



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

"STRETCH IT A LITTLE."

Trudging along the slippery street
Two childish figures, with aching feet,
And hands benumbed by the biting cold,
Were rudely jostled by young and old,
Hurrying homeward at close of day
Over the city's broad highway.

Nobody noticed or seemed to care
For the little ragged, shivering pair;
Nobody saw how close they crept
Into the warmth of each gas-jet
Which swung around its mellow light
From the gay shop windows in the night.

"Come under my coat," said little Nell,
As tears ran down Joe's cheeks, and fell
On her own thin fingers, stiff with cold.
"Taint very big, but I guess 'twill hold
Both you and me, if I only try
'To stretch it a little. So now don't cry"

The garment was small and tattered and thin,
But Joe was lovingly folded in
Close to the heart of Nell, who knew
That stretching the coat for the needs of two
Would double the warmth and halve the pain
Of the cutting wind and the icy rain.

"Stretch it a little." O girls and boys!
In homes overflowing with comforts and joys,
See how far you can make them reach—
Your helpful deeds and your loving speech,
Your gifts of service and gifts of gold;
Let them stretch to households manifold.
—Harpers' Young People.

STORY BY A LITTLE CHINESE GIRL.

DURING the sixth moon Wen Shan, one of our neighbor's girls came back from the Peking School. She looked so queer to us! They had taken the bandages from her feet, and she walked like a boy and her feet were nearly as big as a boy's. I laughed at her, because she had followed the foreign devils and had a girl's head and a boy's feet, but offic-

my feet ached, so I wished in my heart that I had boy's feet too.

At first we all made sport of Wen Shan, because she had been off to the mission school; but she was so gentle and kind we got ashamed to make her feel bad. One day I said, "Why don't you get angry and scold like you used to do?"

"Because Jesus said, 'Love your enemies.'"

"Jesus? Who is Jesus? Is He your teacher?"

Then she told me a beautiful story about her Jesus. I did not believe it, but I liked to hear it all the same. We all liked to look at her doll and pretty things that came from America in a box for the school. No one in our village ever saw such pretty things. Every one went to see her house after she trimmed it up with bright picture cards. She says the verses on the cards are Bible verses, and the Bible, she says, is the book the true God has given us to help us to be good and please Him, so we can go to heaven when we die.

When I told grandma she said: "Ask Wen Shan to bring the Bible book over here and read it to me. I want to hear about her Jesus God."

When Wen Shan came I could see that grandma loved to hear her talk about Jesus. Wen Shan seems to love her Jesus, but we are afraid of our gods, and sometimes I think her god must be nicer than ours.

No woman in our village can read. It is a wonderful thing to hear her read as well as the mandarins. One day she read where Jesus said He was going away to prepare many mansions and He promised to come again for His friends.

Grandma said, "That is very nice for the foreigners."

But Wen Shan said, "He is heaven's Lord, our Heavenly Father. We are all His children. He loves Chinese just as well as He does Americans."

"Do you think there is a heaven for me too?" said grandma, and her voice shook so it made me feel very queer in my heart.

"Yes, surely there is."

"But I am nothing but a poor, stupid old woman, and I am afraid He will not want me in His fine mansions," said grandma.

After a while I noticed that she did not burn any more incense to the gods, and sometimes it seemed to me she was talking with some one I could not see.

When cold weather came she began to cough and grow weak, and one day I heard them say, "She cannot live long." My mother bathed her and put on her fine clothes, and the priests came from the temple and beat their gongs and drums to scare away the devils that watch for the dying. Poor old grandma opened her eyes and looked so scared I could not look at her.

Mother put the brass pin in her hand so that she could rap on the gate of the other world, and she shut her fingers around it tight.

All at once she said, "Send Ling Ze to that Jesus school." Then she went off to sleep. About midnight she opened her eyes and smiled so glad, but she did not seem to see us.

"O, look! look! The door is open! O, how beautiful! Yes, it is my mansion! So big! There is room for all of us! I'll go first and wait for you!"

Then she folded her hands and went to sleep, and they put her in the black coffin and fastened down the cover with pegs.

I found the old brass pin on the floor. I was so sorry for grandma, until I remembered she said the gate was wide open, so I thought she would not need to rap.

—N. W. Christian Advocate.

BAND WORK.

(Words of One of Our Very Best Band Workers.)

I do not think our women realize that Bands are not only to train future workers, but that they are helpers now and could do much more if the women would only use them. They help financially: they carry missionary information into homes that would receive it in no other way, and thus may indirectly bring members to our Auxiliaries; they can be used with great advantage in our public meetings, and a Band member is just as truly one of our W. M. S. as an Auxiliary member, and ought to be recognized as such.

Our Auxiliaries, Circles and Bands are, of course, parts of our Society, only for obvious reasons arranged in groups, and everything possible ought to be done to bind these groups closely together.

Your Band workers would be able to suggest plans to bring this about.

More than this, our women must be brought to see that to make a strong Missionary Society much home work must be done, and not a small part of this is training the children

I know of no part of our home work that requires more patience and self-denial than that among the young. But this has been increased by lack of interest among the many in our Auxiliaries, and the consequently increased amount of responsibility resting on the few who feel called to take it up.

I own myself vanquished! Utterly defeated! Miss Hawley and her little Band workers are too many for me. The children are often the best judges of what they want themselves. There is sometimes a good deal of wisdom in a very little head. So I bow in submission to the opinion of the majority and can only hope that next year some plan may be devised to have a uniform lesson in all the Bands of the Society. It seems to me that the way in which the work is carried on now, one Band taking China for a subject for two or three months, while another has Japan during that time, and still another the Indian work, is perfectly absurd. It makes such supposed help as the Mission Band paper, which keeps on with the prayer subjects and studies for the month (probably because the editor sees nothing else to do), comparatively useless.

X. X.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Now, if you should visit a Japanese home,

Where there isn't a sofa or chair.

And your hostess should say, "Take a seat, sir, I pray,"

Now where would you sit? Tell me where.

And should they persuade you to stay there and dine,

Where knives, forks, and spoons are unknown,

Do you think that you *could* eat with chop-sticks of wood?

And how might you pick up a bone?

And then, should they take you a Japanese drive

In a neat little "rickshaw" of blue,

And you found, in Japan, that your horse was a man,

Now what do you think you would do?

—Independent.

Suggested Programme for Mission Bands—July.

Announce subject—"India. All Mohammedan Countries."

1. Opening Hymn—"I Want to be a Worker." Dominion Hymnal, No. 185.

2. Repeat Psalm 24th. in concert.

3. Short Prayer by Leader.

4. Minutes. Roll Call. Responded to by naming one of the Missionaries.

5. Regular Business.

6. Talk by Leader—"Comparing child life in India with child life in America."

7. Hymn—"From Greenland's Icy Mountains, from India's Coral Strand."

8. India—Field Study in this Palm Branch.

9. Dust—"Send Them the Light."

10. Reading—"Claims of India" (Room 20) or "Original paper on Mohammed, his life, death, and belief of his followers.

11. Benediction.

* Information found in Encyclopedia Britannica.

"Thro' the lives of men and nations God is working out His will,
 Tho' His hand is often hidden, it is somewhere moving still.
 Does He open Heaven's windows? Nay, but He goes in before,
 Ready, when His sons are ready, to unlock another door."

FIELD STUDY FOR JULY.

India; All Mohammedan Countries.

India is a country of vast extent and abundant resources. It has an area of 1,474,606 square miles, equal in size to all Europe, except Russia, and is 1,900 miles long at its greatest length and 1500 miles wide at its greatest width. Its population is 282,000,000, or four times as great as the population of the United States. India is a country hoary with age, dating back to the time when Ninevah flourished and Babylon was in all its glory. It is mentioned in Esther as one of the provinces over which Ahasuerus reigned. In those days, as now, it yielded cotton, silk, spices, rice, indigo, ores and precious stones. Fruits also grow in abundance, chief among them being bananas, cocoanuts, pine-apples, mangoes, oranges and lemons.

There are ninety-eight distinct languages spoken in India, and a much larger number of dialects. Of religions there are also a great many, Brahmanism taking the lead, being deeply rooted in the history and social life of the people. Besides this, we find Buddhism, Mohammedanism, Demon worship and Parsi-ism. The Hindus are said to have 330,000,000 gods. Surely to these poor deluded and misled people the Gospel of Christianity must seem plain and simple!

As you all know, India is one of our sister colonies, and our beloved Queen is "Empress of India," having been crowned in 1858. However, there are 688 native sovereignties, all of which are in subjection to the British power.

Although India is so often thought of as a land of wealth, there are a great many poor people, who really live in a state of semi-starvation. The English government has done much to help this class and to prevent the periodic outbreak of famine.

Infanticide, child-marriage and the opium traffic are the greatest evils of India. Women are so degraded and their lives so unhappy that often girl babies are secretly put to death. If they are allowed to live, often while in their cradles, they are betrothed, and between the ages of five and ten married, going at once to their husband's home to become the slave of his mother, who teaches them to be obedient and faithful to him. If the husband should die, the little girl becomes a widow and must remain one all her life. The suffering of these poor widows is terrible to think of. Kindness and sympathy are never shown them. All their lives they must wear coarse clothing, eat coarse food, and have no place at the family feasts. Whether they remain with their husband's parents or return to their own, they are no longer daughters, but servants, disgraced and despised. At present there are 21,000,000 widows in India, 77,363 of which are under ten years of age. Just think of it! And why are they treated so? Because these poor deluded people are taught by their religion that the death of the husband is caused

by some evil spirit residing in the wife, or for some evil which she has done, and so she must be punished. How sad to think that these things really exist!

Much is being done, however, to improve this terrible state of affairs. A law has been passed, raising the age of marriage several years, though to us it still seems very low. Pundita Ramabai, in her schools for child widows, is doing a grand work, and at present sixty-five hospitals are affiliated to the Countess of Dufferin fund for supplying medical aid and there are two hundred native female students of medicine. But, alas! what are these among so many? When we think of these 21 millions of widows suffering, at this present time, degradation and hardship beyond description, our hearts go out in earnest prayer that God, the all-merciful Father, will speak peace to their aching hearts.

The Methodist Church of Canada has no mission in India yet, but the M. E. Church of the United States is doing a grand work there, and very many are forsaking their old religions and believing in Jesus Christ.

We are also to remember in prayer this month "All Mohammedan Countries." In India we find there are forty millions who worship Mohammed, a man who was born in Arabia about 1300 years ago, and who claimed that he was a prophet of God. In Persia also there are about 675,000 Mohammedans; in Africa 40,000,000. In Syria also there are a great many adherents to this faith. The laws of this religion are so strict that it is especially hard for Mohammedans to become Christians, and in a great many cases where they have done so they have been persecuted that they have been obliged to leave the country. Let us pray that the kingdom of our God may speedily be established in all these lands, and this false system of religion perish.

Ontario.

A. C. W.

QUESTIONS FOR JULY.

- What is said of India? Its area?
- Its population? Its antiquity?
- What are its productions? Fruits?
- What of its languages? Religions? Gods?
- How must Christianity seem to its people?
- What is its relation to Great Britain?
- What is said of the poverty of the common people?
- What are the evils of India? How are girls and widow treated?
- How many little widows in India, and why are they treated so?
- What efforts have been put forth for their help?
- Have we a mission in India? What Church is doing grand work there?
- Who was Mohammed? How many in India worship him?
- In Persia? Africa? Syria? What makes it hard for Mohammedans to become Christians?

The several volumes which have been compiled for the use of Chinese girls are all very similar, and usually bear some such title as "Counsels," or "Instructions." Girls are there exhorted to pay close attention to all household duties, and particular directions are given as to the dress and manners becoming to young maidens. They are taught to be respectful to their elders, and very minute directions are given to guide them in their behaviour to their mothers-in-law and their future husbands.

PALM ✻ BRANCH.

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

ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE, 1899

OUR June subjects for prayer and study are Missionaries and Missionary Ships. Truly interesting subjects indeed for us all.

Perhaps those most naturally interested in our missionaries are the families from which they have gone forth: to toil for God in distant lands. Their own immediate, familiar friends, who miss them every day from the home circle and fireside. These, doubtless, tenderly remember and fervently pray for them. Can we do less for those who have gone to represent our Saviour as well as their own, in those lands from which a knowledge of Him has been so long withheld? When we are privileged to listen to them on their return after five years' absence from home and friends, with such a varied experience gathered in lands personally unknown to us, how we wonder at the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which makes it possible for them to "Endure hardness as good soldiers." We rejoice with them as they recount the victories won in His name, sympathize in all the difficulties of the way, the seeming slow but rapid progress and onward march of the Truth which breaks down all barriers and look forward hopefully through their eyes to a bright future for those lands now open to the light.

We were very much interested in Miss Crombie's address the other night, and especially when she illustrated the fact that Japan, which so many suppose to be now almost entirely won to Christianity, has many provinces still unpenetrated by its holy light. She told of a young woman from one of those provinces, who in some way (can we doubt how? St. John 1: 9), had got the idea of our true God, and had determined to leave home and friends to try and find Him. Such a thing is never heard of in Japan as a young woman starting out alone on any voyage of discovery, though men, as tramps, are often seen there. She went on and on; reduced to the necessity of part-

ing with one article of value after another (she belonged to one of the upper classes), that she might obtain food, until at last she was almost in rags. Everywhere she enquired for this one true God, and no one had heard of Him, till at length some one who had heard of the missionaries, directed her to them, and here at last she found light and comfort. Is not this an encouraging fact for our faithful workers, and does not this girl; in her earnestness to find God, condemn us who have had the truth so long in our homes and lands? Let us pray for our dear missionaries more and more, that they may be blessed and strengthened and encouraged in their great work for Christ.

"Missionary Ships" are great helpers in the "way," as some of our brave missionaries can tell, who have made long, perilous voyages in them along rough coasts and through stormy waters, that they may carry glad tidings to those who have never heard them, and we must still pray "God speed the Missionary Ships."

PRAY AND PUSH.

An old story I once read, about
 The launching of a ship;
 And it told of the crowd that gathered
 To watch its outward trip.

And a robed priest stood on the shore,
 And thus he prayed: "O Lord,
 Bless the goodly ship we launch to-day!
 May the skies be fair, and 'neath Thy care
 May she proudly sail away.
 We thank Thee for the men who dare
 To venture for our gain;
 For the good they do, then speed the crew
 Across the rolling main."

But a little boy with one eye,
 Saw need of help just then,
 And swift he ran across the sand
 And stood among the men.

"Let me help! I can push a pound!"
 With eager tone he cried,
 And push he did, with all his might
 Till the brave ship touched the tide.

"Hurrah! hurrah! the ship's afloat!"
 —The good priest looked around,
 "'Tis answer to my prayer," said he,
 Said the boy, "I pushed a pound!"

This story has its lesson, friends;
 It comes to me and you,
 As we review our mission fields
 And ask, "What can we do?"

Do? We can pray, and pray we must
 E'er Christ the world shall win,
 —"Thy kingdom come!" pray on! pray on!
 Till He hath conquered sin.

But Oh, forget not while you pray,
 To push with all your might!
 The least of you can "push a pound,"
 And thus speed on the right.

C. M. F.

—L. A. S.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

A Letter to the Readers of Palm Branch.

Dear Friends,—I call you such because, although this is my first letter to your paper, I feel we must all be friends in Christ Jesus, when we are all interested in missions, and I feel quite at home with you. Having been requested to tell you what I know about mission work at Norway House, I think perhaps it would be well first of all to say whereabouts that particular place is, as all may not know. It is a mission station situated on Lake Winnipeg, where Indians have been under the care of the Methodist Church for over 50 years, and distant from the city of Winnipeg about 400 miles. Supposing we wanted to go there, we could not make this journey of 400 miles in a railway train. As the country in that part of the world is covered with a beautiful mantle of snow for seven months of the year, we could go in the way the missionary does most of his travelling, that is by dog-train, and for a hotel in which to stay over night, we would probably have to do as this same missionary frequently does—pick out a thick clump of trees, shovel away the snow from the ground about the centre, lay down some boughs there, put up a few for protection at our backs and then, having made a fire in front, draw our robes and wraps as closely about our persons as possible and lie down to sleep. If this same missionary intends returning by the same road he will probably dig a hole under his camp-fire, put some provisions in it for himself and dogs, cover it over with snow (which soon turns into ice) and by this means save his food from being eaten up by wild animals.

Supposing that we had arrived at Norway House, we would find that six or seven hundred Indians belong there and about a dozen white and half-breed families. It is the central point for the whole Indian work of our church on Lake Winnipeg district, which takes in about 3,000 Indians. Our Missionary Society sustains here one missionary and two teachers. These Indians are Crees, and when brought under the influence of the Gospel are industrious and willing to do what they can to improve the circumstances of their families. Sometimes the men make long, laborious voyages for the Hudson Bay Company, hiring themselves for a year, perhaps, and they are found to faithfully fulfil their engagements.

Another thing said about them is, that when far away from home and the mission house, they strictly observe the Sabbath, something about which some white people, calling themselves Christians, might well take a lesson from them. Last winter a grand evangelistic service was held at this point, and when the invitation was given for those who felt their need of a Saviour to bow at the altar, many of these stolid Indians (as we styled them) were so influenced by God's spirit that they yielded, crying "What must I do to be saved." The missionary describes it as being a genuine old-time Methodist revival. The missionaries, who have been stationed here from time to time, have no doubt done their very best for these people, but accounts are often given us here in Winnipeg of the great

suffering endured by both the missionaries and their people, which could in many cases be at least greatly relieved if there was more money in the missionary treasury. At the last board meeting of the W. M. S. it was decided to send to Norway House, as soon as the necessary arrangements could be made, a trained medical nurse. There is a good deal of sickness among these people, partly because their medicine man never says anything about dirt or want of ventilation, and in many cases the poor sick ones have just to suffer and suffer on until death frees them. But with a trained nurse there many of their ailments could be relieved and cured, and much good accomplished, as by this means their hearts would be reached and touched, and so ready access would be obtained for the story of "Jesus and His love." It is from Norway House and vicinity that most, if not all, the Indian boys and girls come who are now in our Indian Industrial School at Brandon, Man., where a grand work is being done for them, in many ways, that will benefit them both for this world and for that which is to come.

I fear the editor will think my letter already too long, so I will close, only adding that I trust you will all feel greater interest than ever in our Indian work at Norway House, and aid it in any way possible to you.

Yours sincerely,

C. E. DOISEN,

Recording-Secretary Man. and N. W.
Con. Branch of W. M. S.

CHINESE GIRLS AT HOME.

A GREAT many little girls in China, while very young, are able to add their mite to the family income by learning one of the trades which employ the busy fingers of poor Chinese women.

A large number of children are taught to make soles which are used for Chinese shoes. They paste pieces of old rag on a board or shutter till a thickness of about half an inch is obtained. The substance is then dried in the sun, and after being stripped from the board is ready for the shoemaker's use. Others, for a short season, are employed in the manufacture of the beautiful lanterns, of all shapes and sizes, which are in such universal request during the festivities of the first month of the year.

Other girls are skilful in making small paper boxes, used in jewellers' shops, and many are employed in the pleating of silk to lengthen queues.

The art of embroidering also supplies work to a large number of women and girls, and many little girls are kept so closely to their frames that their eyes are permanently injured.

But the industry which employs probably the largest number of girls is that of making paper money to be used in the worship of the gods.

Girls in China seldom receive any education. Sometimes a wealthy man will allow his daughter to share in her brother's studies for a short time, but generally it is considered unwise to allow girls to become as clever as their future husbands.



Address—Cousin Joy, 232 Princess Street, St. John, N. B.

Dear Cousins,—Of course you were all interested in Mr. Kirby's Scripture questions last month, and would like to know who won the dollar for the Band. Miss Ada Campbell's, of the Lavinia Clarke M. B., Pownal, P. E. I., was the first answer received, though Wendall Stokoe's, of the Bloomfield Band, "Mayflowers," Car. Co, came on the afternoon of the same day. The three from Kensington "Ruby Band" deserve great credit for promptness, too, and Miss Margaret Harper's, of Bay Verte, was worthy of special mention for its neatness and correctness. Just six competitors, and we would like to give a prize to each one, or rather each Band. Cousin Joy does not like prizes. Do you know why? Because they will not go round! Will you tell me next month, or next time you write, why you think your friend, Mr. Kirby, wrote in that way, asking you all those questions? Was it just for fun?

Dear Cousin Joy,—I am recording secretary of our Mission Band. We organized last November with a membership of twenty-one, and met twice a month. We had a Japanese tea a while ago and made \$2. We had an Easter entertainment, which consisted of dialogues, recitations and music. Cora Brundage gave a recitation. She is the youngest one in our Band, being only five years old. It was really a sermon she preached us, and she is so cute, she cheers us up so. If it was not for Mrs. Deinstadt we would not have had any band. She gets up all the entertainments. I take the Palm Branch and like it very much, but I always make for the letters, I love to read them. After a while we are going to get up a concert and make candy to sell. Mrs. Deinstadt thinks we will be able to sell it quite well. Anyway there is nothing can beat trying. Now I will close with love and good wishes from

Your friend,

ALMA E. BEATTEAV.

Millstream, Kings Co., N. B.

Dear Cousin Joy,—Our Mission Band, The Cheerful Toilers of Carmarthen Street Methodist Church, held an Easter Missionary meeting March 28th, 1899, at which most of the Methodist Bands of the city were present. Miss S. E. Smith presided, and we concluded a short programme. After this Miss Crombie, our returned missionary from Japan, gave us a short and interesting address. A collection was then taken up,

which added \$7.45 to our funds. The band also gave an Easter offering, in which the girls took a great interest.

I remain yours truly,

ANNA E. CASSIDY,

Cor.-Secretary.

St. John.

[A very interesting meeting.]

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 enjoy reading it very much. I think I have found the answers to the March puzzles. The first one, "Wayside helpers of Delta;" the second one, "Proverbs;" the third one, "Chushan-rishathaim."

I remain yours truly,

West Cape, P. E. I.

ABBIE CROSMAN.

Dear Cousin Joy,—I am a member of the Mission Band, and began to take the Palm Branch this year, and like it very much. I am trying to do what I can for the Mission Band. I sold two holders for ten cents, to go to the funds. I have a little sister six years old, and she is going to join it next year. I don't know any puzzles. I know a riddle; if you think it proper, publish it please.

"In a garden was laid a most beautiful maid"

As ever was seen in the room,

She became a wife the first day of her life,

And died before she was born."

She is mentioned in the Bible.

Your cousin,

Rice's Cove

GERALDINE E. RITCEY.

Dear Cousin Joy,—Received my Palm Branch this morning, and on reading Mr. Kirby's letter I thought I would try and answer his questions correctly and earn the reward for our band. Answers:

1.—Genesis 7th chapter and 7th verse. There were eight in the Ark.

2.—Genesis 8th chapter and 14th verse. The earth was dried on the 27th day of the second month after the flood.

3.—Luke 24 chapter and 32nd verse. And they said one to another, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked with us by the way?"

4.—I. Samuel 6th chapter and 4th verse. There were five Golden Mice sent back.

5.—II. Kings 14th chapter and 2nd verse. Amaziah was five and twenty when he began to reign.

6.—Nehemiah 7th chapter and 33rd verse. Nehemiah's sons were 52; or II. Kings 15th chapter and 2nd verse—Azariah reigned 52 years; or, Nehemiah 6th chapter and 15th—the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt in 52 days.

I am afraid this will not reach you in time but I am sending by return mail, and I cannot do any better.

Your loving cousin,

ADA M. CAMPBELL.

Lavinia Clarke Mission Pond

Pownal, P. E. I.

PUZZLES FOR JUNE.

I am composed of 14 letters.
 My 5, 6, 10, 9, 3, 14, are well-bred women.
 My 2, 3, 5, 10, is kept.
 My 1, 6, 13, 14, are ends of boot-lace.
 My 8, 6, 12, a color.
 My 7, 11, 4, to use a spade.
 My whole is a vessel on the Pacific Coast.
 St. John.

ELLIE SMITH.

I am composed of 10 letters.
 My 16, 13, 4, is "For a fool's back," the Bible says.
 My 7, 1, 15, 3, like a lion.
 My 11, 13, 2, 16, is not sweet.
 My 1, 14, 12, 13, 14, is a vegetable.
 My 6, 4, 8, 17, 7, 5, to regard with love or wonder.
 My 19, 9, 16, 18, a name for father.
 My 10, 9, 11, little name for sister.
 My whole are friends we must pray for,

COUSIN JOY.

[Written for the PALM BRANCH.]

GIVE THE BEST TO CHRIST.

ONE Saturday afternoon Bertha and Alice were walking home from the Mission Band, where they had been listening to stories of the sufferings of the little children in China and other heathen lands. They had also been told that it was their duty to deny themselves of luxuries, such as candy, &c., and help all they could to make those poor children happy, and that by so doing they would do it for Christ, and bring happiness to themselves as well.

Little Alice, who was a child of poor parents, but had a very kind heart, said to Bertha: "How I wish I had some money, I would buy Bibles or some nice things to make those poor children happy."

"Pshaw," said Bertha, with a toss of her head, "I have money to spend, but I had rather buy candy or something nice for myself; I don't know those children, why should I care for them?"

"But," replied Alice, "God loves them as much as he does anybody, and I think it is too bad that they can't know Him so as to love Him too, and I think I will ask mamma to give me some money."

"Oh," said Bertha, "that is mere nonsense. I can't bother my head about people I don't know, and never will know."

Poor Alice sighed as she left Bertha and ran into the house to find her mamma to ask her for the money "Say, mamma, won't you give me some money?"

"What for?" replied mamma.

Then Alice told the stories she had heard, and said she would like to help those poor children.

"But," said mamma, "If I gave you the money you would not be helping any—but I will tell you a nice plan. You know you have two new dolls, and you do not need them both; you say the one dressed in pink is the best, so you can send the other to these poor children."

Alice thought for a moment, and then away she scampered up stairs and returned in a few moments with the doll dressed in pink, the very same she thought the best.

"Why!" said mamma, much surprised, "I thought

that was your best doll? Are you going to send that away?"

"Yes," replied Alice, "for the lady said to-day that when we gave to those poor children we were giving to Christ, and don't you think we ought to give Christ the best?"

"Oh, yes, little children, we ought to give Christ the best always. Give Him our hearts, and the best of our lives, which can be given only by commencing to serve Him while young. No child is too small to serve Him, who has said: "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

E. M. B.

MOLLY'S THANK OFFERING.

IT was Sunday evening, and the children were all in bed. The children were Bess and Danny and Carl and the twins—Molly's little brothers and sisters—and it was always a relief to both Molly and her feeble mother when they were all safely asleep.

Molly sat by her mother's chair counting the pennies she had emptied into her lap, and she was talking very fast, sometimes about the thank offering the girls of the mission circle were going to make, and sometimes about the Sunday-school lesson for the day—the parable of the talents.

"You see, my mite box money belongs to the Lord, but the servants were told to take their Lord's money and trade wit it, so's to get more, and that's what I'm going to do with mine—to buy some molasses and make some of that lovely candy such as we had once for our fair, and I guess Bess and Danny will sell it, or maybe Mr. Nicholson will sell it at the store."

"I don't see why you shouldn't succeed," said her mother encouragingly; "at least you can't fail to get your money back."

The candy was a great success. The pretty twists and knots sold wherever they were offered, and Molly's capital doubled and redoubled itself.

"I think she might give us some," grumbled Danny, lifting the white towel to look longingly at his stock in trade.

"My senses, Danny Langford," said Bess, "don't you know it's missionary candy? It's the Lord's and it would be stealing to take the teeniest, tanntiest mite of it."

"Well, then, I wish I was a heathen myself," insisted Danny. "They have real good times: they don't have to wear any clothes, or go to school, or shovel snow, or— or—"

"If I wouldn't be ashamed of myself to be such a silly. You couldn't be a heathen unless mamma was too, and you might be et up by a crocodile."

"No, I wouldn't; they like boys; its only girls get thrown away."

"Well, then, maybe the twins might be et up, or Molly, and then what would you do?"

"Hm," said Danny scornfully, but he covered up the candy and went along kicking the lumps of snow.

"Four dollars and eighty-four cents," said Molly that night, hugging Bess in an ecstasy of happiness. "You shall put in half of it, you and Danny; you helped earn it."

"O, may we? What a dear you are, Molly," said Bess in delight, but Danny didn't say a word and looked very unhappy.

There wasn't a happier girl in the whole Mission Band than Molly when the children went to take in their thank offerings. Several people noticed Molly's bright face as she started down the street on her way home. One of these was Mr. Nicholson, who stopped her and said:

"See here, Molly, some of my customers have been asking about your candy. I will give you an order to keep me supplied for a month, but you must not sell any to other folks or you'll run me out of the business."

"But I haven't any money to buy molasses and things," said Molly.

"No money? I heard you were just rolling up profits."

"O, but that was my missionary money. I was just trading with it for the Lord. You know that was what He told the men with the talents to do. But if you'll trust me till I get started—"

"Certainly I will; you're a girl to be trusted. Get what you want and go ahead."

Molly ran all the way home, and burst in upon the family like a little whirlwind of happiness to tell the wonderful news.

"And Danny shall have lots of candy," she said, hugging her mother and dancing around the room with a twin clinging to each hand, "and the twins shall have hoods and mittens, and perhaps—perhaps we'll have a sled for all of us, and—"

"There now, Danny Langford," said Bess solemnly, "what do you think now about being a heathen, that never even heard of 'Little children, love one another,' or caring about other folks?"

"I believe I was beginning to turn into one," acknowledged Danny, quite melted by the prospect of the candy.—Selected.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

Hamilton Conference Branch.

No doubt the readers of the Palm Branch will wonder what has become of the Bands and Circles of this Branch. We are thankful to say that, notwithstanding many drawbacks in the way of weeks of almost impassable roads in the country and much sickness, in both city and county, we are prosperous, hearty and thriving. Very encouraging reports have come to hand in December and March, and reveal in the majority of our societies much progress, increased interest and steady work. Two bands and one circle have been recently organized for work. Thorough preparation was made for the Easter thank-offering for the Herbie Bellamy Orphanage. Information concerning the offering, its

object and need, also envelopes for each member were sent to each band and circle, and we trust returns from the same will be very gratifying both as regards the financial effort and the interest and self-sacrifice occasioned by such a worthy object.

Another month we will send notes from various circles and bands, and the work they are doing.

J. M. MCGEARY, Cor. Secretary.

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Branch.

Halifax South.—The Coralline Mission Circle is having good meetings. The Easter service was one of special interest. A good programme was well rendered, and the offering amounted to over \$21.00. Two members on leaving the city were made life members by the Circle.

New Germany.—"Try Again" Band is still alive and growing, having had three new members this year.

Little Harbor.—"Harbor Bell" Band reports interesting meetings and two new members. Though few in number, all are doing what they can.

Halifax. Band Secretary.

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

As the Bands have not been good enough this month to send me any news for Palm Branch, perhaps the Editor will allow me the space to speak to the Bands. I am sorry that many Bands that held Easter services have not reported them; that good ideas might be passed on to others.

It is still necessary, too, to remind a few that last quarter's Report Card has not been received, and to ask them to send it at once.

It is gratifying to know that during the winter many made an effort to bring their work before their congregations and to raise funds, but there are many that can do this better in summer. Will these now make preparation for special effort of some kind, not leaving it till late in the season, when delay or hindrance might push it out of the year's work altogether.

I would suggest that in every Circle and Band at least one meeting be devoted to the study of "Constitution for Mission Circles and Bands," page 166 in the Annual Report.

Many have not remembered that the Band treasurer should remit quarterly. Each officer should understand fully the duties and privileges attached to her office.

At this time, too, it would be well to have all understand the duties of a delegate to District Convention or Branch Meeting. Every member being made to understand why such meetings are held, how one should prepare to be a delegate, the duties of a delegate at the convention.

If Leaders will get their members to think about these things and to discuss them at their meetings they will be surprised at the good ideas brought out.

E. E. COULTHARD
Band Secretary.

Fredericton, N. B.