in our work in the dark days to feel that we are a part of this organization, to know that our work, though small, will be utilized to its fullest extent, and many times multiplied. The work of every little Band, the contents of the tiniest mite-box are appreciated. Let us then strive to

"Do our little; God has made,  
Smallest leaves for forest shade,  
Smallest things their offering bring,  
God employeth everything."

Bring also to the treasury as large an offering as you can afford. It may be but the widow's mite but let us be sure it is not diminished by any self-indulgence. Was it not in Dr. Talmage's church recently that such an immense sum was realized by every member simply giving up her jewelry? I often wonder if we "missionary women" have any right to wear "ornaments of gold or silver." It is at best a custom borrowed from the heathen. It is said that though God's hands compared with ours are as the ocean to a drinking cup, yet He will not accept our hands half filled. With all this preparation do not forget to bring a written report from the Auxiliary to which you belong. There is a right way of getting

this report and a wrong way. It is not too unimportant a matter to do in the right way. I hope you are not imagining this delegate as having

"Hands too full of gifts to give,  
For reaching out a hand to take a gift."

I do not think we need have any anxiety on this point. We need not worry about the return journey. It would be simply impossible for *anyone* to come prepared in this way and not take back to her Auxiliary the best and most helpful ideas in each meeting, for as a matter of principle she will be present at each meeting. She will be sure to take back a full report, to be more enthusiastic, to have increased knowledge, greater zeal, a determination to do more work and do it better than ever before. In fact the reflex influence cannot help being felt. If Auxiliaries will send delegates thus prepared they will have no cause to complain of the result. There has been in the past too much of tacit *acceptance* without a thought of *contribution*. Resolve in the now historic words of Neal Dow that "By God's help we will change all this," and let us see the result in the Branch Meeting of 1896. Two questions have no doubt by this time arisen in your minds. First, Is this preparation necessary? and second, If so, how is it to be accomplished? As to the necessity the cry still is "The harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few." Never was the need for mission work more pressing than at the present time, and do you not see how much depends on individual effort." Our Society can have power only as the individuals composing it have power. It, the Society, cannot be used as a refuge from personal responsibility. The Branch Meeting for instance is just what the delegates make it. If there is important work to be done and they are not prepared to do it whose the blame? And while we are saying of our missionaries in foreign fields, "What are they among so many?" Do we ever think it may partly be your fault, partly mine, that there are so few. "The great enemy of the *best*," says Prof. Hyde is the *good*." Let us not be satisfied with the fact that our work in the past has been undeniably good but let us for our Society "Covet earnestly the best gifts." Remember that the very fact that we consider *possible*, such work as we suggest renders us responsible for its fulfillment. This preparation *can* be accomplished by steady, systematic work on the part of each Auxiliary. There is indeed a greater lack of system than earnestness in our work. Perhaps we might to some extent utilize the Chataqua Idea. If papers on field work were sent, say in January, and an examination held in June we might, other things being equal, discover the diligent ones and select therefrom a delegate. Our field studies in PALM BRANCH are well adapted to aid this plan. The returning delegate can be of great service by keeping the matter before the Auxiliary through the year. She need not be too aggressive. "Light houses do not need to fire cannon or ring bells to call attention to them or their lights, they simply *shine*." So if each returning delegate will let her light shine through the coming year, we will in '96 be able to say of each delegate, "Many delegates have done virtuously but thou excellest them all."

AGNES D. THOMAS.

Baie Verte, Oct. '95.



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

Cousin Joy wishes all her young cousins the happiest of happy New Years! And that sets Cousin Joy to thinking. What may make this year happier than all the other happy years gone into the past? Surely thankful hearts will help to do it. Have we all said "thank you" to God for all that He has done for us in the year that has gone? For life, health, strength, food, clothes and friends? For the privilege of living a little while on this beautiful earth, this Christian land of ours, and the hope of going to be with Him some day? If we have not thanked Him yet, it is time to begin, for we know

"Eternity will be too short  
To utter all His praise."

And then the beginning of a new year is a time not only to be thankful for the past, but to make good resolutions for the future. That reminds Cousin Joy that she heard of one dear little cousin last year who fell asleep while writing out her good resolutions. She must have been a "little tot" or else very tired of play. This year she will be older and more wide-awake and so she must try again. Another dear little girl after writing out a good many things she had resolved to do, wrote, in conclusion, "I mean to be a better girl and do more for Jesus." That was a fine, noble resolution! Yes, it is a good plan to write them out and hang them up some where where they will remind us, because we are so apt to forget. And yet God does not forget us, not for one moment. Suppose He did, what would become of you and me, dear little cousins? And then having written them out and hung them up, let us ask for help to keep them, and so this year will be the brightest and best to all the girls and boys in our Mission Bands. Cousin Joy knows you will be greatly interested in the picture on our first page, in the dear little children who have been rescued from misery, and perhaps this year you will be able to help redeem some more.

**DEAR COUSIN JOY.**—I belong to the Mission Band and I think it is very nice. I do not take the PALM

BRANCH, but I have read it and think I will take it next year. I am a little girl ten years old and live in Avondale. I send you a puzzle which I hope you will print. The puzzles for November are, Ruby's "Lone Star Mission Band, Flora's "Christianity."

Yours truly,  
**EFFIE MOSHER.**

Avondale, Nov. 28.

Correct answers to November puzzles also come from cousins Adelaide Graham, of Toronto, Lizzie Mortimer, of London, Zelia Johnson and Blanche —, of Jacksonville, and Jessie Carter.

**DEAR COUSIN JOY.**—I belong to the "Light Bearer's" Mission Band. We take the PALM BRANCH and like it very much. I think I have found the answers to the December puzzles. The first is, "Mizpah Mission Circle" and the second is, "Active Workers Mission Band. Your cousin,

Brampton.

**MINNIE ALLAN.**

Glad to be able to promise you a story next month from one of the boys. One whom we believe to be truly missionary in heart. The title will be "Old Man Green," by Edward Wilson Wallace.

#### ANSWERS TO DECEMBER PUZZLES.

**DEAR COUSIN JOY.**—The answer for the December puzzles are: "Mizpah Mission Band, "Active Workers Mission Band." Your little friend,  
Toronto, Dec. 3. **BESSIE LOCKE.**

**DEAR COUSIN JOY.**—I think I have found the answer to December puzzles. They are, first, "Mizpah Mission Circle," second, "Active Workers Mission Band." Yours truly,

West Cape, P. E. I.

**ROY D. STEWART**

Glad to hear from the boys.

We have a number of puzzles still on hand, soon to appear. Sorry not to give Flora's this month as promised, it will surely appear next time. With your puzzles you must always send the answers to Cousin Joy.

#### JANUARY PUZZLES.

I am composed of 12 letters.  
My 12, 8, 4, is a liquor that's not good to drink.  
My 2, 3, 11, 7, is to suspend, I think.  
My 3, 10, 6, 8, 1, is what I do pay to you.  
My 6, 10, 11, 3, is what lead in the water will do.  
My whole is something with which we should end the old and begin the new year. **EFFIE MOSHER.**

We beg Effie's pardon for altering the "whole."

I am composed of 19 letters.  
My 5, 6, 19, 5, 9 is a heathen country.  
My 7, 5, 1, 14, 17 is a fierce animal.  
My 5, 6, 19, 5, 1, 2 is a dark color.  
My 10, 8, 6, 19, 2, 11 is one of the largest cities in the world.  
My 3, 14, 11, 18, 16, is a bright color.  
My 12, 13, 17, 14, 4 is a number.  
My whole is what our Saviour tells us to do.  
St. Stephen. **ALBERTA.**

## TOTS DOLLAR.

Dess I dot a dollar!  
 There now, don't you see! (Holds it up.)  
 Tause I dot a birf-day,  
 Papa gave it me.

An I've dot a awful  
 Lot of sings to do,  
 Don't see how I ev'r,  
 Ever, tan dit froo.

Sink I'll buy for mamma  
 A pittymon ying,  
 For myself I isn't  
 Doin' to dit a sing.

A dassing case for papa,  
 Tause, I heard him say,  
 That he'd like to have one,  
 Just the ozzer day.

Then a great bid aproa  
 With frill, and pocket too,  
 One for nurse and Lena  
 Our house maid, don't you know.

Best of all, I'll tell you  
 What I'm doin' to do  
 Drop a shinin' twarter  
 In my mite-box new.

That's to buy some Bibles,  
 For children o'er the sea,  
 Who never heard of Jesus,  
 The Saviour who loves me.

Canso.

J. L. J.

## "WHITE ROBES."

In loving remembrance of Mary Wilkinson of the  
 "Rill and River" Mission Band, Alberton, P. E. I.

**W**HITE robes! Don't you love them? I do. Away in dear old England long ago, when I was a little girl, I loved in the twilight hour to curl up in the depths of a quaint old arm-chair which stood by our family fireside, and there with pussy in my lap dream of riding a milk white pony, and carrying dainty things to sick people, all wrapped in snowy napery, and my own garments were always pure white! Well, I have found that washing days and ironing days are closely connected with the white robes of earth, and so have learned to be content with a wee bit at the throat and wrists, with now and then a white apron. I am wearing one now as I write, it has long broad bands beautifully hemmed on either side, and across the bottom the same exquisitely neat work is seen. I am very fond of this apron. Would you like to know why? The hands of a dear little Band worker wrought all these delicate stitches, and those same hands brought the apron so lovingly to me on a bright May morning as a birthday gift, and now those dear busy little hands are folded quietly away under the snow. Just one year ago Jesus called dear Mary to live and walk and talk with Him in the beautiful home, where the dwellers wear only white robes which never get soiled, since, "naught that defileth" ever enters there. Mary was quite young, just a little over fifteen, when Jesus called her to the upper home, yet she was not afraid,

but really glad to go, although she had on earth a very happy home, where she was most tenderly loved and cared for by father, mother, sister and brother. When we first knew her she was a merry, fun-loving and seemingly thoughtless child, but when about a year afterwards we formed our Mission Band she became a most interested and active worker, and continued such, with increasing devotion, to the very close of her earthly career. She was ever ready to serve as an officer, or to sew, sing or recite, to earn money, or to deny herself that she might swell the Band treasury. Well do we remember, during the summer of 1894, visiting her sick room and purchasing from her some missionary aprons, which had been made by the Band and left in her care. What a bright flush of pleasure illuminated her pale face as she counted over the money! I think you will have guessed ere this that Mary had not only joined the Mission Band, but had given herself to Jesus. Yes, very quietly but very decidedly the winter after the Band was formed, she came to Jesus in simple trusting faith and made choice publicly of His blessed service, uniting with His visible church in the Spring of 1893, of which she was a consistent, useful and growing member until she passed away. Her illness continued from early summer, for just as the beautiful June days arrived, bringing holidays, flowers and friends, she was smitten with fever, from which she never fully recovered; later lung trouble developed and ere the merry Xmas bells began to ring she went up to join the music of the skies. She never murmured through all the weary days and nights, but was most patient, nay more, quite cheerful, often singing in her chamber "Jesus bids us Shine," and other pretty pieces belonging to the Band and Sunday school. When it became quite evident that she could not linger long upon earth, and sorrow filled the hearts of her dear ones she strove to cheer them. In her room was peace and sunshine and heavenly song, though the poor body was rapidly wasting away. Outside her door they wept and said, "What shall we do without her?" She alone was perfectly calm and wonderfully sustained of God. She asked for the boys and girls of her acquaintance to come and as they stood weeping around her bed, she urged them to love and serve Jesus, and to meet her in heaven. She quietly disposed of her little trinkets to one and another, sending all her money to the beloved Mission Band, in which she had worked so faithfully—then her work on earth seemed done. On the last Sabbath evening she was suffering very much yet smiled and asked them to sing, "My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine," and so she passed from our vision! By her request her remains were borne to the sanctuary in which she had glorified Jesus by taking Him publicly as her Saviour and King. By her wish also the choir sang softly, "Some Sweet Day," "Bye and Bye." Sorrow and silence filled many hearts and tears fell thick and fast, nevertheless as the sweet strains rose and fell, followed by prayer and psalm, the thought and desire of the large congregation were lifted heavenward. "God came down their souls to meet, whilst glory crowned the Mercy seat." It was a never to be forgotten season.



Dear young Mission Band workers will you not think of Mary and follow her bright example? Will you not now, if you have not already done so, give yourselves to Jesus, and be "all" for Him? He will wash you and make you "all glorious within." He will give you His Holy Spirit to guide and help you every day and to assure you that you are really His. Then I am sure that the spotless pages of this fair New Year will be bright with His praise, and the joy of loving service will run through all your days. And then, "Some Sweet Day" our King will come for you and with Mary and many other loved ones, we too shall walk with Him in white robes forevermore!

Your loving friend and fellow worker,  
C. M. LAWSON.

### A THOUGHT FOR THE SEASON.

Adrift on time's returning tide  
As waves that follow waves we glide.  
God grant we leave upon the shore  
Some wail of good it lacked before.  
Some seed, or flower, or plant of worth,  
Some added beauty to the earth,  
Some larger hope, some thought to make  
The sad world happier for its sake.

WHITTIER

### LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

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

On Aug. 28th a Mission Band was organized at West Devon, P. E. I., by Mrs. C. W. Strong, our Branch treasurer. Twenty-seven names were enrolled. Since then one new name has been added. Meetings are held every second Friday of the month. "Ready Helpers," Sackville, held a public meeting Thanksgiving evening. A short, but interesting program was carried out. Miss Palmer, President of the N. B. and P. E. I. Branch, gave a short address. Collection \$11.00. Number of subscribers for PALM BRANCH 50.

Lois Bain, Cor.-Sec. of Cheerful Toilers Mission Band, Carmarthen St., St. John. writes:—We the Cheerful Toilers Mission Band, of Carmarthen street Methodist church, held our first public meeting the first Thursday in November. The programme consisted of singing, recitations, etc. The school room was pretty well filled and the collection amounted to over \$5.00. The admission fee was silver collection, so we thought we did very well. Our president, Mrs. Hutchings, was the source of the amusement of the evening and deserves much praise. After the concert a Surprise Social was given the members of the Band and we invited Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Wightman to take lunch with us, and a very enjoyable hour was spent which we must also attribute to the older members of our Band.

I. T.

#### N. S. BAND NOTES.

The record of the N. S. Bands has not been quite all we could desire for the past year. Circumstances have not been very favorable to a thoroughly successful working. But we hope that this year will be a marked improvement and to this end we trust every member will feel her personal responsibility to retrieve the past. Our new Bands for 1895-96 are as follows: "Joyous Workers," Cape Negro, "Wellspring," Port Clyde, "Bonair," Upper Port La Tour, "Teh Dien," Lower Port La Tour, "Harbour Light," North East Harbour, "Spring Light," Reg Head, "Harbour Bell," Little Harbour, "River Jordan," Jordan River.

The "Picquet Guard" Band, of Farmington, opened the new year of Mission work by an At Home, to which the parents were invited. An unusually good programme was provided, consisting of music, readings and recitations. At the close of the entertainment refreshments of cake and coffee were served and a social time enjoyed by all. A collection of \$1.05 was taken. They are now busy making holders and have already realized quite a little by the sale of them.

"Blackmore" Band, Ritcey's Cove, has a membership of 32. Their fortnightly meetings are reported very helpful to all. They intend to study all they can about China and its Missions. Public meetings are sometimes held at which they receive good collections.

The "Happy Workers" Circle, Middleton, report the outlook for this year very encouraging, the attendance is good, averaging twenty. They have been taking orders for sewing and plain articles, such as arsons, knitted slippers, toilet mats, etc. They are devoting their time this month to a Xmas service, "Only Starlight," from which good results are expected.

Despite the fact that an earnest appeal has been made to each Circle and Band, in connection with the N. S. Branch, there are many from which I have not heard, and I now use the PALM BRANCH as a medium to impress more strongly the fact. If you want me to become to you the helpful friend I wish to be and to help me in turn with my work, you must correspond with me.

M. E. B., Cor.-Sec.

Maplehurst, South Farmington, Anna. Co., N. S.

Miss Edith Settle, of Dartmouth, N. S., writes:—"Woodlawn Workers" Mission Band celebrated their 1st anniversary in October. The children had quite a program prepared, and we enjoyed the meeting very much. Since then we made an autograph quilt from which we realized over \$25.00. Our membership has increased to 43 members. We enjoy reading the PALM BRANCH and are going to send for 10 copies.

#### BAY OF QUINTE BRANCH.

In October a Junior Mission Band was organized at Lakefield, called "Cheerful Workers," with a membership of twenty-six. Miss Myrtle Fitzgerald Cor.-Sec'y.

M. G. H.