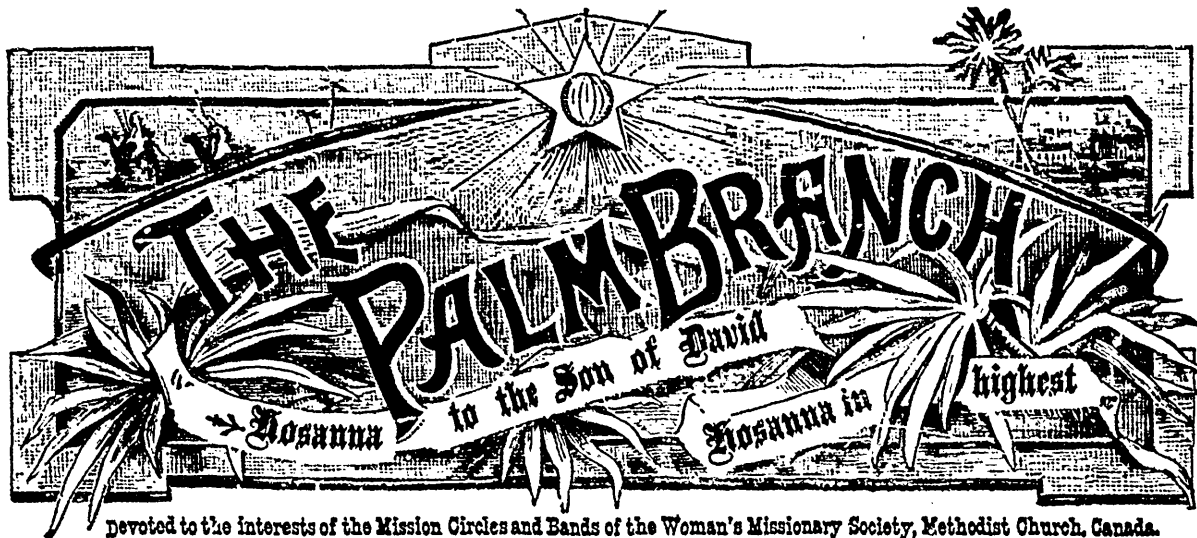
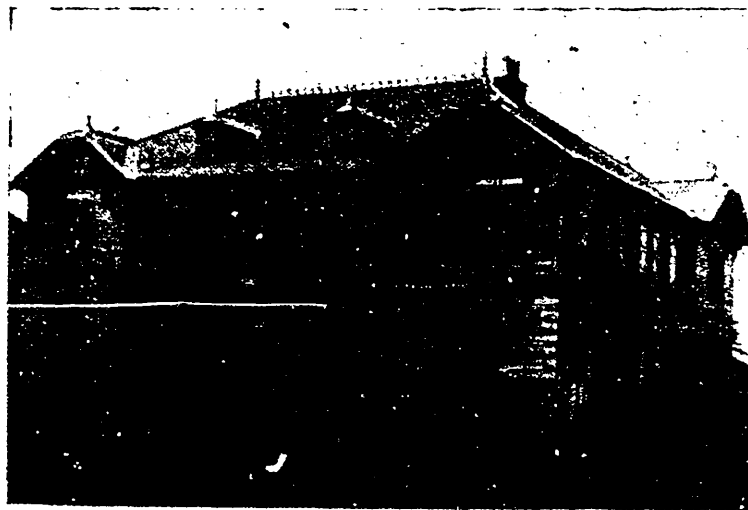


# CHRISTMAS NUMBER.



THE school building that we show you this month was built in 1896. We only wish you could see the Japanese plan, as it lies before us. In the main building, facing you, and just behind the verandah (between two halls) are the reception room, on the right, and an office on the left. Behind these, and separated by a narrower hall, from which all these rooms seem to open, are two class-rooms. On the left side, facing you, are the foreign teachers' rooms — parlor, dining room, kitchen. On the right are two school rooms, opening off the hall. In the ell are the girls' dining room, kitchen, bath-room, and off that, again, the servants rooms. The verandah extends all along the ell. The stairs, back of each front hall, lead to the upper story in which are two rows of dormitories, separated by narrow halls. Indeed the whole upper main building and right side are composed of dormitories, for this is a boarding school, you know. "We are glad," say the missionaries, "to have so many boarders, for they come much more within the Christian influence of the school than do the daily pupils." In the ell, on this floor, are library and sewing room. On the left side are the foreign teachers' sleeping rooms, etc. We notice two wells on the premises.

"Our new building is completed, and quite an ornament to the city. The Japanese are proud of it, and seem inclined to take more interest in the school because of it. If it fills up with girls, and many souls are born into Christ's kingdom because of it, the money which has been so kindly given will not have been spent in vain. It was publicly opened on the 4th of July.



GIRLS' SCHOOL, SHIZUOKA.

Among the guests were the Secretary of State, to represent His Excellency the Governor, who was unable to be present, being out of town; the Superintendent of Education, the Mayor of the city, and several other high officials. Five girls received Japanese diplomas, and one — who graduated in Japanese two years ago — received her English diploma. The Japanese friends who assisted us, and who take interest in the wel-

fare of the school, pronounced the whole affair quite perfect. We have heard that it did much to break down the prejudice existing against us as a Christian school."—[Report, '96.]

Our new building is very pretty, and is most comfortable to live in. It has had the effect of drawing a number of pupils to the school. Forty-four names have been enrolled during the year, the largest number for eight years. Thirty-eight have been in attendance the

past term. Our building is situated in the best part of the town, and this year, for the first time for years, the children of the neighborhood attend the school as daily pupils.—[Report 97.]

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AUXILIARY SUBJECT PRAYER FOR JANUARY.

"That increased spiritual power may come into the church at home and abroad, and that secret believers may be taught of the spirit."

Jesus said, before he left the earth: "But ye shall receive power, after that ye shall be witnesses unto me unto the uttermost parts of the earth." Now who is the Holy Ghost here spoken of? He is our teacher and guide in the paths of truth and righteousness. In John 16: 13 we read: Howbeit, when He, the spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth." We cannot think a good thought or perform a kind action; we are never moved by a generous impulse, except through the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We never have a desire to pray or commune with God unless guided by this Divine Presence. When something within tells us we have done wrong we may know the Holy Spirit is striving with us to confess our wrong-doing; as the old hymn says:

"Without the spirit of Thy grace  
We nothing good can do,"

How necessary it is then that in this, "The greatest work in the world," we should be endowed with the Holy Ghost.

It is only during the last hundred years that any serious efforts have been made to evangelize the world, and still, after all the wonders that have been accomplished during this period, the exact number of missionaries at present in foreign fields is only 5,994, or one missionary to every 166,000 heathen. Surely the harvest is great and the laborers few!

Then, how little money we give every year to the missionary cause, and how much we spend on our own comforts and luxuries! Over eighty times as much is spent this way as is given for foreign missions. This should not be, nor should we only give to God's cause the money we have left when we have used all we want for ourselves. Should we offer to the Lord that which costs us nothing? Jesus left His Father's home and came to earth to suffer a shameful death that our sins might be forgiven, and surely we should be willing to make some sacrifice of comfort or pleasure to give of our money to send the Gospel to those who have never heard the glad story of redemption. Dear Mission Band, boys and girls, at this glad Christmas time, let us pray that the Holy Spirit may come into our hearts and help us to consecrate our lives' service to this great missionary work.

Let us also pray for the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon our missionaries everywhere, that they may be strengthened to continue the glorious work they are doing for Christ and the heathen world; that all those who have accepted Christianity, and forsaken idolatry may be blessed and helped openly to confess Christ,

and may be so taught of the Spirit that they too may become teachers of His glorious Gospel.

And may the Holy Spirit so baptize our Mission Band boys and girls that they may march forth into the new century with Jesus Christ as their leader, determined to conquer the whole of heathendom for their King.  
Ont. A. C. W.

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GOOD TIDINGS.

(RECITATION.)

How beautiful on the mountains  
Are the feet of him that brings  
Good tidings of salvation  
From the Lord, the King of kings!—  
Tidings the angels chanted  
Of old o'er field and glen:  
Glory to God in the highest  
On earth good will to men!"

Ho! every one that thirsteth,  
Come to the waters clear;  
And he that hath no money  
Eere's milk and wine to cheer!  
Though your sins may be as scarlet,  
They shall be white as snow;  
And the peace of God that passeth thought  
Your weary souls shall know.

O herald! while we listen,  
We hail the blessed day  
When every race and tribe and tongue  
Shall hear thee and obey!—  
When the desert and the wilderness  
As Sharon's plain shall be,  
And the love of the Lord shall fill the earth  
As the waters fill the sea.

Through storm and sun the age draws on  
When heaven and earth shall meet;  
For the Lord has said that glorious  
He will make the place of His feet,  
And the grass may die on the summer hills,  
And the flower fade by the river,  
But our God is the same through endless years,  
And His word shall stand forever.

How beautiful on the mountains  
Are the feet of him that brings  
Good tidings of salvation  
From the Lord, the King of kings!  
Tidings the angels chanted  
Of old o'er field and glen:  
"Glory to God in the highest  
On earth good will to men!"

EDNA DEAN PROCTOR.

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SUGGESTED PROGRAMME FOR JANUARY.

Opening Hymn—Crown Him Lord of all, two verses;  
Coronation.

Short prayer for those who have never heard of Him.  
Repeat, in concert, Luke 2: 14th.

Roll Call.

Minutes—Regular business, appointments.

Recitation—"There came a little child to earth."

Another verse of "Crown Him Lord of All."

Two minute talk from some visiting member of Auxiliary.

Doxology.

## ONLY ONE.

"If each one would care for one  
Only one,  
Poverty would leave the earth,  
Brotherhood would light with mirth  
Every shadow of the earth,  
If each one would care for one,  
Only one."

## FIELD STUDY FOR JANUARY.

Subject: Shizuoka and Kofu.

Many, many islands, lying close together, near the north-eastern coast of Asia, form the Kingdom of Japan. Chief among them are four of much greater size than the others. First, far up to the north lies Yezo, with a narrow strip of water separating it from its southern neighbor, the largest island of the group. Still farther south, with hundreds of tiny islets nestling close to them, lie the two smallest islands of the four. All of the stations of our society are in the largest island, none at great distances from the others, except far-off Kanazawa, on the western coast.

Of our five stations in Japan the oldest is that of Tokyo, with which last month's study has made us familiar. Leaving this great city, with its million and a half of human beings, and going by rail in a north-westerly direction one hundred miles, the city of Shizuoka is reached. There, in November 1886, our mission work was opened. Ten years later the new school building was finished. It is situated in a pleasant part of the town, with good class rooms and dormitories for the pupils, as well as apartments for the missionaries and Japanese servants. Miss Cunningham is principal of the school, which has about forty pupils, while Miss Alcorn has charge of the evangelistic work.

Shizuoka lies near the ocean. Kofu is a large inland town in a mountainous district. The journey from Tokyo to Kofu is made partly by rail, partly by basha or kago. (See the ascent of Fujiyama in October's Palm Branch.) There three of our ladies are working—Miss Robertson, Miss Washington and Miss Jes<sup>t</sup>. This term the school has one hundred pupils.

The work in Shizuoka and Kofu does not greatly differ from that in Tokyo. Like it, it is divided into two classes—school and evangelistic, though all the ladies take part in the school work. Japanese teachers are also employed, for besides the English branches, a good Japanese education must be provided.

Kofu is the centre of a great silk industry, and Shizuoka, too, has its silk and cotton mills. In these factories work goes on through the seven days of the week, from early morning until nearly dusk. In some of them our missionaries are allowed to hold short talks with the girl and women employees.

What then are our missionaries doing in Shizuoka and Kofu? First, the house-keeping, that must be a

home-making for the fifty or more girls in each school; then the devising of ways to show the beauty of Christian home-life; the training of King's Daughter Circles into wise and gentle ways of giving; the keeping in touch with former pupils, and the mothering of those under present care; work in the various Sunday-schools, visiting out-lying villages—these, and the hundred and one things that cannot be named, with the ceaseless strain of new language learning added thereto, are included in the all too-full days. And over the cry of the poor, and sinful, and wretched all about, that in each passing through the streets makes itself heard.

## QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY.

- (1.) Tell what you know of the islands of Japan, and say which island is of especial interest to us.
- (2.) Give the names of the stations chosen for this month's study.
- (3.) Tell how these stations are reached from Tokyo.
- (4.) What do you know of each town?
- (5.) When was our mission opened in Shizuoka? In Kofu?
- (6.) Which mission has the larger school?
- (7.) Describe the work of our missionaries in these towns.

## THE JOURNEY FROM TOKYO TO KOFU.

Taken at the Time of the Great Typhoon, '97.

THE first part of the journey was by rail, and had nothing of especial interest. Our journey was very long and tedious, but somewhat interesting as well. A dreadful typhoon occurred while we were on the road, but, as it was our second night in a Japanese hotel, and as we had not slept much the night before, and had been jolted all day in a basha, or walking muddy roads flowing with water, we were tired enough to sleep even if the house had fallen down! It was an awful night, as we found out after the first degree of fatigue had worn off, and we began to be wakeful toward morning. . . . After the typhoon cleared the air we had fine weather, but found the roads so broken we had to walk most of the way. Coming over the mountain pass that lets us into Kofu, we had a walk of over 7 1-2 miles in the most delightful moonlight. We were tired out when we got to the school at two o'clock Friday morning, but glad to be at our journey's end, and thankful for a foreign bed and food, and chairs to rest on."

Kofu is a busy place in the centre of a large silk producing district. It lies in a plain, quite surrounded by mountains, real mountains (not hills, as in Shizuoka) which stand up like a great wall, shutting the city in from the rest of the world. Far off beyond and above this high rampart Fujiyama stands, always beautiful, though not showing as lovely an outline to Kofu as to Shizuoka.

## PALM ❖ BRANCH.

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

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER, 1899

Again we wish our readers all the compliments of this season—so eagerly looked forward to by young hearts just waking up to a sense of life in all its freshness and beauty, with no thought, as yet, of its great responsibilities. May they have, indeed, a "Merry Christmas."

To those who look out of somewhat darker windows comes the wonder how the Angel's song can be made to blend with the noise and tumult of the battlefield—the groans of the wounded and the dying—no matter how righteous the cause. God save the Queen and save her Empire from further war and bloodshed. May He comfort also the hearts already desolate.

And now comes the news that Florence Nightingale, whose shadow the sick soldiers kissed in their weary wards in Crimean hospitals, so long ago, has gone from her couch of suffering on earth to her reward in Heaven—a reward that even angels might covet.

From Japan comes news of 6,000 visits made during the year, thirty baptisms and 100 pledges signed. The schools for the poor and industrial Orphanages have done encouraging and gratifying work during the year.—[Board Report.]

We have to thank the ladies of the Board for the kind words spoken and written during the session. Cousin Joy appreciates it all. A copy of a Resolution then passed will be found on 8th page.

## QUESTIONS FOR DECEMBER.

- (1) When did our W. M. S. begin work in Tokyo?
- (2) Who was our first missionary there?
- (3) What kind of work did she do there at first?
- (4) What great need did she see?
- (5) What was the result?
- (6) Tell something of the growth of the Tokyo school.
- (7) Tell all you know about our missionaries, our property and the work being done there at the present time.

## FIELD STUDY FOR DECEMBER.

Subject: Tokyo.

Our Woman's Missionary Society opened work in Tokyo in 1882; Miss Cartmell, our first missionary, left her home in Hamilton, Ont., Nov. 25th, and arrived in Tokyo on the afternoon of Dec. 27th. Evangelistic work was the first work that she did there. She soon saw the great need that there was for Woman's work for women, and her first thoughts and plans were how to reach them. So she sent out invitations to them, and the first gathering was around Dr. Eby's dining room table, the doctor acting as interpreter. When Miss Cartmell moved to her own little home she had a chapel there, so the work came to her. Here she held meetings with the women twice a week and Sunday-school with the children. She had also a class of young men to whom she taught English—some of them embraced Christianity. The work among the women was slow at first, and she was obliged to hold out inducements in the way of offering to teach them English and crochet work, which opened the way to tell them of Jesus. Property was purchased by the General Society, and two schools built in the district there in September, 1884. The Girls' school opened with two pupils, who were not long left alone, for these schools were opened just at the time when the Japanese had awakened to the importance of educating their daughters; when they had a strong desire to learn English and adopt foreign customs. The applicants were so numerous that in the summer of 1885 an addition was built, providing for 100 pupils. Then Miss Spencer, afterwards Mrs. Large, was sent out from Ontario to take charge of this school, and under her excellent, careful management, and with her assistant missionaries it grew and flourished. In 1886 another building was erected for 250 pupils, and it was soon full, while many outside waited for admission; this building was enlarged in 1888. Then it was whispered that foreign schools were making the Japanese girls disloyal to their own religion and their country. A large school was built under the patronage of the Empress, which took away the high class girls from our schools, but the work then had been so thorough that impressions had been made never to be forgotten, and some of the native girls had become assistant teachers, evangelists and Bible women. The work spread from Azabu to other districts of Tokyo. Last year a grant was given to purchase a new site for a new building; or the one built in 1886 had been really rendered unsafe by earthquakes and typhoons—it was hoped that it will be ready for occupation in October. There are now in Tokyo Miss Blackmore, Miss Hart, evangelist, and Miss Veazey, who has charge of the school. They are sadly in need of more helpers to aid them in the good work which has gone steadily on in spite of all discouragements. We are glad to know that two more will soon be hastening to their relief.

## HOW TO MAINTAIN INTEREST IN BANDS.

ANY one who has ever so slight an experience of child culture, must have been struck with the eager alertness, the intense activity, the stretching out after light, so common to child nature.

In its normal condition a child is a veritable animated interrogation—How? why? when? what? are queries forever upon the lips of the smallest prattler. The rattle is broken to find how the noise is made, and the best doll sacrificed to see what made it shut its eyes.

Now it would seem that the man or woman who can best meet this demand in a child's nature, not so much by his or her superior knowledge and larger experience, but by a skilful drawing out of the knowledge of the child and leading up to the acquisition of further knowledge, without simply asking it to open its mouth and pour it in as with a funnel, is the person best fitted to help in the solution of the problem with which we started.

But, such a person the writer has no claim to be, and must content herself with a few simple suggestions gleaned from a not too wide experience of Mission Band work, and which have probably occurred, already, to others.

The first thing, then, which suggests itself in connection with our subject "How to Maintain an Interest in Band Work?" is: The necessity of a leader thoroughly and intensely interested herself. No merely "such a good woman," or "very lovely girl," will do for this superlatively important position. Perfect physical health, combined with genuine love of missions, and unlimited tact and patience in dealing with little people are all necessary qualifications, and no one need hope to succeed without.

But having secured a good leader, she should not do all the work, and while she must do much, she should appear to do least. Like the hidden spring which turns on the electric current which floods the whole building with light, she may, herself, be hidden, but her influence should be felt galvanizing into life and well directed effort the individual forces under her control.

Another requisite to the maintenance of interest is the selection of a suitable hour for meeting. Having decided upon such an hour, let nothing induce you to postpone your service—of course nothing within reasonable control, is understood. Begin promptly, even if no one but the leader is present. Such a course resolutely adhered to will insure promptness on the part of members. On the other hand nothing is more disheartening than to see little children, who were "on time," forced to wait ten, fifteen or even more minutes because others may be "along soon." Much of the disorderly and irreverent conduct of children in and about churches arises from the ennui of being called upon to wait for others.

Band officers should be chosen from among the children, and, as far as practicable, allowed to act without interference or suggestion from the leader, who should, of course, be present, seen but not heard, unless of necessity.

Again, these youthful officers should be frequently changed, and here, I am aware, I trespass upon disputed ground. It is argued that so few children are capable of taking office. Let them learn. Perfection is not expected, but the ideal is constantly before them. The work is not the end, but the means to an end.

N. S.

(To be continued.)

J. J.

*Dear Circle and Band Workers:*

Now that the annual meeting of Branch and Board have passed, and we have stepped over the threshold into a new year of missionary endeavor, would it not be well to try and put into practice some of the good resolutions made at the Branch gatherings? A spirit of hopefulness breathed through the reports, and in order that beneficial results follow, we need to lose no time in planning as far as possible the year's work. What fields will your society study this year?

What missionaries will you especially pray for? and how much of self-sacrifice and faithful effort are you willing to use that means may be available to place educational, evangelistic and industrial opportunities before the boys and girls in our various mission stations? Begin early to look up material for public meetings. There is so much in connection with our work that would be interesting to those outside of the W. M. S.; watch for the ones who could help actively in carrying out a programme. An earnest plea has been made for more hearty co-operation by Auxiliary members in this department of the work, and I am sure that if every one does their part, we may confidently expect our Heavenly Father's blessing.

The hearts of all true Canadians have been stirred over the departure of the Canadian contingent for South Africa, and we are following with hopes and prayers the brave men who have gone to the help of the mother land at this crisis. The thought has come to me—During these coming months could we not surround our out-going missionaries, those who are in training for their work, and whom the Lord has raised up, we believe, in answer to earnest supplication, with a girdle of prayer? This period of preparation is not likely to be free from discouragements and self-sacrifice, and there will be the necessity for putting on the "whole armor," even before they go into active service. Would they not feel strengthened by knowing we were remembering them at the throne of grace? And then, in this spirit, can we not go forth to work, as well as to pray, seeking to learn what we can of the countries in which our representatives are laboring, and thus acquiring that interest which is impossible without the knowledge. Let me urge upon you to be loyal to the work. Each one is needed to help "carry the light," that into other lands may shine the glorious Gospel, which has done so much for us.

I. CHIPMAN.



Address—Cousin Joy, 232 Princess Street, St. John, N. B.

Dear Cousins,—Here is a lesson for you and for me—it is, "What a Little Girl Found."

A poor little street girl was taken sick one Christmas and carried to the hospital. While there she heard the story of Jesus coming into the world to save us. It was all new to her, but very precious. She could appreciate such a wonderful Saviour, and the knowledge made her very happy as she lay upon her little cot. One day the nurse came round at the usual hour, and "Little Broomstick" (that was her street name) held her by the hand and whispered: 'I'm having real good times here, ever such good times! S'pose I'll have to go 'way from here just as soon as I get well; but I'll take the good time along—some of it, anyhow. Did you know about Jesus bein' born?'

"Yes," replied the nurse, "I know. Sh-sh-sh! Don't talk any more."

"You did? I thought you looked as if you didn't, and I was going to tell you."

"Why, how did I look?" asked the nurse, forgetting her orders in her curiosity.

"O' just like most o' folks—kind o' glum. I shouldn't think that you'd ever look glum if you knowed about Jesus bein' born."

Now, dear Cousins, do we go around looking "glum," or do our faces shine with the joyful knowledge that Jesus has come and is able and willing to save us all? Let us remember that others are looking at us to see if this is a true and joyful thought to us—it ought to be—and if it is, it will help others to believe in Him.

Dear Cousin Joy,—Do you think Christmas will ever come? I am so tired waiting for it—it does seem so long. I have asked Santa Claus to bring me something good, and I hope he will, don't you?

Your affec. cousin,

ELLA G.

[Yes, we hope Santa Claus, the Spirit of Love, will visit all the dear Cousins, and bring something good. The time seems long, does it? And it flies so fast with us, older ones. Have pati-nce, dear Cousin, "All things come round to those who wait." Get your own little presents for others ready, especially your "Christmas present for Jesus," and perhaps the time will seem all too short.]

Dear Cousin Joy,—We held our first meeting for the year this p. m. Nine members present. Our annual meeting was held September 16th—there were sixteen present. Result of that meeting was \$9.75. We had one life member—my little sister, seven years old. Answer of first puzzle for October is Woman's Missionary Society.

Your loving Cousin,

Ont. LORNE PIERCE.

[How nice to have that little life member.]

Dear Cousin Joy,—I began taking the Palm Branch only a short time ago, and I like it very much. I saw in it some letters from different girls, and I thought I would write a short one. We have a Mission Band here, and I enjoy going to it very much. I am going to send a puzzle, which I would like you to put in the "Palm Branch" if you have room. It is the first puzzle I ever made up, and I am afraid it is not very good. I must close now, so good-bye.

From your dear friend,

ETHEL M. PRESCOTT.

Baie Verte.

Dear Cousin Joy,—I have never written to you before. I am a member of the Dayspring Mission Band. My sister takes the Palm Branch, and we enjoy it very much, especially "Cousin Joy's Corner." I think I have found the answer to October puzzle, it is: "Woman's Missionary Society." I enclose a puzzle—which is my first attempt—and if correct, please publish.

Your loving cousin,

LAURA E. WEST.

[Cousin Ethel and Laura's puzzles next month.]

#### PUZZLES FOR DECEMBER.

I am composed of 14 letters.

My 13, 14, 5 is the plan of a country.

My 11, 4, 7 is a fowl.

My 10, 2, 14, 5 is used for cleansing.

My 6, 2, 3, 9 something we wear.

My 13, 12, 7, 8, where gold is found.

My 1, 14, 13, something nice to eat.

My whole is the name of a man who was born in Japan, came to this country to be educated; went back to Japan and founded an educational institution for his countrymen. His name is still loved and honored in Japan.

#### Charade.

My first is an article.

My second is one born to inherit a kingdom.

My third is a proposition.

My fourth is a word meaning harmony, concord.

My whole is one of the sweetest names given to the Saviour.

I am composed of 15 letters.

My 7, 14, 12, is a domestic animal.

My 4, 6, 3, a kind of flour.

My 13, 10, 11, 15, a title given to a young lady.

My 8, 14, 2, a kind of meat.

My 1, 5, 3, 14, 6, dress; to put in order.

My 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, is a name very sacred to us.

My whole is what Cousin Joy wishes for all her dear cousins.

## THERE CAME A LITTLE CHILD TO EARTH.

There came a little child to earth  
 Long ago;  
 And the angels of God proclaimed His birth  
 High and low;

Out on the night so calm and still  
 Their song was heard;  
 For they knew that the child on Bethlehem's hill  
 Was Christ the Lord.

Far away in a goodly land,  
 Fair and bright,  
 Children with crowns of glory stand,  
 Robed in white.

They sing how the Lord of that world so fair  
 A child was born;  
 And that they might a crown of glory wear,  
 Wore a crown of thorn

And forevermore, in their robes most fair  
 And undefiled,  
 These ransomed children His praise declare  
 Who was once a child.

—HARRIET B. STANFORD.

## LITTLE HILDA.

By Anna A. Creton.

"It is almost Christmas," said Ned Snyder, coming into the principal room of the trappers' post, where a dozen or more rough-looking men were gathered.

"What has Christmas to do with a place like this?" said the bartender, gruffly.

"Christmas is for everybody, and little Hilda at least ought to have a share in it."

"The child has no business in a camp like this."

"She is not to blame for being here, however, and we ought to do what we can to make her happy. Let us have a Christmas tree for her."

"What could we put on it?"

"Coloured wax tapers, and a doll, at least."

The men all shouted, and one said:

"You step out two or three hundred miles or so and buy a doll and we will provide a tree."

"You forget the monthly mail at the trading station."

"Well, you are at least a month too late in your bright ideas, and how would you know where to send for a doll?"

"I remember a name, and a month ago I sent money to Lord & Taylor, New York, for new clothes for Hilda, a large porcelain doll, and a box of tapers, and they are here. What I want to know is if we can have our tree in this room?"

"A fellow as bright as you can have anything the house affords," replied the bartender.

So the room was cleaned, the tree was brought in and set up, with a barrel for a standard, the fine, hazy, some doll fastened in the top, the coloured tapers set thickly on the ends of the branches and twigs, and when it was quite dark it was lighted, and the motherless little girl, who could not remember to have seen a woman, child, or doll, was brought in her father's arms.

"O, look at her," whispered the men. "Isn't she de-

lighted! She is as pretty as a picture in her new clothes."

"It is Hilda," cried the little girl, stretching up her arms for the doll. "Hilda in the tree; please take her down."

"Well, now, this pays," said one of the older men, as the little girl carried the large doll for one and another to hold; and her father said:

"I used to be told that the spirit of Christmas was to make others happy, but I was not expecting it to appear away here in the wilderness. I thank you for the child and for myself."

"I know not Christmas," said one of the men, who was an Indian. "Who will tell me?"

At that, one told the story of the Christ-child, and then another and another, and some of their ideas were very crude.

"Why came he here?" asked the Indian. And Ned replied quickly and solemnly in words committed long before in Sunday-school:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

"Does that mean us too?"

"Yes, all."

"Then why do we not make all the days happy Christmas days like this?"

"Why, indeed?" echoed the bartender, putting bottles and glasses out of sight, and pulling down the notices of rum, gin and whiskey from the walls. "You have found a doll, Snyder, don't you think you could find a Bible?"

"Yes, by opening my trunk."

That was the beginning that ended in a Sunday-school, a mission church, and true Christians.

When the warm weather came, little Hilda was carried to the home of her grandmother, where she is growing up under Christian influences. She still treasures her first doll, and remembers the Christmas tree at the trappers' post that bore such lovely fruit in leading those rough men to think of Christ.

"When I am a woman I shall be a missionary in the wild sections of our own land," she says, "for I know what kind hearts there are still untaught, and how thankfully they receive the good tidings of great joy."

In the absence of the Treasurer, Miss Wilkes, the Treasurer's report was presented by the Recording Secretary, Mrs. Kerr. The receipts from the Branches amounted to over \$40,000. The total receipts for the year amounted to \$43,303.

The report of the Field Secretary was very interesting and encouraging. From latest reports from Japan the new school building in Tokio, nearing completion, was entirely swept away by a typhoon, much to the disappointment of those who have so completely superintended the work and who have hopefully watched its progress. "Though cast down, they are not destroyed," and are courageously planning for re-building at once. There are now 355 pupils in the schools in Japan—of these 175 are in boarding schools.—[Board Report.

## LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

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

MONCTON—We are very glad to hear that a Mission Circle has been formed in connection with the Auxiliary of the Central Church. It begins work with thirteen members; the officers being as follows:

President, Miss Maggie Lee.

1st Vice-president, Miss Laurel Hunter.

2nd Vice-president, Miss Cuthbertson.

Rec. Secretary, Miss Ethel Lockhart.

Cor. Secretary, Miss Maggie Wortman.

Treasurer, Miss Mary Peters.

How it would strengthen and extend the work at home and abroad if effort were made everywhere to interest and hold the interest of the young women of our congregations. We pray that this new Circle may find the blessing that surely comes in earnest work for others.

The "Do What we Can" Band also has begun the year well.

We will be glad to hear from others. I wonder if the Bands are remembering that Christmas is drawing near, the best time in the whole year for children to hold a public meeting—the children's own time.

If you have not already begun to prepare for it, why not begin at once? It will interest the little ones more than anything else. Let every member have something to do, and let your meeting be not only entertaining, but also instructive. You have learned something—tell it to your audience.

One Word More.—I mean one sentence.—If you did not get every member to subscribe for Palm Branch in October, see that they do before January.

E. E. COULTHART,  
Mission Band Secretary.

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Branch

PARRSBORO—Our work in the "Grace Methodist Church" Band has been very interesting, although our Band is small, and the weather has been stormy, thus preventing the regular attendance of our members. Our lessons are taken from the Palm Branch. Mrs. Tuttle, of Pugwash, sent us a nice letter, telling us about the Home in British Columbia, in which she labored for so long. We held one public meeting, and had a special programme arranged, which was very interesting. The collection added quite a little to our treasury.

FOURCHIE—We are glad to hear again from our "Onward" Circle. We are also glad to hear you are pressing forward.

BERWICK—The report of the "Royal Workers" Band reads: "Our meetings are fortnightly. Once a month we take up the Palm Branch programme, and sew at the alternate meetings, taking orders for that work from our friends. We held an open band meet-

ing and five o'clock tea, inviting our mothers and friends, at the home of our president. Collection from open meeting \$1.50.

ANNIE M. BRAINE.

Mission Band Cor. Secretary.

LITTLE HARBOR, Shelburne—"The prospects look brighter, for more members are joining our "Harbor Bell" Band. We have really interesting meetings, and try to arouse our young people with items of far away China and Japan.

SOUTH FARMINGTON—The "Picquet Guard" Band secretary writes: "We meet at the home of some one of the members of the band every fortnight. After the business is transacted we enjoy a social time of entertainment in the way of readings, music, etc., followed by refreshments, provided by our hostess. The interest in missionary work is very good indeed."

Subscribers, Please Give Attention!

You will hereafter be given only one month's notice before your subscription runs out. The paper will then be stopped until we receive further notice from you.

We would recommend to our readers a leaflet, "The Importance of Mission Bands," published by our Literature Committee, to be had at Room 20, and the other depots.

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We regret to say that a mistake having been made in the number of papers received last month, we were reluctantly obliged to cut off our complimentary and foreign subscribers, and also those who sent in subscriptions after that date. No November numbers, consequently, are to be obtained. We have been requested to re-publish our Field Study for December, and you will find it on the 4th (Editorial) page.

Subject for next Field Study will be Kanazawa and Nagano.

RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS IN HAMILTON, ONT.

That this convention extends to Miss Smith, Editor of Palm Branch, heartfelt greetings, at the same time assuring her of our appreciation of her unselfish labors in the interests of our work through the medium of "Palm Branch."

We desire also to place on record our regard for the paper itself, believing that it is performing a mission for good among all the Circles and Bands in our Dominion, who have availed themselves of the opportunity of securing it. We hope that in this incoming year every Circle and Band connected with our Society will avail themselves of the helps afforded and inspiration given through their own paper, "The Palm Branch."