



MISS CANADA IN JAPAN.

WHEN Miss Robertson (our St. John Missionary to Japan) went back to that country after her year's rest at home, she took with her a large number of dolls, skillfully dressed and kindly donated by one of our young ladies.

We have permission from this young lady to give you part of Miss Robertson's letter, written to her in acknowledgment of her kindness.

Our picture this month shows you girls of the Japanese school in Kofu; one of them has the doll "Miss Canada," on her lap. The letter gives an interesting description of this doll "You are waiting to hear about the dolls, so I shall tell you about them first. If I could really let you know what a comfort they have been you would feel amply repaid for all the trouble you took in providing them so beautifully with

clothes. Soon after I came in this fall I gave two receptions for them in my room, to which I invited half the girls each time. Each doll found some one to admire her above all the rest, but, on the whole, Miss Canada was the general favorite. Afterwards when the girls came on my visiting day, Tuesday afternoon, "to play" they would ask for her, so I thought I had better adopt her for my own. I took off her hat and coat, so that she might look more at home, and set



her on a chair, where she spends much of her time. She has grown very dear to us all—I, also, liking to see and hold her occasionally. Two of the students care for my room, and often when I go upstairs I find her in the most interesting positions. Sometimes she is gazing steadily at one of my photos, or she will have in her arms a smaller doll, at which she is fondly looking. At times her face is turned up, her arms stretched out, beseeching one to take her. One day I found her reading one of my letters I had left on

the desk; another time she was enjoying a flower. Her joints are so easily turned, her positions so interesting, that to take her from my room would deprive some of the girls of much pleasure. When the girls are sick they ask for her, and many a comforting visit she has made. The girls call her "Sensei's baby." Her hair is a little the worse for the petting she gets, but otherwise she looks the same. Japanese girls are much more gentle in their

touch than Canadian girls. At Christmas time the kiddied doll dressed in heliotrope, went to comfort the heart of a little girl troubled with spinal weakness. She wears a plaster jacket all the time and is deprived of the joys that gladden the childhood of other children. She welcomed her little Canadian playmate with great joy.

Little Miss Red-dress went to another little maiden in Shizuoka who wrote her first letter to me, saying, she was

very glad to have the doll and that such a doll could not be bought in Shizuoka.

One with movable joints, dressed in pale green silk with little figures on it, went to two little girls in Shizuoka who were delighted to have her. Miss Washington, one of the teachers, begged one to have when the little girls visited her. I gave her the one in pale pink, the skirt striped. Those are all that have been given away -- I keep some of them to use in other ways. At our Women's Meetings they have created a great deal of interest several times."

GIVE ME THE CHILDREN.

"Give me the little children," the master Froebel said,
 "The little souls all thirsting, and hungering to be fed;
 Like the flowers that have awakened when springtime kissed the sod,
 And they shall bloom and blossom in the garden of our God.
 I will teach them of the Father and His beauties, one by one;
 And love shall be the shower, and love shall be the sun,
 And faith and gentle patience the freshening dew shall be,
 And a symphony of beauty shall blossom here for me.
 Give me the little children and the nations I will make,
 The world shall be all beauty and sweetness for His sake.
 They shall scatter all their fragrance in the weary world of men;
 Suffer the little children to come to Him again."

[Kindergarten Magazine.

BAND WORK.

Mrs. Hales, Missionary Band Corresponding Secretary for Toronto Conference Branch does not claim to be an authority on Band work, but kindly gives her opinion.

"You ask me whether I think it better for Mission Bands to continue studying one Mission Field for some length of time or to flit about from place to place, according to the prayer topic?

I certainly think it better to study one field thoroughly before going to another.

The danger in flitting from place to place is that the children sometimes become confused, and, at the end of the year, know nothing definitely about any mission field.

If the suggested programme could be prepared with a view to offering a complete study of one field, I think it would be a great advantage."

Miss Hawley, Missionary Band Corresponding Secretary Bay of Quinte, writes:

It is my opinion that longer time should be devoted to the study of a field by the Bands before passing to another. The present method is too superficial. This is apparent to even the little members. We took a vote on the question in our Band on Saturday and there was a unanimous vote for longer study. I asked for reasons, and one little girl replied: "Why, we only spend about one hour on the study of a country, and we can't learn much in that time." Our Band meets fortnightly, too. Some only once a month, so it is impossible to do thorough work in so short a time.

IMPORTANT HINTS.

"There must be no slackening in the efforts of the faithful workers in the Bands. Are we not now preparing these young minds and souls that in the days to come they may be more bound to our Cause? Or are we, by our laxity and improper training, instilling in their minds the thought, which may come in after years, that, after all, we were but playing at missions."

"I do think that our women must learn to think of training the young in missions as a very important part of the home work given us to do, and that our work abroad can only grow as the workers at home are added to and strengthened. This must largely be accomplished through the young."

Another hint, and what we think a most important one. Do not make either your private or public Mission Band programme too long.

HOLDING FAST.

When the anchors that faith has cast
 Are dragging in the gale,
 I am quietly holding fast,
 To the things that cannot fail.

I know that right is right,
 That it is not good to lie;
 That love is better than spite,
 And a neighbor than a spy.

I know that passion needs
 The leash of sober mind;
 I know that generous deeds
 Some sure reward will find;

That the rulers must obey:
 That the givers shall increase;
 That duty lights the way,
 For the beautiful feet of peace.

In the darkest night of the year,
 When the stars have all gone out,
 That courage is better than fear,
 That faith is truer than doubt.

And fierce though the fiends may fight,
 And long though the angels hide;
 I know that Truth and Right
 Have the universe on their side.

—[British Weekly.

Suggested Programme for Mission Bands—June.

- I.—Opening Hymn—"Onward Christian Soldiers."
 - II.—Announce subject for Study and Prayer—Missionaries and Missionary Ships.
 - III.—Leader and Band read alternately, St. Mark 16: 14-18; and St. John 24: 45-53.
 - IV.—Prayer—Asking God to watch over Missionaries, bless their work and guide the ships on the sea.
 - V.—Roll Call, with response of verse of favorite hymn.
 - VI.—Transaction of regular business
 - VII.—Questions on Field Study in the *Palm Branch*.
 - VIII.—Quartette—"Into a Tent Where a Gypsy Boy Lay."
 - IX.—Reading—A Missionary's Outfit, or a Blackboard Exercise (if preferred).
 - X.—Hymn—"Speed Away, Speed Away."
 - XI.—Reading—Missionary Standard of Living, and what it means to be a Foreign Missionary!
 - XII.—Sentence Prayer and Lord's Prayer in concert.
- NOTE.—Nos. 9 and 11 obtained at Room, Toronto. No. 10 in Sacred Songs, Sankey, No. 1 Book.

FIELD STUDY FOR JUNE.

MISSIONARIES AND MISSIONARY SHIPS.

Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.—Mark 16: 15.

I.e, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.—Matt. 28: 20.

These were among the last words of Jesus, as He parted from His weeping disciples and was taken up into Heaven. Strange, indeed, that since they were uttered nearly nineteen hundred years ago, the Christian Church has been so slow in obeying the call, that to-day there are still 1,000,000,000 who have never heard the blessed story of redeeming grace!

During the last hundred years, however, there has been a wonderful Missionary Crusade against the powers of heathendom, and the gospel light is slowly dispelling the darkness of superstition and cruelty. William Carey, a noble young man, living in England, in 1792, after much discouragement, succeeded in organizing the First British Foreign Missionary Society, and in the following year he, himself, landed in India, as the first foreign missionary. Soon after missionaries were sent to Africa, China, Fiji, Burmah, Japan and Coira, until now it is estimated that there are 10,000 missionaries and 25,000 native teachers. This seems a large number, but still there is only one missionary for every 100,000 of the heathen. Surely we should pray our Heavenly Father to send more laborers into His vineyard. He has answered this prayer so far, that to-day many consecrated young men and women are waiting to go, but there is no money to send them. True, \$10,000,000 annually are contributed for foreign missions, but this is only one cent a year for each of the heathen.

Our prayers this month are that God would abundantly bless those consecrated men and women who have left friends and native land and all the comforts of home, to spend their lives telling the message of salvation to these perishing millions.

When the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada was organized in 1824, two or three men were already striving to evangelize the Indians. Now our church has a noble band of missionaries numbering 1200. Our Woman's Missionary Society has thirty-seven noble women, who are laboring with never failing zeal to bring precious souls to a personal knowledge of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. These missionaries are now in Japan, China, British Columbia and Quebec, sowing precious seed, often amid discouragement, yet trusting in Him who said: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." They are indeed "ready for every good work," being teacher, friend, nurse in time of sickness, spiritual guide, indeed everything to those placed under their care. How often they must droop from sheer exhaustion, and long for a glimpse of home and dear ones. These are the times when the remembrance that in "the dear

Home Land, little bands of women and of boys and girls are praying for them, give them renewed strength and courage with which to take up the burden again. Do not let us fail, dear boys and girls, but let us daily remember our dear missionaries who are doing such a noble and Christ-like work.

We are also to pray this month for missionary ships, all ships carrying missionaries, that they may escape the perils of the deep and be brought safely to the desired haven. In all ages the gospel has been greatly indebted to ships. Jesus took ship and went unto the other side, and when the multitude came unto Him He brake unto them the Bread of Life. Paul, in his missionary journeys, to obey the commands of the Holy Spirit, was obliged to "take ship" and sail wherever he was commanded to go. And how God cared for him, in mighty storms and perils, and though three times shipwrecked, still God preserved his life!

God has wonderfully cared for all missionary ships in the past, and although some voyages have been from fifteen to eighteen thousand miles in length, very seldom have our missionaries suffered shipwreck or lost their lives. In going to Japan and China there is a long voyage by water; the missionaries on their way to China having an especially long and tedious journey up the Yang-tse River, sometimes lasting two or three months. The house-boats, as they are called, are flat-bottomed boats, 85 feet long to 12 wide. At each side of a front deck, 35 feet long, is a large car, used in crossing rocky or dangerous parts of the river. But usually the boat is propelled by "tracking," that is about thirty-five men pull the boat along from the shore by means of bamboo ropes. Back of the deck are the living rooms, very crowded and small. Often the boat strikes against a rock and springs a leak, and then the baggage is sure to be water-soaked, and the clothing and books damaged.

On the Pacific Coast the Methodist Church has a missionary boat, "Glad Tidings," under the charge of Rev. T. Crosby, which sails up and down the coast, carrying "Glad Tidings of Salvation" to many a poor benighted Indian, who could never hear of the Gospel in any other way. Let us pray also that God may bless this little vessel and preserve it for many years to be the bearer of good news to those who know Him

A. C. W.

QUESTIONS FOR JUNE.

- What were the last words of Jesus, and when were they heeded?
- Will you tell what you know of William Carey?
- How many missionaries now, and what proportion to the heathen?
- What is the want now when many are willing to go?
- How many missionaries of our Church now? Of our W. M. S? Where?
- What good work do they do? Do they ever get tired?
- What is pleasant for them to remember? What must we do?
- Who made use of ships to carry the Gospel?
- Do our missionaries go in ships now? Describe the house boat?
- What little missionary ship on the Pacific Coast?

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MISS S. E. SMITH,
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ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY, 1899.

ANOTHER blessed Easter time has passed on to the "garnered years." Have the brightness and joy gone with it, or stayed behind to gladden all our after lives? Surely that is what the Master meant when He said: "That my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full." Let us not miss this precious legacy of our ascended Lord.

Our prayer subject this month is China—that great empire so full of interest to us all. "The signs of the times" are good for China when the Dowager Empress has a man sentenced to death for threatening the life of a missionary; when she decorates the missionary and declares by an imperial decree that Christian missions are promoting good morals in China!

It is pleasant to observe the spirit manifested by many of the Chinese Christians. A graduate of Peking University last session, after having secured a position in the Imperial Customs Service, voluntarily gave it up and offered himself for service in the church at a salary less than one-third of the lowest he could get in the customs. His brother graduated last year, and gave up a position in business of about Rs. 140 a month to become a preacher at about Rs. 14 a month. What a comment on the talk of those who try to attribute all conversions in China to worldly motives!

"No one among the great missionaries of China," says The Outlook, "has performed nobler work than Dr. Griffith John. No one would be less likely to mistake the signs of the times." Dr. John states, with great emphasis, that the authorities are supporting the missionaries, and that they call upon all the people in strong and vigorous proclamations to respect their rights and privileges, and warn the people that violence against the missionaries will be followed by penalty of death. Great results from missionary labour may soon be expected in China.

Let those who sneeringly assert, says the Boston 'Congregationalist,' that missions are a failure, and that it is an impertinence to offer Christianity to the ancient civilisations of the East, take notice that the present minister of the Chinese emperor at Washington is a Christian.

Unfortunately for China's daughters, Confucius noticeably disliked the "unquiet sex," and his philosophy has nothing to offer woman but "The Law of Five Obediences." She should obey her brothers, parents, husband, parents-in-law, and, after their death, her sons. "Women," the sage insists, "should not be known outside their homes either for good or evil." Consequently ladies in China are never "loaf-givers." No St. Elizabeth ever ministered to beggars and lepers, nor have Chinese prisons been brightened by an Elizabeth Fry. Chinese soldiers never followed a victorious Joan of Arc nor kissed the shadow of a Santa Filomena as she ministered to their dying wants. It is true that China's muse of history has proved the names of some delightful women, "On fame's eternal headroll worthy to be filed," but always for their fire-side virtues and self-sacrifice in the family—never for genius or philanthropy.

- W. M. Friend.

We are much interested in our young friend, Helen's True Story, on the next page. That faithful minister "builted better than he knew" when he sought to interest a little girl in foreign missions. Perhaps from Heaven he looks down and sees with joy the results of his efforts.

Report from Hamilton Branch will appear next month.

WORDS OF LOVE AND TRUST.

"IF the flood comes and catches us, it will only carry us up to heaven the quicker." A little Chinese boy, Chengsah, said this. He, with his mother and her two other children, was watching the waters rise, while the rain came down in torrents. In the country where they lived there is a rainy season, when day after day dreadful rains fall. Suddenly, during these rains of 1893 came an alarm such as is sounded in the great cities when fire breaks out. The neighbours cried: "Save your children! The flood is coming! An embankment has broken!" But the mother and her children could only watch and wait, while everybody around them was screaming and crying, and the flood seemed just going to sweep them away. Then this little boy spoke these words of love and trust in his Heavenly Father.

Suppose some dear little child, known to us, one of us, was in such danger, and his mother's heart was aching to see his fear and to think of the angry water coming nearer and nearer. How glad she would be to know that he was not afraid, but was just looking across the great flood to Heaven! she would be brave, too, if she was not brave before.

The flood passed by, and did not carry this mother and her children away. They are alive, to tell how sweet it is to have a Heavenly Father very near when fear and danger come, and to have his home all ready to take us in when the flood carries us out of this life.

[Is it not worth while to send the Gospel to China?]

LITTLE JOE'S GIFT.

GRANDPA and Grandma Stebbins had the Bible in their home, but they seldom read it. It lay upon an upper shelf, and the dust was often allowed to collect upon it. They were so intent upon gathering together this world's goods that they found little time to think of the world to come. Joe, their grandson, was a brave little boy, and they laid by every penny they could spare in order that they might educate him. It was for Joe that they toiled early and late. When he first went to school, how proud the old couple were of the reports of his behaviour! No boy gave less trouble to his teacher, nor was more loved by her.

This teacher was a Christian, and she told Joe of Jesus, and the boy's tender heart was touched, and that evening he ran all the way home in his haste to tell grandpa and grandma the story. The aged parents had long been familiar with it, and they listened, not untouched by the child's enthusiasm.

Joe kept the story in his heart, and pondered often of the blessed Jesus, who died for sinners.

While Grandpa Stebbins was never idle, yet he had not prospered as many another, and his heart hardened as he thought of what he would, but could not do for his boy. When vacation came, Joe, who was bright and active in work as well as study, said: "Grandpa, I'm not too young to lend a hand."

So, when grandpa went to the woods with his axe to hew down trees, Joe went too, determined to help. The old man was proud enough of the little man who ran by his side; and grandma, as she watched their departing forms from the window, smiled as she resumed her knitting—a pair of warm stockings for Joe.

Grandpa never could tell how it happened, but when the oak at which he was hewing fell, Joe fell too, crushed beneath its trunk. One leg must be taken off, the surgeon said, and the little fellow clung to grandma's neck, striving vainly to smother the sobs which shook his frame.

It was a sad household, and Joe, as he lay upon his bed, strove vainly to cheer the hearts of his grandparents. "Don't cry, grandma," he would say; "I can get around on one leg, and there's lots of things a boy with one leg can do."

He made it a rule to speak to them each day of Jesus. In his sufferings, the dear Lord was very near to him, and he thought often and wonderingly of the life and death of his Saviour.

One day his teacher brought him a missionary magazine, and in it was the story of a child who worshipped idols, and when told of Jesus wept for joy, and said, "Tell father, too." and turning from the wooden image he bowed his knee to the living Jesus.

Joe's form daily wasted, and his dear ones saw that his earthly life was short. "Grandpa," he said one day, "have I cost you much?" The old man hid his

face and sobbed. "I want to know, grandpa," Joe continued, "just how much I cost you in a year?"

"Not much, my boy, not much; not more than a few pounds."

"Well, grandpa, I am going home soon, and I want you to give that money to some other boys to teach them of Jesus, that they may come to the same Home where I am going."

Grandpa sobbed "yes," and the boy stroking the white hairs of his head, said: "Won't you and grandma come too?"

This is how Joe performed his work for Jesus, and brought his grandparents into the kingdom.

Soon the wasted form was laid to rest, but the aged couple never forgot their promise to little Joe. The Bible was brought down from the shelf, and each year into the mission fund there came the offering of some pounds, bearing the words, "Little Joe's Gift."

"SUNBEAM."

A TRUE STORY.

SOME time in the forties, the British Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society fell short of funds and got in debt. They did not know what to do, until some one said, "Let us ask the children to help us!" So they printed little collecting cards, and asked the children to give and collect from their friends a Christmas Offering. I do not know what they raised that year, but they astonished the ministers who had set them to work for missions for the first time. Ever since the children have been helping. What is now the Conference of N. B. and P. E. I. was then a part of the British Conference and some were sent out here. In a remote country place in New Brunswick the resident minister gave a card to a little girl of seven years, and he also gave her some little books about the work and about the heathen children. Books were very scarce in those days, and children's papers were eagerly and carefully read, and the missionary spirit was awakened in that little heart, and although the people were poor, and money was scarce, she presented her little card to all her friends and collected nearly seven dollars for the missionary society. What a happy little girl she was when she heard the minister had spoken of her effort in the public missionary meeting! The missionary thus awakened is still alive. She is an enthusiast in the missionary cause, although more than fifty years have passed since then, and she has seen and rejoiced over the growth of the parent society and the formation of the W. M. S. and the Mission Bands.

Now, dear Band workers, if such meagre information and so little chance for work has had such an effect, what should we do with our advantages? What ought fifty years of experience to do for our Bands? Who ever may be spared to work for missions for fifty years ought to do great things for the cause in New Brunswick.

York Co.

NELLIE.



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

Well dear Cousins, the joyful Easter time has come and gone, and though the flowers, and music and brightness that came with it may have passed away, yet your joy no one can take from you, for you have made the Saviour's heart glad. Yes, and you have made many hearts glad and helped to brighten other little lives. Cousin Susan says, in her letter today, "Last time we met we had a lovely time. We returned our Easter Thank Offering." Of course you had a lovely time—a time of love.

Dear Cousin Joy,—This is the first time I ever wrote you a letter, and so don't know what to put in. I took some of the Palm Branches, and thought they were very nice, and should like very much to take them. I go to the Mission Band every time they have it, and it is lovely.

From your loving cousin,
HAZEL FERGUSON

Fredericton, N. B.

Very glad to hear from our new little cousin.

Dear Cousin Joy,—I have written to you before. I am a member of the Blackmore Mission Band. Last time we met we had a lovely time. We returned our "Easter Thank Offerings," and made a total of \$5.17. After the offerings were given we were much surprised to partake of a lovely tea. We then went all to our homes. I enclose a puzzle, which, if correct, please publish.

Yours sincerely,
SUSAN CREASER.

Dear Cousin Joy,—This is the first time I have written to the Palm Branch. I think the Palm Branch is a nice paper for little ones. My sister and I have a Mission Box. I live eight miles north of a town called Moose Jaw. We have no school in the winter here. I go to town and take music lessons once a week. I have two brothers and two sisters. I was at our president's (Herbie Bellamy's) funeral.

Good bye,

Carrie, N. W. T.

LETTIE W MOORE

Dear Cousin Joy,—We did not have our meeting in February on account of so much sickness; but we had a full meeting this month. We purpose holding an open meeting with the W. M. S. Hope to raise a nice lot of money for the "Herbie Bellamy Home." I think we are all interested in Herbie. Poor Herbie! It's well for him he's at rest.

Your loving cousin,

Delta.

LORNE.

Dear Cousin Joy,—I have written to you before, but I thought I would like to write to you again. I am still taking the Palm Branch. I find it a very interesting paper. We haven't a very large Mission Band now. I think I have found the answer to one of April's puzzles. 1st—Miss Susan Creaser. I have made a puzzle, if you think it is right you may print it.

Your loving cousin,

West Dublin.

BESSIE SPERRY.

If Cousin Bessie will send us the answer to her puzzle it will go in next month.

Dear Cousin Joy,—This is the second time I have written to you. I am a member of the Blackmore Mission Band. We have a large band, and meet every fortnight, summer and winter. I take the "Palm Branch," and like the paper very much, especially the puzzles. I think I have found the answer to the April number: 1st.—Miss Susan Creaser. 2nd.—I am the Resurrection and the Life. I enclose a puzzle, if correct, please publish in the paper.

From your loving cousin,

Ritcey's Cove

SADIE RITCEY.

[Cousin Geraldine's letter next month.]

Don't forget, dear cousins, to write letters and puzzles on separate papers.

PUZZLES FOR JUNE.

I am composed of 18 letters.
My 12, 16, 17, 19, is a large town.
My 15, 14, 9, is an animal.
My 1, 3, 2, is a girl's name.
My 9, 5, 10, is part of the foot.
My 13, 7, 3, 4, is a large room.
My 6, 7, 15, is what we don't like to hear about.
My 8, 5, 11, 10, is in front.
My whole is what we all should do.

SADIE RITCEY.

I am composed of 33 letters.
My 12, 18, 27, 11, 20, 30, is a boy's name.
My 23, 4, 5, 6, is a large room.
My 1, 8, 29, 14, is something lent.
My 12, 22, 4, 10, 13, 21, 15, is a faculty.
My 27, 20, 9, 30, 16, 2, is for a race.
My 21, 24, 1, 22, is a river.
My 30, 31, 14, 15, 16, are jewellery.
My 3, 26, 10, 20, 23, is to send forth.
My 19, 13, 15, 17, 7, is the name of a place.
My 32, 26, 22, is an adjective.
My 25, 24, 21, 33, is very small.
My whole is a good motto for us all.

SUSAN CREASER.

WAITING TO GROW.

Little white crocuses, just waking up;
Violet, daisy and sweet buttercup,
Under the leaves, the ice, and the snow,
Waiting to grow.

Think what a host of queer little seeds,
Flowers and mosses and ferns and weeds,
Under the leaves, the ice, and the snow,
Waiting to grow.

Think of the roots getting ready to spout,
Reaching their slender, brown fingers about,
Waiting to grow.

Nothing so small or hidden so well,
That God cannot find it and presently tell
His sun where to shine and his rain where to go,
Helping them grow.

--[The Kindergarten.]

Letter from Rev. Mr. Kirby.

Dear children of the Palm Branch:

I said to myself, "now I'm going to write to the Easter number of the Palm Branch," and then the young lady who calls at my house with our favourite little paper came in with the April number, and that was the Easter number, and I was in the same fix the foolish virgins were when the bridegroom came.

Surely it's true:

"Naught treads so softly as the foot of time."

I had missed the chance to write on the greatest event the world ever witnessed, the Resurrection of our King, Jesus.

So what can I do now? Well, I am going to write something about Easter doings in our church. I mean the Easter not-doings—for we never had an Easter service in our church on the usual day for that festival of the church.

Something happened to the heating apparatus of our church, so it was closed all day. No preaching! No music! No Sunday-school! Just the right kind of an experience to make us think of those who have no churches, and no Easter services.

I was expecting to preach to the women of the W. M. S. that Sunday night, but I had to give it up.

However, I was bound to do something missionary, so on Monday I went to the Mission Band and we had a grand time. Singing, recitations, dialogues, etc. Then I was allowed to speak just as many minutes as there were people in the Ark. I felt so sorry we did not have any services on Sunday, so I said, "Now I am going to give a cent to the collection" for every one who was out to some service on Sunday, and up went as many hands as the day of the month when the water dried up from the earth after the flood. However, I didn't mind that, because I knew the Mission Band would be that much better off.

Well, on Tuesday our W. M. S. held an open auxiliary at the residence of one of the members. So I went to that, too, (of course I have a right to go; I am a member of the W. M. S.), and we had a fine time there. I thought, no wonder they love the mission work, why they know all about it. "Watch Tower" reports were most inspiring, and the whole proceedings

were enough to make us say what the disciples did after Jesus left them at Emmaus. Then they asked me to speak, and said I would have as many minutes as there were golden mice sent back by the Philistines with the Ark of God; and I felt talking to the women about the events of John XX. was most enjoyable. Then the collection, and I felt so thankful to be there that I gave a cent for each year of the age of Amaziah when he began to reign, and when I had totalled all I gave, I found that if I had been Nebo, and had as many children, I just gave a cent each for them, or a cent for each year of Azariah's reign—or a cent for each day that it took to re-build the walls of Jerusalem. After all this we had refreshments and a very pleasant time, and then went home, almost wishing we could have a men's missionary society on the same plan, and could get the men as much enthused as the women are on this subject of missions.

Dear me! I have filled up all my paper, and I have only just got through two missionary meetings this week yet.

Well, never mind, by the time you have found out the things from the Bible I have mentioned in my letter I shall be back again with something else.

I want the children of Palm Branch to find out these numbers, and to the first Mission Band in N. B. and P. E. I. Conference which sends the correct answer, with scriptures marked, to Palm Branch (Cory Corner one dollar will be given to its funds.

By your friend,

W. J. KIRBY.

[Mr. Kirby's kind offer is to the Bands of N. B. and P. E. I. Conference. It is to Bands in country places, not to city bands, and not within twenty miles of St. John. You see the answer is to be sent to Palm Branch, and one so near would reach St. John too soon to give all a fair chance. The child finding and sending the first correct answer to the whole will secure the dollar for the band to which he or she belongs. It must be won by a band member and a subscriber to Palm Branch! These are the conditions. Who will try?]

[The Chinese Habit of Doing Things Backward.]

1. In America when two gentlemen meet they raise their hats and shake each other's hands; in China to raise the hat would be an insult, and each man shakes his own hands.

2. When a friend or relative dies they wear white mourning instead of black, and allow themselves to become dirty instead of keeping themselves clean.

3. When they address their friends they use the family name first; thus, John Smith in China would be addressed Smith John.

4. We build the best side of the house toward the street; they build the windowless side outward, and throw all the dirt in the street.

5. The streets in American cities are about six inches lower than the sidewalks; in China they are built up two feet above the sidewalks.—Exchange.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

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

As the quarterly report cards come in, we are glad to note that a number of our Bands have held public meetings, and that many speak of increased interest and show a good average attendance.

ST. JOHN.—Excelsior Mission Band gained sixteen new members last quarter, and is doing excellent work. Much credit is due the young officers of this Band.

MONCTON.—“Help a Little” Band reports an average attendance of thirty-three, and deep interest. It held a good concert in March.

CHELTON.—The Secretary writes:—“Our Band is small, as there are only a few children in the district, but we are trying to do what we can. We meet in the school-house immediately after school, and have a fair attendance. We had a public meeting a short time ago—collected \$5.62. We made an autograph quilt and then the Band bought it for \$1.25 and presented it to our pastor’s wife.”

The Chelton Branch might serve as an object lesson for other places where “there are only a few children”

BERWICK.—A member writes: “As Golden Rule Band is, I believe, one of the youngest bands in our Branch, a few lines from us may be acceptable. We have now over twenty members, and have met twice a month ever since we were organized last fall; meeting alternately at the parsonage, Berwick, and at Mrs. E. Folkins’, Centreville, about a mile distant, in order to give those at Snider Mt. the opportunity to attend.

Last Saturday, Mrs. Deinstadt invited us, with our parents and friends, to a most enjoyable entertainment and five o’clock tea at the parsonage.

An excellent programme was rendered by the members of the Band; not only the larger ones assisting, but the tiniest tots taking part in recitations and motion songs, Miss Deinstadt accompanying the children on the piano. We were then invited to the dining room, where tea was served on small tables, presided over by members of the Band. We can heartily recommend this form of entertainment to other Bands, as we believe if parents were occasionally invited to meet with them they would be more interested in their success. We are beginning to be deeply interested in missions, though we had thought little or nothing about them till lately.

We are all glad to receive Palm Branch, and wish we could get it twice a month, it is such a help to us.

We hope to have a public meeting at Easter.”

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Branch.

Halifax North.—The secretary of “Reapers” Mission Circle writes: “We are having very interesting meetings, although so many of the older members have left us to join the auxiliary, that the work now falls on the younger ones. We have given up having concerts, bazaars, etc., to raise funds, and depend entirely upon systematic giving. The small envelopes are used, and each one contributes monthly as much as possible.”

The ‘Gleaners’ Band report regular attendance and five new members. The lessons for the past quarter have been chiefly on China.

Yarmouth.—The “Earnest Gleaners” Band, re-organized last year, have added thirteen to their number. They support a little girl in the Crosby Home.

We are glad to welcome another Band. On February 10th the “Little Gleaners” Band was organized at Sydney with fourteen members.

The work in this Branch for the last quarter has been most encouraging. Meetings are being held more regularly, with larger attendance, and quite a number of new members have been enrolled.

MARCIA B. BRAINE,

Band Secretary.

124 Tower Road, Halifax.

Montreal Conference Branch.

Miss Carrie Palmer, Corresponding Secretary, writes:

The Rosevier Mission Band of our village has greatly increased during the last year and there are many earnest workers in it. We noticed your suggestion to put the members in for officers and decided to adopt it.

We have a president, a vice president, a secretary, a corresponding secretary and a treasurer, assistant treasurer and a look-out committee. The president and secretary are married ladies. We decided to take the first five dollars we earned and make a little invalid girl a life-member. We held a meeting at her house this summer, and she was very much delighted and invited us to come again.

In our band there are about twenty-five members. We have a very bright look-out committee, and we hope to have more.

Toronto Conference Branch.

Meaford Mission Band writes:

Our Band is prospering nicely. We opened the mite boxes at our March meeting and realized \$4.43. We feel quite encouraged as we have had the boxes only six months.

The Allandale Mission Band has changed its name. It is now called “Morning Star.”

Maple Mission Band, of Thornburg writes:—The interest is good. There were but three members absent last meeting.