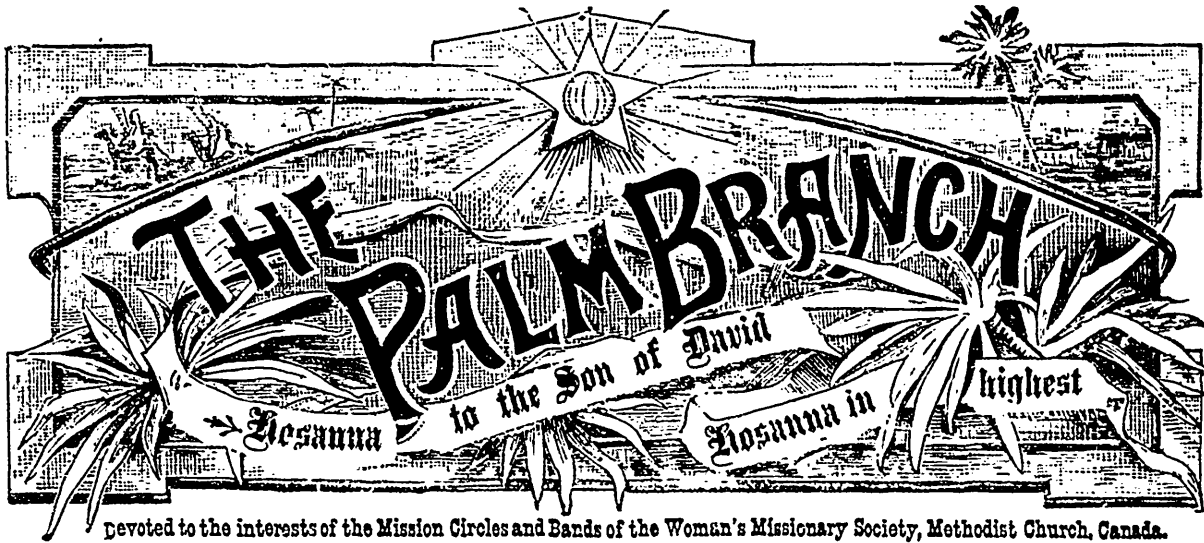


HAPPY NEW YEAR.



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

VOL. VII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY, 1900.

No. 1

THIS is the picture of the chief god of the Japanese. It is a colossal bronze statue, fifty feet high, in a Buddhist temple. If you should go to Japan and visit it you could have your photograph taken sitting on Buddha's lap, or on his thumb, as some travellers do. The priest to whom you pay money, of course, for this privilege, will mail the photograph to your friends if you give him the address. You will probably have to take off your shoes, when you enter the temple, and you must behave well, for some tourists have behaved so ill that the priests have been obliged to post this notice over the door:

"Stranger, whosoever thou art, and whatsoever be thy creed, when thou enterest this sanctuary, remember thou treadest upon ground hallowed by the worship of ages.

"This is the Temple of Buddha, and the gate of the eternal, and should, therefore, be entered with reverence."

Cousin Joy could trust the girls and boys of Mission Circles and Bands to be respectful—not rude—under any circumstances! But you would be rather inclined to weep than to laugh over the ignorance and superstition of some countries,

even at the close of the nineteenth century. To think that people could kneel and worship such a god as that. Do you think he could answer your prayers as our God does?" And yet there is some little good in the Buddhist religion. It teaches obedience to parents, kindness to animals, charity to mankind. But it is a selfish religion; every man loves himself, and thinks himself a god. He needs no power outside of himself to save him. A Hindoo once said: "There is one thing that Christianity has which no other religion possesses." "What is that," was asked. "A Saviour," was the reply; and that is true.

Then woman is not thought of or treated in that country as she should be. No country can prosper that does not educate and refine the mother—half of the human race. Only the religion of Christ does that. No Buddhist woman is a happy mother—no little Buddhist child sings: "I am so glad that Jesus loves me." There are said

to be 72,000 Buddhist temples in Japan, and 56,000 priests and monks. But it is also said that "Buddhism marches no further, fights no battles, wins no victories." Her priests oppose and sometimes



BUDDHA, CHIEF GOD OF THE JAPANESE.

to be 72,000 Buddhist temples in Japan, and 56,000 priests and monks. But it is also said that "Buddhism marches no further, fights no battles, wins no victories." Her priests oppose and sometimes

hinder the teaching in our Christian schools, but that is "because they are afraid of this religion of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is marching on to the overthrow of theirs—marching on to certain victory! How much can we help it on this year? God wants us all in His army. He wants the active boys. He wants the merry-hearted girls!

KANAZAWA.

Kanazawa is a very large city, the capital of one of the largest dynasties of the old regime. It is a very strong Buddhist centre. The industrial school is doing well, the sale of the embroidery netting quite large returns. Christian teaching is given there, and also in the school where matches are made, so that many may hear it who would not otherwise have the opportunity, and so our schools prove a centre for Christian work and influence. In the night schools elementary education is given to a number of poor children. In the orphanage there are at present fourteen children.

Some time is devoted to work among the boys in the Boys' School.

There are meetings held for women, and there is visiting in their homes. During a great feast, held in the spring, many Bibles and tracts were sold to the people.

Misses Crombie and Sifton are consulting with reference to the purchase of the house in which they live, which is for sale.

Nagano is the capital of the large silk-producing province of Shizuoka, and the seat of the great Buddhist temple of Zenkoji. The average attendance at the Girls' School has been twenty-two. The first closing exercise was held on the 12th of June.

A class in English of the Post Office officials has been successfully carried on and good has been done in this way.

AUXILIARY SUBJECT OF PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY.

"The Indians of our Dominion. The Stranger within our Gates."

Of all our missionary work, the part that lies nearest our hearts is that which is being done among the Indians of our Dominion. This is as it should be, for have we not entered upon his inheritance and forced the Indian to forsake his native forests and rivers, to make room for the white man? We believe this was necessary for the development of the country, and that God intended this vast land for our possession, but He also desired the civilization and evangelization of our Indian brothers. Instead of this being done, the Indian has gradually been driven back, until we find there are only about 100,000 in the whole Dominion. But both the government and the church are waking up to their duty in this respect, and efforts are being made to educate and Christianize these people. The government has acknowledged its responsibility, and is willing to erect schools and pay half of the

teacher's salary, the other half to be paid by the society which employs the missionary. There are already eighteen industrial schools in the Dominion, and 277 government day schools. These are chiefly confined to British Columbia and the North-West Territories, the 12,000 pagan Indians of North Ontario receiving very little help of this kind.

The W. M. S. is doing a grand work for the Indians of British Columbia. The Coqualeetza Industrial Institute, at Chilliwack, is one of which we are justly proud. Last year 123 pupils were in attendance. Besides being taught all the branches usually taken up in our public schools, the girls are taught sewing, knitting, dressmaking, laundry work, cooking and music, while the boys learn different trades. Some of the music pupils play very well, one of the girls being organist in the Sunday-school. They have a live Mission Band, which meets once a month. Misses Alton, Smith and Burpee are the missionaries in charge.

The Crosby Girls' Home, at Port Simpson, also reports a very successful year's work, although retarded by sickness during the early part of the year. There have been 41 girls in attendance, and all have progressed in their work. Our missionaries there are Misses Clark, Paul and Elliott.

The Hospital at Port Simpson, under the management of Dr. Bolton, with the aid of Nurses Spence, Laurence and Strycker, is doing a noble work in the relief of suffering among the Indians.

At Kitamaat the work is steadily advancing, and Mr. Raley is greatly encouraged. A new home has been erected, and 32 boys and girls are in attendance. Misses Long and Walker are the missionaries who assist Rev. and Mrs. Raley in this work.

At Morley, N. W. T., there is a large school, known as the McDougal Orphanage, under the management of Rev. J. McDougal, which is a great blessing to the Indian Children in this locality.

Let us pray earnestly this month that the blessing of God may rest on our noble band of missionaries among the Indians. Their self-denial is great, their discouragements many, and how it must cheer them in their hour of need to know that we remember and pray for them.

We are also to pray for "The Stranger within our Gates." All foreigners who have left home and people to take up their abode in our country. Many do not worship our God as we do. Let us so strive to live that our example may be worthy of imitation, and that soon they may be persuaded to "Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and to walk therein."
Ont. A. C. W.

SUGGESTED BAND PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY.

1. "I am so glad that our Father in Heaven."
2. Lord's Prayer all together—standing.
3. Roll call—responded to by verse of Scripture, whose initial letter shall correspond with that of the member reciting.
4. Business reports, etc.
5. One more verse of "Jesus loves me."
6. Field Study Questions, with map or blackboard.
7. Solo, recitation or dialogue.
8. Short prayer for poor Japanese children.
9. A few words from teacher, or visitor, and dismissal.

GUIDED BY A STAR.

From the eastern mountains,
Pressing on they come,
Wise men in their wisdom,
To His humble home,
Stirred by deep devotion,
Hastening from afar,
Ever journeying onward,
Guided by a star.

Thou who in a manger,
Once hast lowly lain,
Who dost now in glory,
O'er all kingdoms reign,
Gather in the heathen,
Who in lands afar
Ne'er have seen the brightness,
Of Thy guiding star.

Onward through the darkness,
Of the lonely night,
Shining still before them,
With Thy kindly light,
Guide them, Jew and Gentile,
Homeward from afar,
Young and old together,
By Thy guiding star.

FIELD STUDY FOR FEBRUARY.

Subject:--Kanazawa and Nagano.

Three of our mission stations in Japan have already been considered in the Field Study—Tokyo, the city of enormous population; Shizuoka, near the sea; and Kofu, far inland, begirt with its mountain walls. This month's study gives us the remaining two stations, Kanazawa and Nagano. Almost opposite Tokyo, a little farther north, on the western coast of the Island is Kanazawa, with a population of nearly 100,000. Between it and Tokyo great mountains uprear themselves, so that the railway takes a round-about route, going south-westerly, past Shizuoka; keeping close to the coast until reaching a point where the troublesome mountains have dwindled; it crosses the Island, then turns, running northerly, thus reaching Kanazawa. Here, in this stronghold of Buddhism, which is said to contain no less than 250 Buddhist temples, our missionaries have been working since 1890. Heavy snow-storms fall on this coast, and the winters are quite severe, owing to the icy winds and currents, which come down from the northern seas, and force themselves between the western side of the island and the mainland. The work in Kanazawa is of a different character from that of our other missions, being almost wholly limited to the very poor. On coming to Kanazawa in 1890, it was found that, while a boarding-school was not urgently required (a good one having been already established under the Presbyterian Board), there was great need for many workers in the poor districts. So industrial and night classes were opened. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the work is the Orphanage, where homeless little ones are cared for, and taught the story of the Christ-child,—and the Match School, where very poor and very little children have an opportunity to earn money, and know the

comforting of kindness and gentle ways. Miss Crombie and Miss Sifton are now in Kanazawa.

During the last few years appeals had come for workers to be sent to two towns north-west of Tokyo, and not far distant from Kanazawa. Only one could be responded to, and Nagano was finally decided upon. It is a prettily situated town, having a famous temple to the goddess of mercy, which attracts many pilgrims. This is our new station of only two years standing. Here Miss Hargave and Miss Wigle are working bravely though much hampered by the opposition of the Buddhist priests, and the restrictions of certain new school regulations that the Japanese government is making. Still much good work has already been accomplished. A school has been started, also a kindergarten. While through English classes and in visiting and receiving visits our missionaries are gradually finding access into the lives of many of the people of Nagano.

QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

1. Name all our mission stations in Japan, stating those which are our study for this month.
2. Tell what you know of Kanazawa.
3. Name our missionaries there.
4. What is our newest mission station?
5. Where is it situated?
6. When was it established?
7. Say all you know of the work and the workers in Nagano.

CHRISTMAS HYMN.

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,
Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine,
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,
Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright!

Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,
Christmas where old men are patient and gray,
Christmas where peace like a dove in his flight
Brood's o'er brave men in the thick of the fight;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight.

For the Christ-child who comes is the Master of all;
No palace too great and no cottage too small.
The angels who welcome him sing from the height,
In the "city of David" a King in his might;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight.

Then let every heart keep its Christmas within,
Christ's pity for sorrow, Christ's hatred of sin,
Christ's care for the weakest, Christ's courage for right,
Christ's dread of the darkness, Christ's love of the light;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight.

—PHILLIPS BROOKS.

A SUGGESTION.

A Map of Japan.

By drawing the general outline of each of the four main islands of Japan on stiff paper, and afterward cutting them out, one can obtain a map of Japan that answers the ordinary purposes of a Mission Band or Circle very nicely. The paper islands thus obtained may either be pinned to the blackboard or sewn on cotton. To locate our mission stations see map of Japan in Report of '94-'95.

PALM ✻ BRANCH.

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

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY, 1900.

A. D. 1900.

What will the New Year bring of gain or loss,
 What dark Gethsemane, what Star-lit Cross ?

Our position is unique this year. We not only stand on the threshold of a new year, but on the threshold of a new century. How solemn the thought. What a sense of responsibility it brings with it! The words "Heirs of all the ages" take a new meaning for us as we look back and consider the century that has gone from us. What a wonderful century! What progress, what development, what a history! And yet how sad that it should go out amid the sounds of war and carnage; how sad that intemperance and kindred evils should stain the mantle of the new year; that "covetous hindrances to Christianity" should still abound. We cannot but ask ourselves if all this would be possible if the Church of God had been faithful to its high trust? It should be a solemn thought to the children and young people of to-day that this century will be given into their hands to make or to mar it. To keep in motion the train of good influences which shall hasten the happy day when "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord" or to retard that train and set the world on a downward grade.

And we who are older, what have we done with our example and influence? "Is this new century going to be better than the last because we have left the impress of our faith, and hope, and love, and right doing upon the children of this generation?" It is a solemn question that we have to face. Regrets will not redeem the past, but good resolutions will do much for the future.

Study carefully the Leaflet prepared by our Society on the Twentieth Century Thanksgiving Fund.

Many thanks to the kind friends who have helped so liberally with their contributions this month.

Now is the time to subscribe for Palm Branch, if you have not already done so—also to renew subscriptions.

A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Last October one of our Sunday-school lessons was about Ezra's journey to Jerusalem. In that lesson the great man Ezra tells us that he and his company of travellers prayed God to show them a right way for themselves, and for their little ones, and for all their substance.

Ezra was a good man, and accomplished a great work; but the secret of his success may be found in Ezra 7: 10. For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

Ezra prepared his heart, or purposed in his heart, to seek and to do the law of the Lord.

I wonder how much we would accomplish this year if we, like Ezra, really purposed in our heart to do faithfully and well the work we are asked to do in connection with our Mission Band. If President, always to be on time, and have a programme well prepared. If Secretary, always to have the books kept in good order, and the reports sent in at the proper time. If a member without office, always to lend a helping hand whenever it is needed. Surely then the work would prove to be a blessing to ourselves, as well as to others.

A good resolution is sometimes easily broken; but I am sure Ezra did not try to carry out his resolution in a half-hearted way. His character would have been weak had he acted thus; but no! he must have been a man who was determined to "find a way or make it."

Every day we are doing those things which form character, and character is the only thing that lasts forever. We carry nothing else with us to the next world. Let us then watch carefully our every day acts. Some one has said: "Sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny."

Let us strive to build up Christ-like characters. We must watch our thoughts that they be pure, our lips that they speak the truth, our motives that they be not selfish.

Charlotte Murray says:—

"Just scattering seeds of kindness,
 Just living like Christ down here;
 This, this be our high endeavour
 Whilst journeying home this year."

Toronto.

M. H.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Mission Band Friends:—

When looking through the "Palm Branch" of October I noticed the decision which had been reached in regard to the study of the different fields of mission work during the coming year; and when I saw that Japan was the country chosen for this autumn and winter, I resolved at once that I would write at least a little letter for the next mail, and give you what fresh news I could about our work here. Now, however, that I have laid aside the preparation of my lessons for to-morrow's classes and turned my thoughts from "Abraham," "Alfred the Great," and a literature lesson on "The Child's dream of a Star," and taken up my pen to write, knowing that the mail for America will close at bed-time, I am asking myself, rather in despair: "What is there that is new or interesting in our work here now that the boys and girls at home do not already know?" and really there seems to be nothing new to write.

You know already, I think, that Miss Jost has gone to Kofu, and that there are only three of us in the Tokyo station this year—Miss Blackmore and myself giving most of our time to the school work, while Miss Hart carries on the Evangelistic work with her Japanese helpers. You know, too, that our old school buildings were pulled down during the summer, and a new one commenced on our fine new lot next to the church, which we were so happy in securing last spring, and you probably have heard ere this the unpleasant news that a typhoon struck our new building on September 8th, just when the frame was ready to be boarded in, and laid the whole building flat—that before it was that far advanced the second time a second and worse typhoon destroyed a great part of it again on October 7th, and I am sure you can all imagine, without my attempting to tell you, what a keen disappointment this was to us; delaying, as it did, the completion of the school for two or three months, and leaving us practically homeless for a while. You will know from more recent reports that after two weeks search, a large Japanese house was found in the neighborhood, where all our senior pupils could be housed with Miss Blackmore, and the little ones with Miss Hart and myself found a home in the second story of the little lecture hall, or Sunday-school room at the rear of our church. There are, of course, inconveniences that come with this mode of life, for we are much cramped for room, and the girls must eat, sleep, play, study and have school all in one room; but they have almost without exception been patient and bright through it all, and are so helpful with the extra work that it has been a real pleasure to live in among them, and we have come to know them better, too, in some ways that we ever would have done in regular dormitories. There is one thing which I am sure you do not know, and that is, when the new building will be finished, for we do not know that ourselves; but we have a little hope of being able to move in during the Christmas holidays, if all goes on well.

Speaking of Christmas reminds me that it will be

with you probably ere this letter reaches you; but perhaps it would interest you to hear of some of the preparations that are already being made here in our Sunday-schools for its celebration. To prepare an interesting programme in the church Sunday-schools where the children have been for several years under Christian training, is not difficult; but in the little poor Sunday-schools, or children's meetings, where each fall sees a number of new children gathered in, to prepare even the simplest programme of singing, Bible verses and recitations takes several weeks of training, and much patience on the part of our school girls, who are the teachers. Can any of you, I wonder, remember the time when you did not know why Christmas was kept, and all the beautiful story connected with the birthday of the child Christ? It seems to most of us that we must always have known it. Can you imagine what it would be to hear it for the first time at the age of eight, ten or twelve years, as the little folks in our Sunday-schools do, and hear it, too, under disadvantages that never trouble us in our land. For instance, the names of Joseph and Mary are real every-day names to us, but in Japanese they become "Yosefu" and "Marea," which have no meaning whatever to Japanese ears, and sometimes after telling the story of Christ's birth in the simplest possible language, I have heard the teacher ask in review: "Now which was the mother of Christ, Yosefu or Marea?" and the answer is more apt to be Yosefu than Marea. Will you not in your Christmas rejoicings remember in prayer the children of this and other dark lands, who, as yet, know so dimly the true meaning of Christmas, that as they memorize the Bible verses and gather in their Christmas celebrations their hearts may be opened to understand and accept the Love that brought Christ to earth as their Saviour and ours.

With good wishes for a happy, prosperous year to all in our Circles and Bands, I remain

Yours sincerely,

M. ABBIE VRAZEY.

8 Toru Zaka, Azabu Tokyo, Nov. 14th, '99.

A CHRISTMAS SUPPER.

Dear Children of the Palm Branch:—

A Happy Christmas to you all. It is only right we should have a good Christmas supply, and as you like to search the Scriptures, I want you to help me find out the bill of fare:

"Spread the cloth" and then let us have the "bright shining of the candle," for it is night. We would better have "Salt without prescribing how much," and "oil in a cruise;" then we will put on "the dishes and the spoons and the bowls, with the bread in the basket," as we are "strong of appetite" we will begin with soup—"pour out the broth," and, perhaps, some "pottage;" then "the roll," we will "use a little wine," but not the kind which will intoxicate; then after soup we will have some "broiled fish;" "we remember the fish we did eat freely." "Bring of the fish which they have now caught;" then we will have "hare," "hickens," "be-

(Continued on page 7.)



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

Dear Cousins,—A very happy New Year to you all. Cousin Joy finds it hard to believe that a whole year has gone since she said those very same words a year before. But it is true—the year has slipped by so noiselessly, with its great burden of joys and sorrows, that we wake up suddenly and find it gone—and a new one in its place—and this time it is more, for it is the beginning of a new century, a new hundred years. Instead of writing 1800, we shall now have to write 1900 in our letters and copy books. The new year brings a new ledger (book of accounts) with him, a ledger with a fair, unwritten page. What will he write down about us, each one of us? Oh, girls and boys, what can we do to make this year, this century, better because we are living in it? Let us pause in our work and in our play and think over this question, as if God were asking it of us. Perhaps some of you in your letters could tell Cousin Joy your thoughts about it.

Dear Cousin Joy.—I thought I would write to you and tell you about our Mission Band. There are fourteen members in it. The youngest is nine years old; she is Sadie Haslam. It is the Mt. Middleton Band. We are going to have a parlor social soon; it is to be held at Berwick. We have recitations, singing and prayer. Lizzie Haslam is Cor. Sec. I guess I will close. Good by.

Mt. Middleton.

NELLIE GRIGG.

Dear Cousin Joy,—I have never written to you before. I am a member of the Dayspring Mission Band. I take the Palm Branch, and I enjoy it very much, especially "Cousin Joy's Corner." I think I have found the answer to December puzzle, it is: A Merry Christmas.

I remain your loving cousin,

Little York.

STANLEY R. OPIE.

Dear Cousin Joy,—This is the first time I have written to you. I am just nine years old. I belong to the Torch Bearers' Mission Band. There are fifty members. I take the Palm Branch, and like it very much. If you think this worth publishing you will hear from me again. I think I have found the answer to one of Rev. Mr. Kirby's questions in the last Palm Branch. It is in Prov. 18: 24.

St. Stephen, N. B.

M. G. H.

Dear Cousin Joy,—I have never written to you before; but I thought I would like to. I take the Palm Branch and like it very much. I like Cosy Corner the best, especially the puzzles. I send you a puzzle. If right, please print it.

Your cousin,
Richibucto. BERTHA McBEATH.

Dear Cousin Joy.—I have never written to you before. I enjoy the Palm Branch very much. I think I have found the answer to the puzzle in the December number, it is: "A Merry Christmas."

Your loving cousin,
306 Robie St., Halifax, N. S.
BLANCHE E. GLENNING.

Dear Cousin Joy,—I belong to the Day Spring Mission Band. Mrs. Campbell is our leader. I take the Palm Branch, and I think it is a very nice paper. Mrs. Turner was our leader last year, but she has given it up this year. We have started our Mission Band. We had a treat the last day—we had apples, maple cream and taffy. I will close now, as I am afraid of taking up too much room in the paper. Good bye.

Your affectionate cousin,
Campbellford, Ont. VIOLET PLUMMER.

Dear Cousin Joy,—I am a member of Mt. Allison Mission Band. There are fourteen members in the Band. I am Treasurer, Miss Kennedy is superintendent.

I take the Palm Branch, and like it very much. I like to read the letters in the Cosy Corner.

The Auxiliary is going to have a parlor social, and our Band is going to help.

Our Band meets the last Wednesday in every month.

Sackville. MAUD CHAPMAN.

PUZZLES FOR DECEMBER.

I am composed of 16 letters.

My 16, 10, 8, 7, 2, 12, is a girl's name.

My 3, 10, 14, 6, 16, 11, is a portion of time.

My 15, 14, 12, 13, 16, is a body of water.

My 4, 9, 16, is what we should never do.

My 5, 15, 8, is a small division of land.

My 1, 10, is a pronoun.

My whole is the name of an accepted missionary candidate.
Little York, LAURA WEST.

I am composed of fourteen letters.

My 1, 2, 3, is a joke.

My 4, 7, 10, is a bank to confine water.

My 5, 6, is a pronoun.

My 8, 9, 10, is an animal.

My 12, 11, 5, 6, means to put on a hook so as to catch fish.

My 13, 14, 8, is the fluid we breathe.

My whole is the name of a missionary. JOY NEVINS.

I am a word of 14 letters.

My 12, 7, 6, is a fowl.

My 4, 8, 11 is to take food. †

My 11, 5, 9, is a weight of 2.240 pounds avoirdupois.

My 1, 2, 11, is a share.

My 3, 8, 11, is a large vessel.

My 14, 13, 9, 11, is a place torn.

My 12, 10, 11, is not cold.

My whole word is something we all ought to do.
Baie Verte. ETHEL P.

THE BABE.

Little Laddie, in the manger,
Lowly laid;
Of the cruel lot he's born to,
Unafraid.

Of the nails, and spear, and thorn crown,
Kens he not;
All the glory of his heaven
Is forgot.

There, by shepherds and wise men to
Be adored,
Lowlier than earthly baby,
Lies our Lord.

With the kindly, mild-eyed beasties
Grouped around,
Champ of food and gentle mooring
All the sound.

In the shadow of his mission
Sleepeth he;
All our hope, all our fruition,
Worship we.

In our hearts alone he reigneth
Ne'er to cease:
The Wonderful, the Counsellor, our
Prince of Peace.

Ex.

THE FRISBIES' GIFT.

THE world is full of funny things. The seven young Frisbies found it so, and they laughed more and grew fatter than any other seven children in the neighborhood. One of the funniest things in the world, they thought, was to look from their little box of a house, where the windows were frequently to be seen crowded with large and rosy faces, to the tall, handsome house opposite, where in a window on the third story, a single pale little face was often to be seen gazing wistfully at the merry throng across the street. One little boy in all that great house, where there was money enough to keep a hundred, and here, where there was scarce room enough for the cribs and bedsteads, and where pennies were prizes, seven boys and girls!

"It's like putting seven big apples into a pint measure, and letting a poor little cranberry roll around by itself in a handbox," said Tom; whereat his six little brothers and sisters laughed as heartily as if Tom had made a good joke. But it's easy enough for an one to laugh, even at a poor joke, on Christmas day.

But what seemed so funny to the seven little Frisbies seemed only melancholy to the one lonely little boy in the big double house. If he only had a brother or a sister! It didn't seem fair that that happy little house should be packed full, and his house have only his father, himself and the servants in it. To-day he had not thought about it so much, to be sure, for he was too busy with the many Christmas presents with which his father had surprised him. Best of all, he had his father—a rare treat.

After Mr. Palmer had explained the working of the new mechanical toys, Bryce climbed on his father's knee to rest, and to look out at the stream of people passing.

"Where are they all coming from, papa?" he asked.
"From church."

"Why, it isn't Sunday, is it? What do they go to church for to-day?"

"Because it's Christmas."

"But what for, papa? What is Christmas, anyway?"

"Because it's a custom. There, you've asked questions enough for to-day. Have I not told you that you cannot be a little gentleman if you are inquisitive?" Bryce was silent for a long time.

"Oh, there they are!" he exclaimed at length, as the four young Frisbies of church-going age, headed by father and mother Frisbie, descended the steps opposite.

"Who?"

"The happy children," Bryce answered. "Look, papa, look! They're looking for me in the window upstairs! Would I be a gentleman," he asked eagerly, but hesitated, "if I should wave my handkerchief to show them where I am."

"Wave it, laddie."

"See, see, papa! They're coming over," Bryce exclaimed, greatly excited.

"Merry Christmas!" shouted the four apple-cheeked Frisbies.

"Can I say it?" asked Bryce, whose one fear was lest he should displease his father by any action not gentlemanly.

Mr. Palmer replied by throwing open the window, and calling a hearty "Merry Christmas!"

"Merry Christmas!" echoed Bryce.

(Continued next month.)

A CHRISTMAS SUPPER.—Continued from page 5.

sides harts and fatted fowl," "kidneys;" "all manner of laked meats." "Ye may eat of the roebuck," "ye shall eat of the wild goat and the wild ox." Of game we will have "partridges," "two young pigeons," "quails," then "ten cheeses," and finish up with fruits. We will have "a basket of summer fruit," "pomegranates and figs," "apples," "dates," "two baskets of figs." "Then thou mayest eat grapes thy fill." "We remember the melons," the "bunches of raisins," the "nuts and lemons." We will say grace, "Give us this day our daily bread" Let us "tell them who are bidden I have prepared my supper," then "eat, drink and be merry," for "a feast is made for laughter;" then we will close with a doxology, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits," "for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever, amen."

All the portions of this letter in quotation marks are in the Bible, and you can find them out as a Christmas exercise. I hope I have not bothered your little minds with my last letter, because I did not intend putting in quotation marks the words "and he spread the letter," but merely for you to find out something about opening a letter before God and praying about it. I hope I am not too late for the Christmas number of Palm Branch.

"A Happy New Year."

Your friend,

Nov. 16th, '99.

W. J. KIRBY.

ANNUAL REPORT STUDY.

[We would call special attention to this study, written by one of our esteemed Band Secretaries, and intended for Circle and older Band members—it cannot fail to be a benefit.]

Each member should have in her hand a copy of the Annual Report, 1898-1899. Leader asks questions, telling where answers are to be found. After all have found answer, Leader calls on one to read it.

1. What is the object of the W. M. S.? Page 166, Art. II.
2. Of what does the organization of this Society consist? P. 166, Art. IV.
3. What is a Mission Circle or Band? P. 176, Law 1.
4. What is the object of a Circle or Band? P. 176, Law 2.
5. How may anyone become a member of Circle? Of Band? A Life Member? P. 176, Law 3.
6. What officers are necessary in Circle or Band? P. 176, Law 4.
7. Let each officer tell the duties attached to her Office. P. 176, Laws 5, 6, 7.
8. What is the meaning of "quarterly?" Of "annual?"
9. Name the Treasurer and Band Corresponding Secretary of N. B. and P. E. I. Branch. Page 133.*
10. What entitles a Circle or Band to send a delegate to Branch meeting? Page 176, Laws 9, 11.
11. What must we guard against in our public meetings and plans for raising money? Page 173. Encourage free discussion. Notice where "shall" is used and where "may."

*Or substitute your own.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

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

The organization of a Circle in Moncton has been followed by others, and we are hoping for, and expecting still more.

ST. JOHN (Queen Square)—The older members of the "Excelsior" Band, which did such faithful work last year, have graduated and become the "Minnie Robertson" Circle, under the leadership of Mrs. Lowe. The "Excelsior" Band continues its work with Mrs. Racine as leader.

CHATHAM—The Organizer of the Chatham District reports a new Circle at Chatham. Miss Muriel Ellis, president.

HOPEWELL—The Moncton District Organizer has organized, at Hopewell, the "Bessie Akorn" Band, with sixteen members:

Miss Ruthie Milton, president.

TAY—The "Pansy" Band is still growing. Harold Young, corresponding secretary, reports regular

meetings held and five new members this quarter.

We are expecting prompt and correct reports this year from every Circle and Band.

Fredericton, N. B.

E. E. C.

Miss Edith Price, Cor. Sec., writes:—The Buctouche Mission Band held its second meeting of this year Oct. 27th.

Mrs. (Rev.) C. H. Manaton, Mission Band Superintendent.

Miss Bertha Douglass, president.

Miss Maggie Barnes, Leader of Boys Department.

There were thirty-five enrolled, with more to follow. Although we did not raise as much money last year as we would like to have done, yet we know that He who counts every faithful effort made, every "kind act done" will reward our weak efforts if we are faithful. There is a prospect of our Band in the near future sending a trained nurse to China.

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Branch

The Dartmouth "Buds of Promise" Band has begun work for another year. The senior girls met at the home of the President, Mrs. Gronland, on Tuesday (the last of October), and spent the evening in making scrap-books and dressing dolls for a box to be sent to the Supply Committee for Christmas boxes. We have now a membership of 62.

Yesterday we heard from the "Stepping Forward" Band, at Gabarus, C. B. The work has begun for the ensuing year and with the efficient help of our president, we expect, and know, that the Band will do well. Our membership last year increased, and we hope to step forward.

The "Hopeful" Band, at Lawrencetown meets every second Sunday. We have an average attendance of 30. So that we can look forward to a good year.

Our Band at Jordan Falls, which was re-organized this last year, has a membership of nineteen. We are glad to be able to welcome this Band to our numbers.

The Sydney Band, "Little Gleaners," re-opened for work for this year at the 1st of November. They meet every Monday afternoon and have an interesting and most profitable time.

Will all the Bands take notice: That if they have not forwarded their first quarterly report to the secretary by the time they receive and read their Palm Branch, will they do so at once?

Halifax.

A. M. B.

Hamilton Branch.

The Cor. Sec. of Mount Pleasant Band writes:—You will be glad to know we have a little Mission Band in Mount Pleasant, called "The Jewels." They gave a nice little entertainment last week and made about six dollars, and they have two nice quilts ready to send away to one of the mission schools.