



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

VOL. VIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1900.

Nos. 8 and 9.

COULD NOT SING.

"THANKS, I do not sing," and the politely offered hymn-book was declined.

Ella Talbott was but a young girl, absorbed in her school work, scarcely bestowing a thought upon the use she was to make of her talents and acquirements. Some years afterwards she found herself a missionary across the waters needing all the ability of a well-trained mind, but constantly called upon for knowledge of simple, practical affairs she used to consider trivial. And of all things, she was expected to sing! Not merely to play the tiny organ in the chapel, but to sing a hymn, solo fashion. The preacher who asked this of her saw refusal in her eye.

"Although the door stands open, and we wait here ready to teach, you see the people are passing. If you should begin to sing, I believe they would come flocking in; then we might have a chance to offer them the message of salvation." Ella turned over the leaves of her hymn-book, printed in a foreign tongue,

She saw "Jesus, I my cross have taken," and at once she took up this new cross bravely.

"No wonder the people came trooping in," she said afterwards, "for you know I have no voice at all; but they,



VACATION JOYS.

poor things, though nature may have given them voices, could sing no better than I -- indeed, many had never heard a song. Such a hubbub as they raised! And when I stopped, they would have crowded out, but Mr. Harris promised that when he was through speaking I would sing again. He told of Jesus, our Friend, and I sang, 'What a friend we have in Jesus! They were perfectly quiet, and must have understood the simple words. Since then I have never refused to do what I was once sure I could not do.'

How many gifts are there among our readers? Did you ever ask one to consecrate her talents to the Lord's service? Why are you taking lessons in music year after year? If some one should ask you to

choose a song or start the tune at the next mission ary meeting, would you refuse?

—Selected.

LIVINGSTONE.

By REV. C. P. HARD.

Do the spirits of the great missionaries revisit the scenes of their earthly toils and failures and weeping and agony, when at last the path opens and the light breaks and the triumph lifts its trumpet to lips of joy? Then, we think, with delight, that the blessed David Livingstone may now look on the rushing advance of freedom in South Africa with smile and shout. He had a hard time in Africa, from the date of entering it, in 1811, until, dead on his knees in the Ilala hut, found there by the black boys, he bound the heart of all Christendom and civilization to the redemption of that continent, by "the dead hand" of an immortal influence of life. In the burial temple of some of the world's greatest, we saw, in 1874, the fresh flowers in Westminster Abbey, in the midst of London's millions, on the horizontal slab under which he had lately been laid, when that cathedral had been "crowded in every part;" when Mr. Stanley was one of the pall-bearers; when Dr. Livingstone's noble father-in-law, the missionary of South Africa, Dr. Moffat, was present, "full of sorrowful admiration." Now, daily, multitudes read the inscription on the floor:

"Brought by faithful hands over land and sea.

Here rests

DAVID LIVINGSTONE,

Missionary, Traveller, Philanthropist.

Born March 19, 1813, at Blantyre, Lanarkshire;

Died May 4, 1873.

At Chitambo's Village, Ilala."

For thirty years his life was spent in an unwearied effort to evangelize the native races, to explore the undiscovered secrets, and abolish the desolating slave trade of Central Africa, where, with his last words he wrote: "All I can say in my solitude is, may Heaven's rich blessing come down on every one—American, English, Turk—who will help to heal this open sore of the world." On the left border are written: "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice."

Who can speak or write of Livingstone to-day without tears; of sorrow, in memory of his anguish; of gladness, that the Africa of his love is being opened up, though with the bayonet; that there will be no more his "solitude" or that of other European; that with the sound, as of mighty waters, of great armies, Africa is being made the neighborhood of every Christian land, that more missionary literature is being, with free circulation, given daily to the whole world, regarding Africa, than all the missionary societies could supply, much less get to be read, in a century of effort?

JUST YOU AND I.

If you and I, my dear, should try
To do what we know is duty,
This world of ours, with its sun and showers
Would blossom into beauty.
There'd be more joy without alloy,
There'd be much less of sighing,
If you and I, my dear, should try,
And never give up trying.

If you and I, when we'd like to cry,
Should hum a bit of tune, dear,
And gaily smile—in a little while
The weather'd seem like June, dear,
If, when we fret, with eyes tear-wet,
O'er some of the things that bother,
We'd pitch right in with a hearty vim
And help dear, tired mother.

Oh! wouldn't it be a happier world,
And wouldn't it be worth living,
If more and more from our heart's full store
Of love we'd just been giving?
So, dear, let's try, just you and I,
And never give up, O never!
And life will be brighter, and sad hearts lighter
Because of our endeavor.

VACATION TIME.

The grammars and the spellers,
The pencils and the slates,
The books that hold the fractions
And the books that tell the dates,
The crayons and the blackboards
And the maps upon the wall,
Must all be glad together,
For they won't be used till fall.

They've had to work like beavers
To help the children learn;
And if they want a little rest,
It surely is their turn.
They shut their leaves with pleasure,
The dear old lesson books,
And the crayons and the blackboards
Put on delighted looks.

So children, just remember,
When you are gone away,
Your poor old slate and pencils
Are keeping holiday,
The grammars and the spellers
Are proud as they can be
When the boys forsake the school-room,
And the teachers turn the key.

—MARGARET E. SANGSTER
in *Harper's Young People*.

GOD CLAIMS ME.

When the late Earl Cairns was a little boy he heard three words which made a memorable impression upon him: "God claims you." Then came the question: "What am I going to do with the claim?" He answered: "I will own it, and give myself to God." He went home, and told his mother, "God claims me." At school and college his motto was, "God claims me." As a member of parliament, and ultimately as Lord chancellor, he was teacher of a large Bible class; and his minister, thinking now he would have no time to devote to that purpose, said to him: "I suppose you will now require to give up your class?"

"No," was the reply, "I will not; God claims me."
—[The Dial.]

IF I CAN LIVE.

BY HELEN HUNT JACKSON.

If I can live
To make some pale face brighter and to give
A second luster to some tear dimmed eye,
Or e'en impart
One throb of comfort to an aching heart,
Or cheer some wayworn soul in passing by;

If I can lend
A strong hand to the fallen, or defend
The right against a single envious strain,
My life, though bare
Perhaps of much that seemeth dear and fair
To us on earth, will not have been in vain.

The purest joy,
Most near to Heaven, far from earth's alloy,
Is bidding clouds give way to sun and shine,
And 'twill be well
If on that day of days the angels tell
Of me, "She did her best for one of thine."

Field Study For August--September.

Review of the Field Study of the Year.

1. Name the mission fields of the W. M. S.; first, those in Canada; second, those abroad.
2. Who was the first missionary of the W. M. S. to work abroad? Where did she begin work and when?
3. Tell what you can of the beginning and growth of our work in Tokyo.
4. Name our mission stations in Japan, and tell how the work in Kanazawa differs from that in the other cities.
5. When we began work in China what city was chosen?
6. Tell what you can of the Province of Sz-Chuen.
7. Describe briefly the journey to Chentu.
8. Tell something about the condition of women and children in China, and describe our work in Chentu.
9. What means are we using to Christianize the Indians in our own Dominion?
10. Tell something about Coqualeetze Institute; our work in Port Simpson and our lately acquired Home in Kitamaat.
11. Among what other peoples do we work in British Columbia?
12. What is the object of the French Institute?
13. What other work is being carried on by the W. M. S. in Montreal?
14. Why are you interested in the work of the W. M. S.?

[This review has been already used by one Band and found helpful, and we are sure that it will prove so to all the rest.]

QUESTION DRAWER.

Echoes From Last Branch Meeting N. B. & P. E. 1.

How would you select your delegate?
First, pray that God may guide you in your choice

and then guide the delegate.

Select one who will be likely to become enthused and bring back a good report.

How would you prepare for convention—that is, for District or Branch?

The last meeting in Auxiliary, Circle or Band before convention should be spent in preparing for it. Study the laws governing conventions. Give the delegate questions to ask. Let her understand what she can do to help, and what she can bring back.

What are the duties of the delegate while there?

She must first remember that she is the choice of the Auxiliary. She must take with her three ideas—"Going, Getting, Giving." She must be prompt at every session, devotional exercises too—note-book and pencil in hand, jotting down all the good things said and done. Papers and discussions are not digested unless the points are gathered up—the blackboard is most helpful. She must be wide awake to the demands of the hour; keep the mind open; get into the spirit of the occasion. Forgetfulness of self makes a good delegate.

What are her duties when she comes back?

She must discriminate between the Auxiliary and the public meeting. In the latter details are not necessary, but a general idea of the work done. Give the Auxiliary the contents of her note-book. What most touches the heart is good to take back. The delegate of one year should educate the delegate of the next.

What is the most helpful report to take home from a Branch meeting?

Such a report as will make every member of the Auxiliary feel that she has been there.

It was decided in this Branch that the best way to keep the interest of the children in Band work is to interest the mothers—who are supposed to be Auxiliary members. Take the Auxiliary to the Band and the Band to the Auxiliary, individually, by two and threes, or collectively, until they feel like mother and daughter.

The most successful Band spoken of was one that continually used the blackboard; maps also are great helps—use both eye and ear avenue.

[We make no apology for inserting these echoes again. We know that they cannot fail to be helpful at this season.]

Suggested Programme for August-September.

- Singing of a Hymn chosen by one of the members.
- Short prayer by Leader or President.
- Reciting of prepared Bible verses by members.
- Spirited singing of one verse of a hymn.
- Roll Call.
- Business--Reports, etc.
- Review of Field Studies for the year, divided in two, if necessary
- Solo or Recitation.
- Short reading.
- Chorus.
- Brief remarks by Visitor or Leader--Benediction or prayer.

PALM ✻ BRANCH.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH.

St. JOHN, N. B.

S. E. SMITH, EDITOR.
 SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, 20 CENTS A YEAR.
 FOR CLUBS OF TEN OR MORE TO ONE ADDRESS, 10c. EACH A YEAR.

All Band reports and notes must be sent through the Branch Band Corresponding Secretaries.

All other articles intended for publication, all subscription orders with the money, must now be sent to

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

St. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1900

IT was our good fortune while away, recently, to be present at a meeting on "Children's Day," held in Grace M. E. Church, Baltimore. The spacious building was well filled with an interested, appreciative audience; the Sunday-school occupying the galleries. The decorations were very elaborate. An arbor was built over the platform, enclosing a fountain, and from this arbor depended long wreaths of vines and flowers, extending through the church; one large crimson flower constantly repeated (we forget just what it was) being especially beautiful. These flowers were electric, and when suddenly lighted the effect was "electrical" too. It was certainly a very beautiful sight, taking in also the group of girls and boys who occupied the platform seats in front of the arbor.

The music was very fine, the children having been remarkably well trained to do their part. The recitations also were well chosen, and given with spirit. Each section of the school from infant class to senior department was represented. At the close of this programme Dr. Miller, pastor of the church, preached a short, instructive sermon to the children from the text "The spider taketh hold with her hands and is in kings' palaces." Prov. 30: 28. He asked, "Did you ever see an ugly spider in your path and tread on it, thinking it a horrid, useless thing? Did you even wonder why God made it? Did you ever look at it through a microscope? If you did you would see wonderful things. It would look about as big as a bear—and its eyes! eight of them, and each one as bright as a diamond. And hands—it has hands, not claws—so that it really can take hold. And right in the middle of its body there is a wonderful piece of mechanism—a spinning machine! The spider is both a weaver and a rigger. In what two things would it be well for children to imitate her? In her industry and perseverance (children repeat after him). She is most industrious. Even the young spiders work; they do not go to school, but God gives them instinct as he gives the birds knowledge how to build their nests. The spider is always at work, and she does her work so thoroughly—it never breaks nor gives way. If you look at it through a microscope you will see that it looks like a rope, yet it is really a most delicate thread, and is composed of about five thousand threads. What does she gain by industry and perseverance? Two things, "An honorable place and an honest living (children repeat

after him). She gets into kings' palaces. She is not wanted there. She has to hide away in dark corners. Perhaps you do not think that catching flies is getting an honest living! It would not be for you, but it is for the spider. Here the pastor made a plea for the fisherman and the butcher, etc. "Now think before you tread on a spider again what a wonderful thing she is, and what she can do." Now in what are you to be like the spider? (Children repeat.) Yes, and if you live well and serve God faithfully you will have an honorable place in a King's palace. And you will not have to hide away in a dark corner, for Jesus, Himself, will come to meet you and give you a welcome, and the living you will make will not be only for a little while, but will last forever and ever." Dr. Miller also addressed the teachers in an impressive manner.

We are indebted to Mrs. Hill, of the Pittsburg "Junior Missionary Magazine" one of our exchanges, for the cut which we give this month. We hope it fairly represents the "Vacation joys" of our young readers. This is the last paper to be published before the new missionary year will open upon us.

We bespeak new subscriptions and contributions for the coming year, and are pleased to be able to tell you that this Palm Branch year has been a more satisfactory one to your editor because more people have shown an interest in keeping its pages supplied with intelligence. We are, as always, indebted to our Japan missionaries.

The news from China is vague and uncertain. We have reason to believe that our own missionaries are safe, but in such a disturbed country we know not how long they may continue so. Let us pray most earnestly for them and all missionaries. Indeed we cannot take up a leaflet without feeling that our missionaries in every land are constantly asking for our prayers. It is very pathetic this dependence of theirs upon our help at home. Let us put ourselves in their places, and keep them constantly in mind by praying for them.

Our Accepted Missionaries.

The annual meeting of the Toronto Conference Training School and Deaconess Home was held in Carlton Street Church on May the 15th. Miss Laing and Miss Forest graduated, and leave for work in China in August. Each of these ladies had also previously received a nurse's training, which will greatly add to their opportunities for usefulness. Miss Jackson, who has had experience in missionary work, also graduated, and proceeds to Kitamaat as assistant to Miss Long. Miss Howie, of the N. B. and P. E. I. Branch, is in residence at the Deaconess Home, and expects to leave at the same time as the other ladies for her distant field in Japan. Let us follow them with our prayers every step of the long journey to their new homes and work.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Shizuoka Girls' School, Japan, May 5th, 1900.

Dear Miss Smith:—Miss Cunningham thought that an account of the temperance work in Shizuoka might be quite interesting to you, so she asked me to write about it.

One of the earnest temperance workers, Rev. Miyama, was invited, by Misses Cunningham and Alcorn, to Shizuoka, on his way to Kyushu down south. He came on the last Wednesday of January. That evening he was to attend the weekly prayer-meeting at the church. The teachers and several older girls went to the meeting. He told us a true story he happened to experience when he went to Hokkaido, up north. He encouraged us to sing over and over till we felt we were filled with the spirit.

On the first Friday of February, Mrs. Large, who was to go to the south with Mr. Miyama, came from Tokyo. In the evening a temperance meeting, which we were hopefully waiting for, was held at our church. Mrs. Large and Mr. Miyama explained what dreadful harm liquor and tobacco do to the people, and how they are led to still sadder sins by using these poisonous materials. Indeed, the mothers and sisters suffer much through their father's and brothers' habit of drinking! Of course the speeches were touching to those who have dear sons and daughters. One of the girls brought her step-father to the meeting. He determined not to touch liquor any more. He was going to have the fiftieth celebration for his parents' death, and he had already prepared numbers of glass bottles and small wine cups to give to all the people who would come. But since he knew the terrible harm of the liquor, he decided not to give any wine to the people. And he sent ten yen to the school, which he was going to spend for wine. This money was exchanged for a tall graceful willow tree, which now stands in the front garden. We say a willow tree invites the people to come in with its long, slender hands, and in front of most hotels and tea-houses, they have this tree planted. So it is very nice to have one stand in the garden of the Christian school to call people to come and listen to God's words. In Japan a tree won't die, even if it is transplanted in winter.

On this night, after the meeting was over, a temperance Auxiliary was organized.

On Saturday, the 3rd, a woman's meeting on temperance was held. Though the teachers worked as hard as they could to gather as many women as they could, yet the meeting was not as large as it was expected. To be sure, one reason was, it was raining. Mrs. Large and Mr. Miyama spoke of the origin and the motive of the W. C. T. U. Several of the school girls sang "Where is my wandering boy to-night." Quite a number asked to become members of the W. C. T. U. So it was announced that a meeting would be held in the school on Saturday, the 17th.

On Sunday, the 4th, Mr. Miyama preached at the morning service. In the afternoon Mrs. Large gave an easy talk about liquor and tobacco to all the Sunday-

school children in the city. They all seemed to be interested in the story. In the evening a revival meeting was held by Mr. Miyama. It was very successful. Many people received blessings and twelve girls asked to be baptized.

Mrs. Large and Mr. Miyama left Shizuoka on Monday morning. Their three days' stay was a great blessing to us all.

The first meeting of the W. C. T. U. was held on the 17th of February, at two o'clock, in the Shizuoka Girls' school; 32 were present. After the opening hymn Miss Noguchi read the Bible. Next, the voting of the committee took place, and the result was as following: President, Miss Kono Ito; Vice-president, Miss Tomie Kawada; Treasurer, Miss Kiku Iyima; Secretary, Mrs. Mitsue Fukushima.

The following matters were decided: 1.—That the meeting is to be held in the Shizuoka Girls' School on the first Saturday of every month at two o'clock. Any persons who are not yet members of the society, can attend the meeting. 2.—That a programme committee, consisting of two persons, should be chosen, and they will make the programme out for the next meeting. Misses Shima Noguchi and Kotake Niwa were appointed as the programme committee for the next meeting. 3.—That at every meeting a talk on hygiene and the effect of the alcohol and tobacco will be given.

After that Miss Cunningham told of the harm of liquor. Miss Alcorn and Miss Noguchi also gave instructive talks. At five the meeting was closed with the singing of the Song of Temperance, number 13.

Since then we have had two meetings. At the March meeting Miss Niwa read a profitable piece from "The Woman's Herald;" Miss Noguchi gave an illustration about woman's hidden power. The talk on hygiene came next. In April, as it was during the Easter holidays, the meeting was smaller than before. Mrs. Washimi, who was one of the programme committee for this meeting, told us about the life of Elizabeth Fry, and Miss Iyima, the other one on the committee, read a piece from a Methodist magazine.

On the 21st of April Mrs. Yajima, the national president of the Japan W. C. T. U., and Mrs. Ushioda, the president of the Tokyo W. C. T. U. Auxiliary, visited the school with Mrs. Large. On Sunday the 22nd a special meeting was held, of which Mrs. Yajima took charge. She and Mrs. Ushioda had profitable speeches for us. Almost forty were present. It was a very satisfactory meeting. We hope the society will grow, so as to be able to work against liquor and tobacco, and hope also that the people will realize the harm of drinking and smoking, and stop doing these things entirely.

Yours lovingly,

MARI KOSUGI.

[We thank our kind friend Mari San for her very interesting letter. Miss Cunningham was right in thinking that we would like to hear of the good temperance work being done in Japan. We wish those earnest workers, Mrs. Large and Rev. Mr. Miyama great success in this noble cause.]



Address--Cousin Joy, 282 Princess Street, St. John, N. B.

Dear Cousins,—You do not need the picture on our first page to remind you that this is “vacation time”—that books and pencils and lessons have all been put away for a season, and nothing is left to do but to enjoy yourselves. Is this true? Not quite true, for the great book of Nature is still wide open, and wonderful lessons of industry and perseverance may be learned from bird and bee. It is a wise child who studies the book of Nature in “vacation time.” Then you have something left to do but to enjoy yourselves, for if you look for it you will always find a chance to make somebody else happy. Do not forget that you are God’s little workers wherever you are.

Dear Cousin Joy,—This is my first letter to you. I am a member of the Twenty Century Mission Band. I take the Palm Branch, and like it very much; there are several copies in our Mission Band. We meet the first Saturday in every month, and we have a good attendance every meeting—there are 25 members. We have readings and recitations, making the meeting very pleasant. Our president is Miss Louie Lane. We intend to have an open meeting in the summer. Well I think I have told you all.

I remain your loving cousin,
Andover, P. O. LUCY MAY HYDE.

Dear Cousin Joy,—I take the Palm Branch, and enjoy reading it very much. We meet once a month in our Band. We have thirty members in our Band, and two light bearers. I think I have found the answers to the June puzzles. First, Thou shalt not steal; second, Winnipeg; third, Bible dictionary.

Sincerely yours,
Margate, P. E. I. ETHEL GLYDON.

Dear Cousin Joy,—I belong to the Sunlight Mission Band of Upper Sackville. We have 34 members. The Mission Band is making a crazy quilt, each child makes two squares for it, and when we get enough squares made we are going to quilt it and give it to some poor person.

I am your loving cousin,
Upper Sackville, N. B. JESSIE L. FAWCETT.

Dear Cousin Joy,—I am a member of the Onward Mission Band, and also take the Palm Branch. We have a membership of thirty. I think I have found the answer to one of the puzzles for June; it is “Kimberley.” I enclose a puzzle, which you may publish if you think it worth while.
Cornwall, P. E. I. FLORRIE TURNEAU.

Dear Cousin Joy,—I have not written to you for quite a while, so I am going to write my second letter to you now. As I said in my first and last letter I wrote you, I belong to the “Snowdrop” Mission Band. We have a nice little Band. We nearly all take the Palm Branch. We had an Easter meeting. Only a very few were there, but we got quite a collection. The girls had mite boxes, which were opened then. Some of them felt quite heavy. Next Mission Band meeting I suppose there will be three more of our members present. One has been away teaching; one was at Normal School, and one (my sister) is at business college.

Your loving cousin,
Pleasant Vale, Elgin. FRED

Dear Cousin Joy,—I am having such a lovely time in the country. I am nine years old. I hope you are well. I wish all the boys and girls had a nice time like me. I give some of my money to the heathen, and I hope it does good.

Your loving
Frankie. FRANK.
[It must do good if you give it in the right spirit, Frankie.]

Dear Cousin Joy,—I have not written to you before. I think I have found the answer to the second puzzle; it is Winnipeg. I thought I would send a puzzle, if it is all right you may publish it.
Digby, N. S. LOUISE EVANS.

PUZZLES FOR AUG.—SEPT.

I am composed of 12 letters.
My 4, 5, 6, is the name of a dog
My 7, 1, 2, the name of a light.
My 10, 11, 9, is something you drink.
My 12, 3, 8, is something you do.
My whole is the name of a country.

LOUISE EVANS.

I am composed of 13 letters.
My 2, 3, 4, is an organ.
My 8, 9, 10, is what Eve did.
My 13, 12, 7, is a second personal pronoun.
My 1, 6, 10, 2, is finished.
My 11, 3, 13, is a kind of bird.
My 5, 6, 13, is shy, bashful.
My whole is at the first of every letter to Cousin Joy.

F. W. C.

My first is in part, but not in whole
My second is in reap, but not in sow.
My third is in leap, but not in run.
My fourth is in hat, but not in cap.
My fifth is in two, but not in three.
My sixth is in flower, but not in leaf.
My seventh is in evil, but not in good.
My eighth is in pear, but not in plum.
My whole is a place of interest in South Africa.

FLORRIE.

Dear Cousin Joy,—As our secretary has gone to Boston, and there has been no account published in the Palm Branch of the good work done by the Coqualectza Mission Band this year, I thought I would tell you about our "Mite Box Opening," which took the form of a garden party at the home of our president, Mrs. R. C. Goff. A very pleasant time was spent in playing games, tilting, swinging and other amusements. Recitations in the afternoon. Cake and lemonade were served on the lawn. When the mite boxes were opened they were found to contain \$7.00, which, when added to the amount we had made during the winter, by the untiring efforts of our beloved president, Mrs. Goff, and her able assistants, Miss Moore, Miss Jost and Miss Weggington, was found to make a total of \$76.00
Charlottetown. ABBIE E. LEPAGE.

WHAT ROBIN TOLD ME.

"How do robins build their nests?
Robin Redbreast told me.
First a wisp of fragrant hay
In a pretty round they lay,
Then some shreds of downy floss,
Feathers, too, and bits of moss,
Woven with a sweet, sweet song,
This way, that way, and across,—
That's what Robin told to me—
That's what Robin told me.

"Where do robins build their nests?
Robin Redbreast told me.
Up among the leaves so deep,
Where the sunbeams rarely creep—
Long before the winds are cold,
Long before the leaves are old,
Bright-eyed stars will peep and see
Baby robins—one, two, three—
That's what Robin told to me—
That's what Robin told me."

—PRESTON STONE.

How Old Must I Be?

"Mother," a little child once said, "how old must I be before I can be a Christian?"

The wise mother answered: "How old will you have to be, darling, before you can love me?"

"Why, mother, I always loved you, I do now, and I always shall; but you have not told me yet how old I shall have to be."

The mother replied: "How old must you be before you can trust yourself wholly to me and my care?"

"I always did," she answered; "but tell me what I want to know." And she put her arms about her mother's neck.

The mother asked again: "How old will you have to be before you do what I want you to do?"

Then the child whispered, half guessing what her mother meant: "I can now, without growing any older."

Her mother said: "You can be a Christian, now, darling, without waiting to be older. Don't you want to begin now?"

The child whispered: "Yes."

Then they both knelt down, and in her prayer the mother gave to Christ her little one who wanted to be his.—[Judson.]

GRANDMA'S STORY

(MISS LAVINA BRUFF.)

"O do tell us a story, Grandma!" said Grace and Ruth in chorus, "mamma says it's too stormy for us to go out, and one of your good old timers will just be the thing for a day like this."

"You both know how to get around me for story-telling," said Grandma, seating herself between them, "and here's one I don't think you've ever heard before."

"Once upon a time, there lived a little girl who went by the name of Crosspatch, because she was cross and disobliging; whenever she was asked to do anything her reply was always 'No,' she was selfish, too, and never gave a cent to Sunday schools or Missions but one day something happened, and after that Crosspatch became so gentle and loving, people were ashamed to call her a name like that and changed it to Sunbeam."

"Why is it Crosspatch is so different, mamma?" said Jessie to her mother. "She used to snarl every time she was spoken to, and now she's so pleasant the girls all love to have her with them; Miss White says, 'She's a regular little missionary, and Sunbeam is just the right name for her.'"

"Jessie," said her mother, "Your little sister is not doing all of this good by herself, she carries the Christ Child around in her heart, which is the happy secret of all good things."

"Sunbeam lived to be an old lady. Homes were brightened by her coming, and whenever she was asked what made her life so happy, her reply was, 'Because I always carry the Christ Child in my heart.'"

There were tears in grandma's eyes when she finished, and Ruth, throwing her arms about her neck, exclaimed, "O Grandma, it's too bad the story made you cry so, I'd never tell it any more if I were you." "It always brings back such pleasant memories," continued Grandma, "Sunbeam was my mother and the story of her life-work has induced many a little girl to cultivate a spirit of gentleness, and carry the Christ Child in her heart."—[Juniors' M. M., Pa.]

Mrs. Deacon, of Stanstead, Que., who had the pleasure of superintending its first presentation, writes; "The juniors gave the Flag exercise on Saturday evening; it was beautiful—everyone was charmed. We wished the juniors only to take part, and, as suggested, the recitations were cut down. The little folks did nobly; I wish you could have seen them. I had no idea that forty children from four to fourteen years could be trained to do so well. One lady remarked: 'It is not often children have so much religion taught them for a public exhibition.' We are requested to repeat it, and will probably do so soon. If you prepare any more exercises I shall want to try them."

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES. (

—
Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Branch.

—
One of Our Easter Services.

B. C. Cor. Sec. Writes:—

The King's Own Mission Circle held its annual Thankoffering service on Easter Sunday evening. Owing to the untiring energy and good taste of our Cor. Sect'y, the floral decorations for the occasion were most beautiful, consisting of palms, Easter lilies, hyacinths and many other lovely flowers. The evening was fine and the church well filled. Our president presided over the meeting, and although the programme occupied an hour and twenty minutes, it claimed the attention of all present to its close; the music, recitations and readings were all of a high order. Our pastor gave a short address, commending the work accomplished by the W. M. S. in all its different departments. The offering was then taken, and was found to be slightly in advance of last year, which was very gratifying, indeed, to us. Although our membership does not increase as we would like, yet we are not discouraged. We meet regularly and feel that our meetings are profitable. We are trying to learn all we can of the various fields and their workers, and, while we are getting a more intelligent view of the work, and studying it in the light of God's word, we find that we are becoming more sensible of personal responsibility in regard to the evangelization of our less favored sisters, and we trust that God may make us perfect in every good work to do his will.

—
N. B. and P. E. I. Branch.

We are glad to hear of successful work done by many of our Circles and Bands; even some of those organized during the year are contributing largely to our funds. Among the latter may be mentioned the "King's Own" Circle, of Chatham, and the Circle of Central Church, Moncton, while many of our older organizations continue to increase their power for good.

BUCTOUCHE—Miss Alva Wrye, secretary of the "F. E. Palmer" Mission Band, tells us of a public meeting held on June 5th. After an interesting programme was carried out, a social hour was spent, when refreshments were served by members of the Band.

ST. JOHN DISTRICT.—Mrs. Beattay, organizer, reports two new organizations—the "Eclipse" Circle, St. John, West, and "Silver Falls" Band, at Silver Falls.

SUMMERSIDE DISTRICT.—A new Band has been organized at Fifteen Point by Mrs. Trueman, with Mrs. Linkletter president.

ZIONVILLE—Mrs. Munroe, leader of the "Pansy" Band, of Tay, visited Zionville last month and organized the "June" Band. Mrs. Munroe will, herself, superintend the work of this Band for a time, and, as we believe, that "as the leader is, so is the Band," we are sure of a most efficient Band at Zionville.

We are glad to have received so many reports of the quarter ending in June, and are still hoping to hear from the few who have not yet reported. Will secretaries also kindly send the names of delegates to the Branch meeting.

E. E. COULTHARD.
Mission Band Secretary.

—
MONTREAL CONFERENCE BRANCH.

We gladly welcome a new Band, the "Lady Roberts" Band, of McLeans, organized with eight members, all of whom are much interested in the meetings.

The "Willing Workers" of Smith Falls report an average attendance of 35, with five new life members during the last quarter.

Westmeath Mission Band has very interesting and instructive meetings. They have remitted fourteen dollars to Br. Treasurer during the quarter.

E. S. BAILEY, Band Sec.

—
Maps of Japan and China have been prepared in outline, which is to be heavily traced with chalk or crayon, and the points of interest added as required. The maps are on manilla paper, 34x46 inches, and are 5 cents each. For 5 cents additional, a small printed map of Japan will be sent to assist in locating our mission stations and the natural features of the country. For China, the public school atlas can be used in connection with the Annual Report. Apply at Room 20, Wesley Building, Richmond St., W., Toronto.

—
TO OUR READERS.

We wish to make it clear to our readers that it is quite impossible to print DETAILED programmes of Circle or Band meetings. We would be delighted to do so, and only regret our limited space. When you take into consideration the fact that we have seven Branches, each containing many Circles and Bands, all entitled to equal representation, you will see how utterly impossible this is. What we do for one we must do for all, and the Palm Branch would have to be much enlarged to give us such space. This is why we have asked our Branch Corresponding Secretaries to condense reports and send us the most interesting and important items. We will do our best for you, and are open to any suggestions for improvement of the paper.
—Ed.