



"SO SEND I YOU."

BY R. WRIGHT HAY.

The night lies dark upon the earth, and we have light ;  
So many have to grope their way, and we have sight ;  
One path is theirs and ours—of toil and care,  
But we are borne along, and they their burdens bear.  
Foot-sore, heart-weary, faint they on their way,  
Mute in their sorrow, while we kneel and pray ;  
Glad are they of a stone on which to rest,  
While we lie pillowed on the Father's breast.

Father, why is it that these children roam,  
And I with thee, so glad, at rest, at home ?  
Is it enough to keep the door ajar,  
In hope that some may see the gleam afar  
And guess that that is home, and urge their way  
To reach it, haply, somehow and some day ?  
May not I go and lend them of my light ?  
May not mine eyes be unto them for sight ?  
May not the brother-love Thy love portray ?  
And news of home make home less far away ?

Yea, Christ hath said that as from thee He came  
To seek and save, so hath he, in his name,  
Sent us to these; and Father, we would go,  
Glad in thy love that thou hast willed it so  
That we should be partakers in the joy  
Which even on earth knows naught of earth's alloy—  
The joy which grows as others' griefs grow less,  
And could not live but for its power to bless.

—Gospel in all Lands.

QUALIFYING FOR OFFICE.

It was early in the New Year, but the girls of the Mission Circle in G——, had decided that it would be well to begin in time to work for their Easter sale. So, here, on this bright, winter afternoon, they had assembled in one of the classrooms of the church to sew for that purpose. Modes of work had been discussed, plans arranged, patterns selected and garments cut out—fingers and tongues keeping pace with each other in busy rivalry, when

suddenly there came a lull in the conversation that must have lasted, at least, a minute. The silence was as suddenly broken by Belle Bowman, with an announcement which nearly made the other girls tumble off their seats. It was this—"Girls, I am going to qualify for President!"

"What do you mean?" they all exclaimed  
"Just what I say," she replied, "I am going to qualify for President."

"What kind of a President?" asked one, "A United States President!" and they all laughed.

"No, indeed, nothing so wonderful—only the President of the G—— Mission Circle."

"Oh!" said all the girls and they laughed again.  
"What put that idea into your head?"

"I'll tell you later," said Belle.

"I thought you were a modest girl," said one.

"So I am, deny it if you dare," said Belle.

"I didn't know you were so ambitious," said another.

"Yes, indeed, I am very ambitious, I want to see everything done in the best possible manner,"

"I like that—there's no conceit in it," said one of the girls and they laughed merrily.

"Look here, Belle," said Amy Jones, "supposing you do spend the year qualifying for President, and then at the beginning of next year we fail to elect you—it will be a terrible disappointment, won't it?"

"Now Amy, that shows you don't know me," said Belle—"I assure you that I shall be perfectly satisfied to know that I am fitted for that important office, even if I never attain to it."

"Good!" said the girls, but Amy added, "Belle you will have to take me for a rival, I'm afraid—I too feel the stirrings of a new ambition! (placing her hand on her heart) You will not like it I know, but I

have decided to qualify for the Presidency myself."

Belle joined in the laugh, but she said, "There again, you are mistaken, Amy. I want no monopoly. I would like half a dozen of you to study the duties of the President this year—and then—'fair field and no favor.'"

"I could never be a President," said Nellie Smith, "but with plenty of practice I know I could be a good Recording Secretary."

"Bravo," said Belle, "Who else?"

"I could be a Cor.-Secretary," said Gertie Brown, "I just love to write letters."

"I like to count money and add up figures," said Kate Fellows, "I would study to be a Treasurer."

"I like to know whether people's accounts are right or wrong?" laughed her friend Gertrude, "I will be the Auditor."

"Well, girls, I think we stand a good chance of having all our offices filled next year," said Belle pleasantly.

"We are out in the cold," said one of the girls who had not spoken, "there seems to be nothing left for us to do."

"Yes, indeed, there will be lots of important committees to form, for which you can begin to qualify. There will be the Programme Committee, the Watch Tower and others. There will be no drones in next year's hive."

"I think, perhaps, my work will be to help the Mission Band Leader," said sweet Mary Green, "She asked me at the beginning of the year, but I told her I hadn't time. I think now that perhaps I might find time."

"And wont she be delighted," said Belle, "Poor thing, she needs help with the children. And then, Mary, you can give them this idea of training; it will be grand for the Mission Band. We ought to help them with our ideas, for we know how it is ourselves."

"Belle, you promised, remember, to tell us how this idea came to you."

"I think I know already," said Amy, slyly.

"Of course you do, said Belle," "now let us go on with our work while we talk, for we must finish this today. To tell you the truth the idea originated in our meeting for the election of officers."

"I knew it!" said Amy.

"Girls, I never was so mortified in all my life! You know we had visitors at that meeting—the minister's wife, among them, of all others. I have not had the face to call at the parsonage since. Each one of us as she was elected, you remember, utterly refused to act, most of us pleading ignorance and incompetency as an excuse. We actually allowed poor, little Mrs.

Stevens, who really had an excuse, having three small children and being much of the time without a servant, to fill the chief place that you or I ought to hold. I cried over it when I went home, I felt so ashamed of myself."

"Why didn't you accept the Presidency *then* if you felt so much about it?" said Jennie Green.

"I couldn't—I did not know enough to have confidence in myself and I cannot do good work without it.

That night I thought it all out. Here were we, a lot of sensible girls—we are sensible, most of us, are we not, girls?" asked Belle with a little laugh. "We know quite a good deal about some things—domestic affairs, for instance—we can all do fancy work and take quite a large share in bazaars and tea-meetings—we are glad to do that, you know, but when it comes to the most important part of God's work, when He expects willing-hearted service from us to have us all refuse—Oh, I thought, suppose He should refuse *me* someday"—Here Belle's eyes filled with tears, but she hurried on. "So I determined that if there is such a thing as qualifying for office I would begin at once. I chose the President's because it seemed the hardest to fill, not from a wrong kind of ambition, as you suggested."

"Forgive us for that piece of injustice, Belle," said Amy, "it was only fun, you know, after all."

"O yes, I understand that Amy. But I want you all to know that this is not a matter of fun with me but dead earnest. 'The King's business requireth haste'—I think that means all the energy that love can bring to it."

"Belle, would you mind explaining to us exactly what you mean by 'qualifying for office?' How are you going to do it?"

"Well, in the first place, I am going to read up all I can find in our Home field and the Foreign field. I believe that nothing gives one confidence like knowledge. Then I am going to keep my eyes and ears open all through the year, in the meetings and out, not to criticize others but to watch them, to learn by their successes and failures. Then, as there is no teacher like experience, I am going to practice at presiding, so that any time when you visit me through the year you may generally find me conducting a missionary meeting with the chairs and tables as audience." They all laughed, but soon grew serious again.

"I think we all feel much as you do Belle," said Mary Green. "Suppose we change our name and call ourselves The Willing-hearted Circle.—It will have a new meaning for us after this."

St. John.

S. E. S.

We are but little children,  
And earth a broken toy ;  
We do not know the treasures  
In our Father's Louse of joy. F. R. H.

### FIELD STUDY FOR FEBRUARY.

The Indians of the Dominion, and the Newfoundland Orphanage.

The worst enemies the Indians ever had have been those who have given them the "Fire water," which steals away their brains and makes them ready for any vice. Many of the white men who have lived among them have given them this, instead of what God meant us to give them, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. But, on the other hand, missionaries have gone among them, both men and women, and wherever they have gone their teaching and the influence of Christian lives in the midst of heathenism, have made a great change. Our Methodist Church has done and is still doing a good work for them, and it has been aided by the Government whose interest it is to promote the cause of missions, for it has been found that an educated, converted Indian makes a good Canadian citizen! But much is still to be done and it is to be hoped that the Government will see it in that light.

The total amount given by our W. M. S. to Indian work last year was \$7,257.50. The Coqualectza Institute in Chilliwack, whose expenses we help to pay, reports good progress. Children last year, 107. The Indians had come to the hop-fields near by to pick hops, which had given them five more, Two had run away but were glad to come back and one little sick girl had gone home expecting to return when better, but had died while away. Her parents said she talked nearly all the time about the children and the school.

Miss M. Smith, whose letters you have sometimes seen in PALM BRANCH, has charge of the senior department and has 73 pupils. She writes us that the past year has been full of work and encouragement. There are several children of Roman Catholic parentage. The children are getting more and more interested. They use the vertical system of writing, (straight up and down) and have now taken up drawing. Their copy-books and drawing-books are models of neatness. They use the British Columbia course of study which takes in Anatomy, English and Canadian history. Visitors are surprised to hear them speak English so fluently.

The Kindergarten and Primary school, under Miss Seroggie, has from 35 to 40 pupils. The children are delighted with their work. Ten have been promoted into the Senior department and eight more are ready. The girls are taught gardening, cooking, sewing, housework, laundry work and soap making. The larger girls assist Miss Burpee who takes orders for dress-making. The little ones have pieced a quilt for the jair. The boys are taught good trades and farming

and to keep their own rooms clean. The other missionary here is Miss Alton.

The Crosby Girl's Home, Port Simpson, B. C., also reports a year of more work and better work. No special revival during the year, but evidences of renewed hearts in the consistent life of many of the girls.

In the sewing department Miss Clark has given the children careful training in knitting, darning, patching, dress-making and fancy work. The school-work has gone on steadily and good progress has been made, especially by the younger children. Four of the girls take music lessons. Mrs. Redner and Miss Paul are our other missionaries here.

Great help has been given Dr. Bolton in his hospital by the nurses sent out by our W. M. S. Their faithful service has been much appreciated. Miss Stevenson and Miss Lawrence are still there but Miss Spence is home on furlough.

The Home for Indian children at Kitamaat also receives a grant from our Woman's Missionary Society. There are thirty children there and appeals to take more than they can accommodate.

Grants are made to the McDougal Orphanage and other stations. So you see our Society is helping largely to do a good work among the Indians which we hope will continue to result in happier homes and good Christian lives.

We hear little about the Newfoundland Orphanage. We know that some, perhaps all, of the children there are the orphans of the fishermen who lose their lives in this dangerous occupation. In 1896, there was an interesting sketch written for PALM BRANCH by a young lady living in Newfoundland, and who had visited the Orphanage. She told us there were twenty girls there then, from 15 to 17 years old. There was no real orphanage, only a small rented-house. We would be very glad to receive another letter containing latest news of this distant field.

### QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

- Who are the worst enemies the Indians ever had? Why?
- What should white men have given them?
- What is said of the missionaries who have gone among them?
- Has the Methodist Church done much for them?
- Why should the Government aid in the good work?
- What amount did our W. M. S. give to the Indian work last year?
- What can you tell us about the Home in Chilliwack?
- About the children there?
- What can you tell us about Miss Smith's part of the school?
- How do they write? And what else have they taken up?
- What is said of their copy and drawing-books?
- What course of study do they take and what does it include?
- What progress have they made in our language?
- What is said of the Kindergarten and Primary schools?
- What are the girls taught? What are the boys taught?
- Who are our Missionaries at Chilliwack?
- What is said of the Crosby Girl's Home, Port Simpson?
- What does Miss Clark teach the children?
- What of the school work? Who are the Missionaries here?
- What can you tell of our nurses in Dr. Bolton's Hospital?
- What do you know of the Home for Indian children at Kitamaat?
- Do you think our Society is helping largely in the work for Indians? What is it all for?
- How much do we know about the Newfoundland Orphanage?

## \* PALM BRANCH \*

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MISS S. E. SMITH,  
282 Princess Street,  
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FEBRUARY, 1898.

**H**ERE is one fact that we all need to remember and that is that the Christians of to-day are responsible for the heathen of to-day! God has made it so. He has given us the "good news," not for ourselves alone, but that we may give it to those who have it not. Our Woman's Missionary Society recognizes this fact and so we establish schools, Bible Women, evangelistic and other work wherever possible, feeling it our special duty to care for the neglected women and children. If it be true, and how can we doubt it, that the mother, in every land, largely moulds the character of her child, boy as well as girl, must it not be equally true that she largely moulds the character of the age and nation?

Do we need any stronger incentive than that thought to lead us to work and pray daily for the women who are steeped in idolatry and degradation!

One would naturally think that a mother who had lived all her life under oppressive pagan laws which bear so heavily on her sex, giving her a childhood of misery and a womanhood of burden-bearing and slavery, would do her utmost to tenderly shield her child from the evils which had so desolated her own life. But all missionary history tells us to the contrary. True, a blind maternal instinct sometimes leads her to destroy her child in order to save it from a fate like her own, but as a rule it works the other way. The bitterness and hopelessness and cruelty of her own sad lot, act and re-act upon her child until in turn, she too becomes bitter, and hopeless, and cruel to others. It must be human nature, for we all know, that in the old slavery days no overseer was so cruel as the man who had once been a slave himself!

But, you say, the mother, even in heathen lands, has a pride and ambition in her *boy*! That is true; and perhaps from that very fact a nation is in still greater danger. While she neglects or ill-treats her daughter she is very careful to fill the mind of her son with all the idolatry and superstition which have gathered around her from her birth.

Let us civilize, educate and Christianize the mothers and the whole nation will be lifted up.

Archdeacon Phair, writing of work amongst the Sioux Indians of Canada, says: 'I know of no better object lesson on the value of missions than that to be learned by a visit to these people.' One is struck, first of all, with the stalwart and manly forms of these primitive people, so keen and sensitive in their ways, yet so difficult to rouse or excite. Sitting in the little hut beside a man of four-score years, one can easily see what missions have accomplished. The sanguinary warrior has exchanged his paint, and feathers, and thirst for blood, for a European costume and a large Bible in his own tongue. Listen to his estimate of this newly-found treasure: "It gave me the light; it has true words, from one side to the other. It has strength in it, too, for what it says it is able to do. It has changed men that nothing else could change. I like it for this."

Miss Lizzie Ritcey's story, "A little child shall lead them," and Miss Veazey's interesting communication will appear in March number. Thanks to these true friends for their help. We also received a kind letter from Mrs. Bellamy, (Herbie's mother) and in the same mail one from Mrs. Carcary, which we are glad to insert in our columns this month. Mrs. Bellamy says *it was Herbie's own idea to educate the boy in the Orphanage.*

Any subscriber not receiving PALM BRANCH will please communicate with the Editor. We would urge this request.

### THE COMPANIONSHIP OF CHRIST.

Five minutes spent in the companionship of Christ every morning—aye, two minutes, if it is face to face and heart to heart—will change the whole day, will make every thought and feeling different, will enable you to do things for His sake that you would not have done for your own sake, or for any one's sake.—Drummond.

A LITTLE HEART AND HOW IT GREW.

'Twas a wee little heart when it entered the world,  
 For how could a baby have anything big?  
 There was room for the baby himself and his wants,  
 But as for all else—why he cared not a fig!  
 If the baby was hungry, he knew it right well,  
 If he felt very poorly, he fretted and cried;  
 But the dear little heart was too little, you see,  
 To know or to care for the world outside.

But the little heart grew as the days rolled by,  
 In the sunshine of love and the showers of care;  
 And the dear ones at home all so quietly crept  
 Right in to the heart and were welcomed there.  
 And yet there was room for them all and to spare.  
 So quickly the heart of the baby grew;  
 And soon in his heart he had friends by the score,  
 Whom he loved with a love that was loyal and true.

And the baby grew big, and so tall, and so wise,  
 He could scarcely be known as a baby at all;  
 And he heard the sweet story of Him who, of old,  
 Was cradled to rest with the beasts of the stall:  
 The children's best Friend, and their Saviour, and King,  
 The dear loving Shepherd, who died for the sheep;  
 And down in his heart there was room for the Christ,  
 And a love that was trustful and tender and deep.

And yet even more did this little heart grow,  
 In knowledge and love, and in heavenly grace;  
 For the heart that loves Jesus is certain to grow,  
 Till it takes the wide world in its loving embrace.  
 Ye children who read of this dear little heart,  
 How quickly and sweetly and grandly it grew,  
 Come, answer a question, consider it well—  
 How big is the heart God has given to you?

REV. CHAS. I. JUNKIN.

—“Children's Work for Children.”

FROM MANITOBA.

The Cor. Sec. of the Manitoba Branch, W. M. S., received a most interesting letter containing eleven dollars, from the mother of dear little Herbie Bellamy, (Moose Jaw) whom our young people will remember reading about in the January number. Mrs. Bellamy had seen in the “Outlook” the appeal made to Mission Bands, by the Board of Management, for “an Easter Thank offering,” to help start a small Orphanage in Chentu, China, to be called “The Jennie Ford Home.” So she made fifty small silk bags, and gave them to the little ones the Sunday before Christmas, asking them to save some of their Christmas money for that purpose—and they had a Mission Band meeting in the Church and sang missionary songs and gave recitations, &c. A converted Chinaman was there and he gave them all some nuts he had brought from China. They were all so pleased, and when the bags were opened eleven dollars was the result.

Herbie is very busy writing people's names with his foot for ten cents each, which he puts in his “Mission box” for the education of his Japan boy, whose name is “Naotoka San.”

Mrs. Bellamy says Herbie is very happy, especially on Christmas Day, looking at his presents, which they put on a tree for him because he cannot hold them—and he often writes: “God good to Herbie.”

We do thank God for ever knowing about this little ten year old Christian boy, and his dear mother, and to know that both of them are working so faithfully to help spread the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ among the poor heathen. Will not our young readers follow their example, and this New Year work more earnestly for the same cause!

M. CARGARY.

MISSIONARY MEETING. 1897.

What the “Little Tots” Can Do For  
 The Missionary Cause.

One of the most practical and unique missionary meetings ever held in Moose Jaw was that given in the Methodist church on Thursday, April 29th. Since August last the children of the infant classes in the Sabbath School have been collecting in mite boxes for the purpose of educating a boy in Japan. The programme was prepared by the children of the class under the leadership of Mrs. Bellamy, and Mrs. Ferrier, who assisted her. The selections of music and recitations were all of a missionary character and were well rendered to a crowded congregation. The church was beautifully decorated in Japanese style, with the following motto for a back ground: “We will do all we can to win Japan for Jesus.” The result of the collections in the thirty-four boxes was the handsome sum of \$83.00. This is to be used to educate Naotoka San in the Kanazawa Orphanage, which is under the control of the Woman's Missionary Society, with Miss Veazey as Superintendent. A pleasing feature to the children was a picture of Naotoka San with his class mates.

This work had its origin in the interest taken by Herbie Bellamy. At the close of the meeting it was moved by Regie Johnston, seconded by Gordie Bole, that Herbie be appointed president of the band. On the motion being put it carried unanimously.

These boxes contained amounts all the way from 35 cents to \$20.06. Some fifty of them are to be distributed for the work of the coming year. The above effort has not in the least diminished the zeal of the congregation for Missions. The congregation contribute \$140.00 to the general fund, and the Women's Auxiliary \$21.00 to the work of the W. M. S., making in all a grand total of \$244.00.



Address—COUSIN JOY, 382 Princess St. St. John, N. B.

The teacher of a Sunday-school class of little boys last summer, made them some pretty silk bags and told them they were to keep their "tenth" money in "Well, now," said one, "does that mean when I own ten cents I must put one in the bag?" "Yes" "If I have a dollar," asked another "what then?" "Why, then you must put in ten cents." Said a third boy, "Suppose a man had a hundred dollars?" "Then he would give ten." *Ten dollars? Whe-e-w! would he have to give that much?* "Yes, boys," said the teacher; "if you begin now while you are young to give to the dear Heavenly Father a tenth of what he puts into your hands, you will be glad to give it as you grow older, and own not only one hundred, but many hundreds of dollars."

Then she told them the true story of the boy whose mother began for him, when he was quite young, an O. P. J. account. Read the story of Jacob at Bethel, and the promise he made to God, and you will understand about the Old Patriarch Jacob account. You will find it in Genesis, 28th chapter, 16-22 verses. That boy is now a man, but he has not forgotten his early training, and in his large business still keeps his O. P. J. account open. "Dayspring."

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—As I was writing I thought I would send the answers to puzzles in December PALM BRANCH. First, Aquilla and Priscilla; Second, Emanuel, God with us; Third, Correct thy son and he shall give thee rest.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas, I remain your loving cousin,  
Winnic-B. Hoeg,  
Maccan, N. S.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I am going to tell you about the fine time we had on Monday evening 21st, our President and Cor. Secy Misses Ruby Darrach and Mamie Bentley, had invited the Band members (about forty in number) to meet in the vestry at seven o'clock. When we went in, there was a beautiful Christmas tree, loaded with presents; you may imagine how pleased we were. After some recitations, readings and music, our pastor, Rev. Mr. Wightman, distributed the presents, each member receiving a nice present and bags of candy and nuts, and on the very top of the tree was a present for Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Wightman, who are very popular with the Band children. Another present was an envelope containing \$3.10 gathered by one of the little girls, and called "A Christmas present for the Heathen." I am sure we

will all try and be more regular in our attendance, and do all we can to help our President make our Band a successful one. I think I have found the answers to December puzzles, first, Aquilla and Priscilla; second, Emanuel, "God with us"; third, Correct thy son and he shall give thee rest. I hope my letter is not too long. Wishing you and all the Little Cousins A very Happy New Year.

I remain  
Harrison Lowther.

Kensington, P. E. I.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—The answers to the puzzles are "Mayflower"; second "New Year's Day"; third, Remember the Sabbath day. Wishing you a very happy New Year.

Your little friend,

Eglinton, Ont.

Bessie Locke.

Thanks, dear Cousins, for all your good wishes.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I am a member of the Happy Workers Mission Band. I take the PALM BRANCH, and like it very much. I have found the answers for the three puzzles, first, Mayflower; second, New Year's Day; third, Remember the Sabbath Day.

With good wishes for the new year, I remain your cousin,

Pansy Morris,

Summerside, P. E. I.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I am a member of the Snowdrop Mission Band. We take the PALM BRANCH and like it very much. I think I have the answers for the January puzzles, first, Mayflower; second, New Year's Day; third, Remember the Sabbath Day.

Yours lovingly,

Pleasant Vale, N. B.

Sadie C. Colpitts.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I take the PALM BRANCH and like it very much. We have about fifteen or twenty members in our band, and some days we have quite good bands. I think I have found the answers to the January puzzles, first, Mayflower; second, New Year's Day; third, Remember the Sabbath Day.

I have made a puzzle and if you think it is all right and want it, you may put it in the PALM BRANCH.

Your Cousin,

Nappan, N. S.

Blanche Barnes.

#### PUZZLES FOR FEBRUARY.

I am composed of nine letters.

My 4, 2, 3, is something we all do.

My 1, 6, 3, is what we all are when we are thirty.

My 5, 7, 8, is something sharp.

My 9 is not a vowel.

My whole is a name of a Mission Band and also of a Band paper.  
Nappan. Blanche Barnes.

I am composed of 23 letters.

My 5, 18, 3, 11, 1, means tribe.

My 13, 4, 23, means angry.

My 6, 2, 8, 9, is what most people do.

My 11, 7, 12, 10, is a flower.

My 18, 14, 19, is wickedness.

My 17, 15, is a verb.

My 20, 14, 22, is a repository.

My whole is the name of a Mission Band on P. E. Island  
Montage. Bessie Annear & Pearl Van Idersire.

#### CHARADE.

My first is the name of one of our general Missionaries. My second is part of the human race in which we are all much interested. My third is a beautiful word in any language. My fourth is something dear to sailors. My fifth is an Indian station. My sixth belongs to our Queen. My seventh is the name once given to the whole of America. My whole is a prosperous Mission.

MORNING AND EVENING.

A NEW YEAR'S THOUGHTS.

Before me lies a perfect day—  
Thy gift O Lord, and bright  
With thine own glory's light.  
O Son of man I grant me thine aid,  
That, when I meet the evening's shade,  
Spotless, unmarred by thought of sin,  
And bright as when it did begin,  
I may give back thy perfect day.

Behind me lies thy perfect day—  
How can I give it back?  
By sin so marred and black?  
O blessed Saviour I love me still,  
Forgive my proud and wayward will,  
Blot out the stains of sin and wrong—  
And let my humbled soul be strong:  
In Thee to live a perfect day.

BY MARY WARREN AYER

LETTER FROM REV. W. J. KIRBY.

DEAR CHILDREN OF THE PALM BRANCH: Here is a nice clean year, 1898. I wonder how long it will keep clean? O dear, I'm so frightened something will spoil it before it is one day old. Would it be nice if we would keep it clean for one day—one week—one month—if it was never blotted like we blot a new page in our copy-book at school—but from the first page of the book of 1898 to the opening page of the book of 1899, all clean and spotless!

Lots of people talk about turning over a new leaf when a New Year begins, but although the leaf may be new, and the intentions good, yet how soon it gets blotted and spoiled with some bad thought, or word, or action. Some of you will get up from your bed on January the first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, and say, "Happy new year, Mama," "Happy new year, Papa," and forget to say happy new year to your brother and sister. The first blot will drop on the clean page, and then another and another until the first day is spoiled.

One forgets to pray, another forgets to read God's word; another says, "I can't," "I won't," "I don't care," and pouting lips, and naughty little words, cover the clean leaf of the book of the new year with blots and blurs. O dear me! what shall I do to keep the year clean and pure? I heard of a man once who had a box on which he had printed the words NEW RESOLUTIONS, and he began to use it in January, and opened it in December following, and he found it full of resolutions, but they were all broken. Poor fellow! he looked at the box and wept over the contents, but his

tears did not wash away one of the blots made on the clean page he turned over in January. How sad! to think we can resolve, and re-resolve, and then break the resolution. Sometimes we weep over the past, but you remember the hymn:

"Though my eyes be bathed with tears,  
These could not allay my fears,  
Could not wash the sins of years,  
Weeping will not save."

I know something that can wash away sins, and I find it in the 1 John: 1-2. Look it up for yourself and read it over on your knees in prayer for God to help you come for this cleansing. I do like a little story I have often told to the children; it is something like this: "Mary came to her teacher in Sunday-school one Sunday, and her face was all smiles, and she seemed to be very happy."

"Teacher," said Mary, "God can't see any of my sins?"

The teacher seemed almost shocked and, looking at Mary, asked: "Why, whatever do you mean, Mary?"

"O teacher," she replied, "God can't see any of my sins?"

The teacher felt a little alarmed with Mary, for she was afraid such a little girl didn't know what she was talking about; so she asked again: "Mary, what do mean, dear?"

Mary came up closer to her teacher and took hold of her hand and said so sweetly, "O teacher! God can't see any of my sins; because I am hiding behind the blood of Jesus."

No wonder the teacher felt like crying, because she now understood Mary, and she was so happy to know that one of her girls from her Sunday-school class had been saved.

This is the way to keep the year clean, keep under the atonement of Jesus, and if you are hiding behind the blood, then I know you will have—which I pray God may grant you all, "A happy New Year."

Charlottetown, Dec. 21, 1897. W. J. KIRBY.

A happy New Year to all Mission Bands and workers. May it be the best in the history of missions.

A CHILD'S EVENING PRAYER.

"Dear Father, whom I cannot see,  
Smile down from heaven on little me,  
Let angels through the darkness spread  
Their holy wings above my bed;  
And keep me safe, because I am  
The heavenly Shepherd's little lamb,  
Dear heavenly Father, watch and keep  
Father and Mother while they sleep."



LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

BAY OF QUINTE BRANCH.

We have much pleasure in reporting two new Mission Bands organized last quarter. One organized by Mrs. Copeland, at Deseronto, Oct. 11th, called "The Pansy" Mission Band. The Secretary reported 45 members at last meeting, with a lively interest in the work. Eleven subscriptions have been secured for PALM BRANCH, with prospect of many more. The second one organized by our Branch President, Mrs. Platt, Dec. 5, called "Kilborn" Mission Band, President, Miss. M. Domkley; Cor. Sec., Master Stanley Dancoy.

Claremont Mission Band has been reorganized and taken up the work with renewed energy. President, Mrs. Leggott; Cor.-Secretary, Miss Bertha Cooper.

Bath "Gleaners" Mission Band has been reorganized with present prospect for a successful New Year. Meetings held semi-monthly Saturday afternoons, Miss Ethel Howley, Sec. Treasurer.

Dalrymple "Wide Awake" Mission Band is pushing the good work. Have had twelve new members during quarter with \$14.00 added to the treasury receipts of a Fruit Social.

Northport "Maple Leaf" reports an improvement in the work

Pictou "The Nellie Hart" Circle is holding monthly 'At Homes' to increase interest in their work, also funds. Programmes strictly missionary.

Napanee Mission Band has taken the name of Outlook in place of its former title "Gleaners and Reapers."

Tweed M. Band is up to date as usual, reports a quilt made at the quilting, of which the boy members were treated to a supper. M. J. Hawley.

LONDON BRANCH.

The new Secretary, Miss Ellie Webster, writes, "The Quarterly Reports are bright and encouraging.

[We are promised more items from this Branch.]

N. B. AND P. E. I. BRANCH.

"Happy Workers," Summerside, have re-organized for work with a membership of 17, with the prospect of others joining. Meetings are held weekly, every other meeting being devoted to sewing. Preparations are being made for a parlor-concert and sale some time during the winter. Much praise is due the young energetic President, Miss Lillian Sprague.

"White Violet" Band, Sackville, gave a successful entertainment in December. They made \$18.55, more than they raised altogether last year. They have increased in membership since they began the year and

have promises of new members for another meeting. The secret of the prosperity of this band is that two grand women have charge.

A new band has been organized at Chelton, P. E. I., called "Chelton" Band, with a membership of thirteen. Miss Lowther is the President, and Miss Pearl Ramsay Cor.-Secretary.

The new band, Ruotouche, organized by Mrs. Manaton, is called "The Palmers." I. T.

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH.

The Sec'y of "Coralline" Mission Circle, writes: "Instead of our annual concert an interesting lecture was delivered by our Pastor, Rev. Wm. Dobson, on "The Land of the Scotts." The proceeds amounted to \$41.50. The meetings this quarter have been bright and helpful."

Auburn, The "Oak and Ivy" Band was reorganized in June, with twenty members. A successful public meeting has been held. The Band is in a healthy and growing condition.

West Dublin, "The C. M. Tate" Band is very small, only seventeen members. Still we are all eager when the time comes. That poor little boy, Herbie Bellamy, is doing good work for the Master. How sad it is for him! We intend to work for some more names for PALM BRANCH. It is a lovely little paper.

Marcia B. Brains,

124 Tower Road, Halifax. Mission Band Sec'y.

A very large attendance greeted the new Jubilee Mission Band in the Methodist Church on Thursday evening last. This being their first entertainment and appearance to public since the Band was organized in September last, and considering the very short time at their disposal to be tutored in Mission literature the little girls and boys did nobly, each one acting their part admirably. This of itself, speaks well for their teacher and leader, the Rev. Mrs. Gee, who is willing to give so much of her time and energy to the work of Missions and teaching the principals and rudiments of Foreign Mission Work to many little boys and girls of whom there are now about one hundred enrolled, sixty or seventy of whom took part in the service. Miss Mary Gee presided at the organ, and the easy and thorough manner in which she rendered all the necessary instrumental music, cheered the meeting from start to finish. Mrs. Gee is to be congratulated on this, her first public entertainment of the Jubilee Mission Band; as it proved to be such a great success in every way. The rendering of the closing piece is worthy of special mention. All who availed themselves of hearing this Missionary Treat enjoyed and spoke of it in glowing terms. Springhill Ad.

We have just received the Official hand-book of the Dominion of Canada. It is charming in its handsome dress, decorated with Maple leaves and other Canadian symbols. The type and paper are very fine and the illustrations excellent.