



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

VOL. II.

DECEMBER, 1895.

No. 12.

CHRISTMAS GUESTS.

The quiet day in winter beauty closes,
 And sunset clouds are tinged with crimson dye,
 As if the blushes of our faded roses
 Came back to tint the somber Christmas sky.

We sit and watch the twilight darken slowly;
 Dies the last gleam upon the lone hill-side;
 And in the stillness growing deep and holy,
 Our Christmas guests come in this eventide.

They enter softly; some with baby faces,
 Whose sweet blue eyes have scarcely looked on life;
 We bid them welcome to their vacant places;
 They won the peace, and never knew the strife.

And some with steadfast glances meet us gravely,
 Their hands point backward to the path they trod;
 Dear ones, we know how long ye struggled bravely
 And died upon the battle-field of God.

And some are here whose patient souls were riven
 By our hard words and looks of cold disdain,
 Ah, loving hearts, to speak of wrong forgiven,
 Ye come to visit our dark world again!

But One there is, more kind than any other,
 Whose presence fills the silent house with light;
 The Prince of Peace, our gracious Elder Brother,
 Comes to His birthday feast with us tonight.

Thou who wast born and cradled in a manger
 Hast gladdened our poor earth with hope and rest;
 O best beloved, come not as a stranger
 But tarry, Lord, our friend and Christmas guest.

GOOD WORDS.

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

ANY no doubt on reading the above title, may think this an expressly Roman Catholic appellation, but in Luke 1st v. 28th, we find the Angel Gabriel pronouncing the Virgin Mary, "blessed among women." And was it not a special blessing to be chosen for such an honour, from among the thousands of Jewish maidens, hundreds of years before the event happened, Isa. 7th 14th. This had

been the particular desire of all the women of Israel, who were looking and waiting for the long promised Messiah. Mary was indeed *blessed*. But the error of Romanists is in addressing her as the mother of God, and paying her Divine homage, which alone belongs to God. She was only the mother of His human nature. His Godhead existed from all eternity, but Jesus was, "born of a woman" in Bethlehem of Judea, and thus partook of our human nature. Roman Catholics deny worshipping Mary, but in the prayers they address to her, they certainly make her equal with Christ—both as mediator and Saviour. In their Mission Book, she is called "the refuge and salvation of every creature." In 1832, in one of the Pope's missives to the people, he directs them to Mary, as the "*Entire ground of their hope.*" How contrary to the teachings of Christ, who invites them to come *unto Him*, and expressly declares "No man cometh unto the Father, *but by me,*" and "Whosoever cometh, I will in no wise cast out." To one who called His mother blessed, He said, (Luke 11th 28th) "Yea, rather blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it." At another time, He said, "Whosoever shall do the will of my Father, who is in heaven, the same is my brother and sister and mother." In exhorting prayers to be directed to the Virgin Mary, they invest her with attributes that are Divine, or she could not hear and attend to those who address her at all times, from all parts of the world. To do so, she must be Omniscient and Omnipotent, attributes only possessed by the Almighty.

Any Protestant reading the absurd book, entitled "*Glories of Mary,*" by one of their great Romish saints—Alphonsus Liguori, will be astonished at the blasphemous idolatry it contains in reference to the

Virgin Mary. On page 19, he affirms, that "All graces are dispensed at the hand of Mary alone; all those who are saved, are saved solely by means of the Divine Mother." On page 195, he quotes St. Antoninus to prove, that "When we supplicate God for favors, He sends us to Mary," and from St. Bernard we learn that "God will grant us no favors, except through Mary." One of the above mentioned saints (?) tells us that "Mary is the throne of grace that the apostle means, when he exhorts us to approach in order to find grace to help us in time of need." Heb. 4th 16th. If their poor ignorant people only had God's word, they would easily see for themselves, how blasphemous are such instructions. Jesus proclaims Himself the door of the fold, and any that strive to enter through any other way are thieves and robbers. How Satan, through these false teachings, seeks to lead poor souls away from the precious Saviour, who is abundant in grace and truth. How insultingly they dethrone Him, who is alone our Redeemer, Saviour and Mediator.

What would we think if some great and good personage had offered us immense treasures and distinguished favors, if we would but come to him and ask, and instead of going to himself, according to his directions, we should apply to his mother and his servants and ask them to intercede for us? Would not that kind benefactor feel deeply wounded at our thus doubting his word, and the loving kindness which prompted his offer? Jesus repeatedly calls poor and needy ones to Come unto Him. He says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any one will open the door I will come in." What a snare of Satan thus to lead the weary ones to those who can neither hear nor help. The apostle beseeches man to be reconciled to God, not God to man, for by sending us His beloved Son, He showed His wondrous love for us while we were yet sinners. Let us strive by all means to give these poor deluded Romanists, God's own messages of love by giving them His Word, that they may see for themselves, the erroneous teachings of their church. C. R.

LETTER TO THE BANDS.

DEAR BAND MEMBERS:—Again the wheel of time has brought us to that season when we are preparing gifts for those we love. Will you not remember that all the blessings and comforts we enjoy are the result of the great gift, which was made to the world by God in giving Jesus to redeem us from our sins? As you prepare your gifts for your friends, don't forget a Christmas present for Jesus. Will not each member give a little money to help carry the tidings of this great Gift to the little ones in Heathen Lands? Pray also for the heathen children and for the missionaries who have gone to them. Last year, a number of the Bands held public services and presented their gifts then. Can not every Band do so this year and thus make this the brightest X'mas yet in our Band work.

IRENE TURNER.

CHRISTMAS EMBLEMS.

AN EXERCISE FOR SIX CHILDREN.

Bell, Harp, Star, Heart and Crown, may be made of wire covered with evergreen, or of pasteboard, covered with silver and gilt paper. (The children may come on the platform singing a verse of some spirited Christmas song.)

1st child (bell) recites:

Sweet music falls, a silvery shower,
From many a stately city tower:
From many a modest village spire
The glad notes never seem to tire!
This is the news they bring to all
From every belfry, great or small,
This is the carol that they ring
As merrily they swing, swing, swing.

(Lifting the bell and swinging it).

All recite: Luke 2nd 11th.

2nd child (harp):

And now no more I hear the bells
For angel song the story tells;
Again the midnight sky is bright
With glory from the gates of light.
Again we hear the chorus grand,
Oh, may it swell to every land!
For angel harp and angel voice
Repeat the news, rejoice! rejoice!

(Sing a chorus.)

3rd child (crook):

The shepherds, watching thro' the nig
With wonder saw the glorious sight,
And when the angels sped away
To regions of eternal day,
They went to Bethlehem and there
Bowed down before the Lord so fair.

All recite Psalm 95th, 6th.

4th child (star):

Some wise men saw God's guiding Star
And followed it to lands afar;
They forded rivers, scaled the heights
(Lo, onward still the star invites!)
Until it stopped above the town
Where Jesus in His love came down;
To Him, within that lowly cave
Gold, myrrh and frankincense they gave.

All sing verse of a "Star" hymn.

5th child (heart):

What gift to Jesus can I bring?
How can I please my Saviour King?
He asks a gift this Christmas day
"Give Me thine heart," I hear Him say.
Oh, may it, with its wealth of love
Be all for Him, my Friend above.

All recite: "Who loved me and gave Himself for me."

6th child (crown):

A crown we bring, and gladly call
Our blessed Jesus, Lord of all.
He loves the little children now
Though many crowns are on His brow,
And He who came to bear our sin
Will help us, too, bright crowns to win.

(Sing Coronation or some chorus.)

E. E. HEWITT.

HYMN.

P. 130. MISSIONARY HYMNAL.

There's a song in the air!
 There's a star in the sky!
 There's a mother's deep prayer,
 And a baby's low cry!
 And the star rains its fire while the Beautiful sing,
 For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King.

There's a tumult of joy
 O'er the wonderful birth,
 For the Virgin's sweet boy
 Is the Lord of the earth.
 And the star rains its fire, and the Beautiful sing,
 For the manager of Bethlehem cradles a King.

In the light of that star,
 Lie the ages impearled,
 And that song from afar
 Has swept over the world.
 Every heart is aflame, while the Beautiful sing
 In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King.

FIELD STUDY FOR DECEMBER.

MEDICAL MISSIONS.

THE Lord Jesus, when on earth, "went about doing good." He had compassion on the multitudes that followed Him, and never was one who came to him for healing, sent away sad. "He healed them all," is the constant record.

To His disciples also, He gave power over disease, and we find them often attesting their commission by healing the sick, as their Master had done. In the medical science of to-day, has He not given us "the gift of healing?" Rarely a month passes, but we read of some new triumph of the physician. We marvel. But among those whose only doctors are conjurers, it seems nothing short of miraculous.

What a power over the mind has he who heals disease! From the one who has done good to us, we expect good. We are all somewhat prejudiced against the foreigner. But when we are sure of his goodwill, prejudice is broken down, and friendship is formed. Can the church afford to neglect the wonderful power of the physician in the mission field?

Perhaps in China, less is known of the science of medicine than in any other civilized country. Very appropriately, the first Protestant missionary sent there was a doctor. There are a number of strong Christian centres in China, each surrounding a hospital.

The work done by our Woman's Missionary Society, has, in this department, as in others, gone along with that done by the general Missionary Society of our church.

In 1889, Dr. Bolton went on his own responsibility from Ontario, to work among the Indians of the Pacific coast. There he soon became connected with

our mission at Port Simpson, and has done untold good. He has been in labours abundant ever since. During the siege of grippe in 1870, at Port Essington, he rented a house for a temporary hospital. Here, with the assistance of the ladies of our school, he cared for the worst cases. At this time, in the course of three months, he made 3,400 visits. In many cases, he would have to see that each dose of medicine was taken.

This ignorance of caring for the sick, made a hospital very necessary. In 1892, one was built at Port Simpson, and we took our first direct share of this work, by sending Miss Spence, a trained nurse.

In 1891, when our mission to China was entered on, two doctors were sent. It was somewhat similar, in origin, to Dr. Bolton's work. The men were ready. Would their own church send them, or must they depend on others?

Dr. Stephenson and Dr. Kilborn are now well known names among us. Later, we sent Dr. Retta Gifford, who has since become Mrs. Kilborn. Then Dr. Hare went from Nova Scotia, making in all four for medical work.

You all know of their peril this summer, just after Miss Ford's arrival. Dr. and Mrs. Stephenson, and Mrs. Hartwell, are now in Canada. The others are at Shanghai, or Peking. Here Dr. Hart's long experience in the country, makes him valuable in dealing with the government.

Miss Louise Hart, M. D., a sister of Miss Lizzie Hart, and Mrs. Spencer, is ready to go to China when it is thought wise for her to do so.

Let us pray that the way may be opened for these servants of the Lord to use their skill for the benefit of sufferers in China, that many may be led to a knowledge of Him who is able to heal the soul as well as the body. D.

QUESTIONS FOR DECEMBER.

- What is our prayer subject this month?
- What is true of Jesus while on earth?
- What power did He give to His disciples?
- What can you tell of medical science to-day?
- What effect has this on us and on the heathen?
- What power for other good has the medical Dr.?
- What important question is here asked?
- What can you tell of China in regard to medical Missionary work?
- What has our W. M. S. done in this work?
- Give some account of Dr. Bolton?
- What good work did he do?
- What made a hospital necessary?
- Who is our trained nurse there?
- What did our church do for China in that way?
- Who did our W. M. S. send there?
- What great peril were the Missionaries in last summer?
- Where are they now?
- What young lady is ready to go out to China now as medical Missionary, when it shall be thought wise to go?
- What must we pray for now?

* PALM BRANCH *

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DECEMBER, 1895.

HERE has been a rumor afloat, since the Board meeting, of a resolution passed in regard to our little paper. We waited days for it and it has only just arrived, having been sent to the wrong address. We stop the press and waive other editorial matter to give it room. "Resolved that subscriptions to PALM BRANCH be hereafter sent to St. John." There is not time to change the heading of this editorial column so we will only say that all subscriptions in future must be sent to the editor's address, Miss S. E. Smith, 282 Princess St., St. John, N. B.

In regard to this new arrangement please take notice, very particular notice! Every order must be as plain as A. B. C.! Not only the name of the person to whom the paper is to be sent, but the post office address must be given in full! The name of the Province, as well as town or city. Every letter and every figure must be as plain as if printed. Many mistakes have already been made through careless writing. Our work will be largely increased, but we will do the best we can, only we will not be answerable for anybody's mistakes but our own.

Any subscriber not receiving paper please communicate with the editor.

Articles intended for publication must be in by the 8th of the month—that is of the previous month. For instance, contributions for January must be in by 8th of December.

We would draw the attention of our readers to the interesting sketch of our former missionary, Miss Leake, printed in these columns. Also to our Band Cor.-Secretary's letter to Bands, found on our second page.

"DECEMBER is the month for renewing subscriptions. Give your names and money early. Try to get up a large club, and so have the paper at the lowest price. Speak about it, that all your young friends may have it, as well as yourselves. If you have enjoyed it this year, we hope you will still more next year, for we mean it shall be growing better all the time."

We heartily wish all our readers a very happy Christmas.

A SHORT SKETCH OF MRS. TUTTLE, FORMERLY MISS LEAKE, MATRON OF THE CHINESE RESCUE HOME, B. C.

WHILE I am aware that there is a prejudice in many minds against being made the subject of a biographical sketch, I think there are times when this modesty should allow itself to be sacrificed. The story of almost any human life, if it be well told, cannot fail to be of interest; but there are some lives more particularly full of momentous issues, which by their striking influence upon others, give ample material for profitable study and imitation. Such a life, we believe, has been that of Miss Annie Leake, who was for five years in connection with our Missionary Society, Matron of the "Chinese Rescue Home," B. C.; and although within the last year "Miss Leake" became "Mrs. Milledge Tuttle," of Pugwash, N. S., I trust that in this article, she will allow me to use the old, and more familiar name: as it is my intention only to follow the various windings of the way, by which she was led, previous to her entering upon this newer, later, and I trust, long to be occupied sphere. Very tenderly and reverently I will tread the old path, every step of which is marked with precious memories. "Awake but one, and lo, what myriads rise."

Miss Leake was born at Cross Roads, Parrsboro, and was the fourth of the thirteen children of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Leake. Mr. Leake was a most conscientious, upright, patient, plodding, Godfearing man. He came of good Yorkshire Methodist stock, his mother being one of John Wesley's converts. Mrs. Leake was the daughter of Mr. John Lockhart a local preacher of our Church; a man noted for a consistent godly life, and an intense love for the doctrines and

polity of Methodism. The first ten years of Annie Leake's life were spent within this circle of influence, "all upward tending," so we see that she had a good start upon the life that has thus far been a success and blessing. About this time, she went to live with her uncle, Rev. Christopher Lockhart, of blessed memory. Of that time, she says: "Uncle thought he had adopted me, but I did not stay adopted; for love of the old home, and those I had left behind me was too strong, so I spent my girlhood partly at Uncle's, and partly at home." Again I read from a letter received: "I probably got my missionary bias at Uncle Christophers', for those were the days of "Juvenile Offerings," an English Missionary publication. They were my only reading in those days, for you know no novel was ever allowed to enter either of my homes, and that is why I feel so strongly upon the influence of a child's reading. Get the young to read the thrilling story, or stories of real life, as found in our missionary literature, if you wish them to have a love for the cause." Another clipping from a letter in my possession reads: "I was especially fond of missionary meetings, from my earliest recollection. For instance, when I was teaching at N. C., I left a request at home, that they were to send for me when the missionary meeting was to be held, and one of my brothers drove ten miles, on a winter day, so that I could attend that meeting; but I was disappointed, as two students, who came from Sackville, were so full of fun and anecdote, that I did not enjoy it as much as I anticipated." Of that early time, I again find this note—"Although I had made several attempts to find the Saviour, while at Uncle's, the happy event did not take place until I had returned, for good, to the old home. On the 12th of Feb., 1857, at the close of special services, that had been held for six weeks, I found Jesus. That was the turning point in my life. Rev. Jas. Buckley was the preacher. He was assisted by Mr. Matthew Lodge, Mr. George Harrison, Uncle Chas. and Grandpa Lockhart, all now in the better land. The following Saturday evening, my Grandfather Lockhart was leading the meeting, and in response to the invitation to those who were seeking a deeper work of grace in the heart, I went forward as such, and now know that I received that baptism of the Spirit, spoken of as the "Second blessing," "Fullness of Joy," "Rest of Faith." Call it what you will, but if I have accomplished any good in my life so far, it dates back to that yielding up all for Jesus, in that country church, on the Parrsboro Circuit, on that Saturday evening, Feb. 1857."

The next influence that came into Miss Leake's life, that was to fit her for future usefulness, was hearing Dr. Forrester, the father of the common school system

of Nova Scotia, lecture in the old Presbyterian church, Parrsboro. Then and there she saw before her a chance for usefulness to others, as well as self-support for herself, and availed herself, after that, of the educational advantages of Truro and Sackville. After leaving school, Miss Leake taught ten years in the "Model School," Truro, and ten years in connection with the "Methodist Academy," St. Johns, Newfoundland. Five years in Victoria, B. C., in the "Chinese Rescue Home." And once more I feel I must quote, and trust my old friend will not think I am betraying my trust, but her own words express what mine would fail to do, so just this once more, I will give the purport of a letter in connection with her missionary work. Miss Leake's words are to this effect: "Yes, I believe honestly that if there had been a Woman's Missionary Society when I was young, I should have given my life to the foreign work. Also, that had I gone out early enough in life to have learned the Chinese language, I should not have returned to the Atlantic coast. And, that I consider it the greatest privilege and honour that God has ever given me thus far in life, the position in the Chinese Home. For those first five years it was difficult. No one but Our Father in Heaven knows how difficult, and why it was so, but He carried us through, and gave us success, by the outpouring of His Spirit. Also, that it was one of the greatest trials of my life, when I had to leave those poor girls; but I would not have one chapter of my life changed or different from what it is, or has been; because I committed my way unto God early in life, and I am sure it has been according to His promise he has brought it to pass." To write up the history of the work in the "Chinese Home," during those five years of faithful work, I will not attempt in this paper, but if Mrs. Tuttle would give it to the readers of the PALM BRANCH, I am sure it would be a help and inspiration to those who are trying, however humbly, to sow seed by all waters. I have only attempted, in a simple way, to tell the story of a life, and if this imperfect sketch should lead even one young life to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," it will not have been written in vain. There is no doubt that untold good can be accomplished by a single earnest worker, especially if the ground has been thoroughly prepared, by home training, good reading, education, and the grace of God in the heart.

"Blessings be on their pathway, and increase!
These are the moral conquerers, and belong
To them the palm branch and triumphal song—
Conquerers; and yet the harbingers of peace!"

M. J. SHENTON.

St. John, Nov. 10th, 1895.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

What little girl carried away captive into a heathen country became a missionary?

What woman formed a supply committee of one by making coats and other garments for the poor?

L. M. I.,

Burlington, N. S.



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

Cousin Joy wishes all her dear cousins a very "Merry Christmas," and what is better still a very happy Christmas. She is sure that it will be a truly happy day if they will give the first gift to their very best Friend and after that remember those who are dear to them, father, mother, sisters and brothers. Do you ever think, dear children, what joy it would be if Jesus were here again on the earth, to go to Him yourselves and present your little treasures and win His glad, approving smile? Well, you can win that now, by caring for the poor little children of your own and of foreign lands, especially those who are poor indeed, because they have never heard of Him. What can you do to show your love for Him this Christmas day?

One thing is certain Cousin Joy need do no more than fill up a niche in her "Cosy Corner" seeing that she has so many clever little cousins. She never knew before that she had so many and you may be sure she feels proud of them all.

The trouble now is to get all the little letters in and you must not be offended if you are grouped together sometimes and only your names mentioned. We will try to give them always and if any of you are left out you must let us know. Thank you too, for so many puzzles this month, some of them will have to stay over till next time, unless we enlarge our little paper, which we cannot do just at present.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I am a member of the Junior League, and take the PALM BRANCH. I am trying to work for Jesus. We visit the sick members of our League. The answer to the October puzzle is "Come over and help us." Yours truly, OLIVE SWITZER.

Richmond Hill, Nov. 1st, 1895.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I have never written to you before, but I take the PALM BRANCH, and I like it very much. I think I got the answer to the puzzle in the PALM BRANCH for October—it is "Come over and help us." I enclose a puzzle—do you think it is worth putting in? I think I had better close now. Your loving cousin,

ALBERTA TEED.

St. Stephen, N. B.

The correct answer to the October puzzle also comes from cousins Annie A. Anderson, Almonte, Emma J. Fowler, Eden, Ont., and Flossie Peters of Hampton, N. B.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I take the PALM BRANCH and enjoy reading it very much. I think I have found

the answers to Flora's and Nellie's November puzzles, which are "Christianity" and "Duncan Mac Coll" respectively. Yours truly,

LOU WRIGHT.

New Annan, Oct. 31st, 1895.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I get more interested in the PALM BRANCH every month. I think the answers to the November puzzles are as follows:—1. Christianity. 2. Duncan Mac Coll. 3. Lone Star Mission Band. I am, yours sincerely,

LOUIE ROUSSEAU.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I belong to the Active Workers Mission Band, at Marysville. I like the PALM BRANCH very well. I think the answer to Ruby's Bermuda puzzle of November is "Lone Star Mission Band," and the answer to Nellie's puzzle is "Duncan Mac Coll."

ANNIE ROWLEY.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—We take the PALM BRANCH in our Mission Band and like it very much. I think I have found the answers to the puzzles in November. They are: "Christianity," "Duncan Mac Coll," and "Lone Star Mission Band." Your loving cousin,

Searletown, P. E. I.

ELLA LOWTHER.

Your puzzle will appear next time, as will also W. A. I's, of Little York.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I am a member of Day Spring Mission Band and take the PALM BRANCH and enjoy reading it, and I think I have found the correct answers to the November puzzles. 1. Christianity, 2. Duncan Mac Coll. 3. Lone Star Mission Band. Yours truly,

M. ARLO WEST.

Little York, P. E. I., Nov. 6th, 1895.

Cousin Flora E. Shier, of St. Mary's, Ont., sends us correct answers to the two last November puzzles, also a fine puzzle which will appear next time.

Correct answers to November puzzles are also sent by Bessie Annear, Lottie and Mary Lawson, and Pearl Vanldersteine of Montague, P. E. I., and Maggie Gee of Petite Riviere, N. S.

Sorry the printer omitted cousin Ruby's name from her Bermuda puzzle last month.

DEAR COUSIN JOY.—I belong to the Wellington St. Mission Band, London. I like the PALM BRANCH very much. I think I have the answers for the three November puzzles. The first is "Christianity," the second "Duncan Maccoll," and the third is "Lone Star Mission Band." Here is a puzzle for the PALM BRANCH:

I am composed of 19 letters.

My 1, 5, 13, human being.

My 7, 12, 9, 10, kind of lichen.

My 4, 2, 19, 16, 14, 19, to stab.

My 9, 8, 3, 19, means magnitude.

My 18, 11, 12, 13, wild animal,

My 17, 6, 15, 13, part of the face,

My whole is a band of workers in London.

Your loving cousin,

MAY GRAY.

I am composed of 24 letters.

My 3, 1, 2, 10 is a kind of nail.

My 4, 24, 22 is a girl's name.

My 13, 15, 20 is an evil.

My 9, 8, 5, 6 is to ramble about.

My 21, 18, 11, 12 is a frame for carrying the dead.

My 16, 19, 23, is a male child.

My 7, 8, 14, 22, 20 is an important power in the world.

My 17, 22, 23, 24 is a kind of earth.

My whole is trying to do good in Fredericton.

Marysville, N. B.

PARK ROWLEY.

DECEMBER.

DECEMBER has come, a happy month for young people. Little Archibald says he wishes it were "always December."

"And why?" I ask.

"Because we have coasting and skating and snow-balling, and, best of all, *Christmas*."

Archie's thoughtful sister, Jeanette, says she thinks it is a "sober month." And why, sober, wise Jennie?

"Oh, it is the last of the year!"

Yes, a whole year will soon be gone, with all its gifts and blessings and opportunities to do good. It makes us all a little sober, does it not, to think that for all these we are to give account by and by? Let not the youngest forget that the eye of God is upon them in their pleasures, as well as their duties.

This may make life somewhat "sober," as Jennie said; but *never sad*, as Jennie knows. Indeed, I think Jennie is one of the happiest girls I know. She has learned to trust the Lord Jesus. She feels all the time that He is with her. She asks Him to help her in school, and her lessons are always learned. She asks Him to help her at home, and father, mother, Archie and baby Effie all find comfort and delight in Jennie. The old, blind, colored woman watches for her coming to read the words of Jesus to her. Her teacher in the Sunday School is not afraid to ask her the hard questions. The mission band at every meeting depend upon her presence and helpful words.

Jennie feels a little sober as the year closes, for she wishes she had done more for the dear Lord as the days went by. Yet she is as merry as any at Christmas, as happy in the gifts she makes and the gifts she receives; and she rejoices with a deep and heartfelt joy, such as the careless never know, in God's unspeakable gift of His Son.

Dear young readers, may this month be to each of you, as it will be to Jennie, a time of thoughtful self-examination to see if your feet are in the narrow way; a time of sorrow for short-comings; a time of gladness in the hope of forgiveness through Christ; a time of new purpose to serve this dear Saviour in the future. So shall December have all the merriment which Archie finds in it, all the sober joy which Jennie finds in it.

King's Messenger.

MISSION BAND PAPER,

READ AT BRANCH MEETING, SUSSEX, N. B.

WELL, with all my experience with Mission Bands I have never yet worked with one that was really and truly interested in the heathen."

These words, spoken by a lady who had been President of Mission Circles for many years, surprised me not a little, so I quickly asked if she were really in earnest?

"Why, of course I am, as it is now an indisputable fact that young people are rarely interested in an object or cause with which they are not brought into personal contact."

"But, my dear woman, you cannot possibly mean that all our Band girls are perfectly indifferent concerning their work?"

"No, certainly not, what I contend is that the members individually have no real interest in the live heathen; they realize that Mission work is a grand and noble cause and willingly hold meetings and raise money to help it along. Of course the exception only proves the rule, as here and there we do find a good little soul, who actually takes delight in perusing Missionary literature and makes many a sacrifice for the sake of her heathen sister."

"If such is the case," I exclaimed, "What will become of our future Auxiliaries?"

"Don't worry about them, for although these girls are apparently indifferent, they unconsciously take a greater interest in their work each year, so in time, realizing it is the proper thing to do, join the Auxiliary and in due season become its shining lights."

"But do you not believe that Mission Bands should be educated up to the highest standard of Mission work?"

"By all means, but not a compulsory education upholding the idea that if the members are not completely overpowered with the sad condition of the heathen all other interest is null and void. The President should study the different characters of her Band, and so arrange the programme that all will not only be interested but permanently instructed. Now, to my mind an ideal Mission Band meeting should run thus: Singing, alternate Scripture reading by President and Band, sentence prayers and the Lord's prayer in union, roll-call, responded to by hymn verses, minutes, etc., etc. A few bright remarks by the President, introducing the subject of the evening. Shall we say it is China? The members will have prepared verbal questions and answers, a map of China, with the Mission stations marked, will hang on the wall for reference; music is of course interspersed through the programme and if possible a small table holding Chinese curios will add quite a little to the evening's entertainment. After the closing prayer all remain for twenty minutes, shake hands and have a social chat, introducing any strangers who may be present. The Corresponding Secretary here distributes her PALM BRANCHES; this little paper is now really invaluable and the editor deserves great credit for making it so intensely popular. That reminds me I often notice contributions in it from the Upper Provinces, but where are our own Band girls down here? Are they not interested in the success of their paper? There are fifty-three Bands in the N. B. and P. E. Island Branch, now if each of these would send in one article every year how it would help the editor along. We must remember that she has other duties to perform as well as ourselves, and that it is decidedly no fun for anybody to prepare a leaflet such as we receive each month. Many a time Miss Smith has patiently waited until the eleventh hour for contributions and then, rather than forward us our deserts, she sits down and writes up articles to fill in. Of course only a talented person could do this, but it really does not seem right to allow so much work to fall on one pair of shoulders. I should not, however, be too

severe on the Band members as in other ways they are doing a grand work; true, it is a tremendous uphill work, and for this same reason the Branch ought to feel proud to report an increase of about twenty-seven new Bands during the past five years. Unlike other Societies set rules and regulations cannot be laid down for this work, so the "Powers that be" have to rely on the good judgment of the different Presidents who have the interest of the cause at heart and would not allow any entertainment or phase of work that could be called *unconstitutional*. As there are no two Bands with similar surroundings we often see what is a brilliant success in one place is a complete failure in the next, and what will suit in the country will often not take in the town, and in short what is the crowning star in one Band is the ruination of another. Of course you know that the Christian world is at present greatly agitated about the "Giving of Tenths!" They claim that if all church members would give a tenth of their income, in a very few years every heathen nation would have heard of Christ, and all benevolent institutions be supported. Now, sad as it may seem in this progressive age of ours, it is nevertheless true that a privilege and duty, put down in plain black and white figures, has few supporters, but the same thing advertised in glowing letters with some novel attraction has an audience at once. Carrying out this same idea I wonder why our Bands could not hold a Collection of Tenths every ten weeks. Each member will enclose her tenth in a small envelope with a verse of ten words, telling her experience about it, then a committee of ten will read the verses and amounts alternately, then a programme, consisting of ten selections, will be given, the feature being ten of the Band girls dressed to represent different nations. If it be a social evening the refreshment committee will have prepared ten varieties of cake,* and last but not least the Chairman will announce that a collection will be taken up and nothing less than ten cents thankfully received.* Now this is merely the writer's idea, and can easily be supplemented, and I trust will be a help to some of our weary workers who are constantly calling out for new ideas."

"Just here I would like to ask you your opinion of the Annual query of our Branch meetings, Bazaars *versus* Anti-Bazaars?"

"Well, it all depends,—these sales are now a rare occurrence. Some claim it is because they are unscriptural, but I think it is owing to the fact that women are now not too lazy, but far too sensible to undertake such a vast amount of labor as these sales demand. Still, if any Auxiliary or Circle be anxious to hold one, why it should have it, but the risk of success or failure must rest upon its own foolish head. I cannot, however, see any possible reason why little children should not hold a sale of their own handiwork. The President here combines Home Mission work with the Foreign, she relieves the mothers of anxiety regarding their children, she teaches them to sew, knit and crochet, and has many a golden opportunity of telling a little story or saying something which will touch the tender heart of a child far more than five hundred missionary sermons could do.

Then again, the little ones feel so important to think that they personally are actually allowed to do some real work that will help along the cause. So I say by all means "Let the children use their hands for the Lord." Just here I might say that a Mission Band President should have the prayers and sympathy of every church member. She has a work to do that the Auxiliary cannot do, that the Branch cannot do, that the Board cannot do, for many of the Band girls are not professing Christians, so it falls to her lot to sow the seed which will bring forth a harvest of consecrated lives for the Master's service."

"You spoke of "Sentence Prayers" some time ago, are you in favor of them?"

"Yes indeed, and I strongly recommend them in Mission Band meetings, for although we may talk a great deal about the different phases and modes of this work yet after all it is only through close communion with Him above that we fully realize the true meaning of those sacred words, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

ANNIE E. MELLISH.

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

*We do not endorse these two ideas.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

WESTERN BRANCH.

A. W., of the Sarnia Mission Circle, writes:—The Sarnia Mission Circle was organized in the Central Methodist Church, December 21st, 1891, by Mrs. (Rev.) Gundy. During that year twenty meetings were held. In '92, we organized a sewing society. Quilts and clothing were made and given to worthy people of our town. In May, a large case of clothing, quilts, books, papers, and other things were sent to the North-West. There are still some quilts on hand, and last winter, some of our members were overseeing a band of little girls, who were sewing carpet rags and piecing quilts—they did well and seemed to take delight in it. Our meetings are very interesting. At the open meetings, which are held every three months, we have a literary musical programme. We have had a great deal to discourage us, but God is our help in time of need, and that gives us great courage. Our membership is 84, which is very good, considering so many other meetings. We have raised \$81 55 since we started, and as we are entering on a New Year with a balance in treasury of \$15 00.

N. B. AND P. E. ISLAND BRANCH.

On Saturday, the 19th October, a Mission Band was organized at Pleasant Vale, Albert County, called the "Snowdrop Band," with a membership of twenty-one. Miss Eva Welling, Pres.; Miss F. Colpitts, Cor. Sec.

A Band was organized at Newcastle, on Sept. 21st, with a membership of eleven. Miss Mary Crisp was elected President, and Miss May Atkinson, Cor. Sec. Since then, the number of members has steadily increased, the enrolment now being twenty-one. The members meet every Wednesday, and a hearty spirit of co-operation exists among the members. I. T.