



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

VOL. II.

MAY, 1895.

No. 5.

WOMAN.

BY MRS. NERRILL E. GATES.

"Woman, why weepest thou?"
 O'er China's rice-fields, o'er her poppies red,
 The sweet voice ran. It was the loving Christ
 Who spoke and looked on helpless woman, priced
 As cattle in the market, crippled, led
 In heavy, cruel chains. I wondered not He said
 "Woman, why weepest thou?"

"Woman, why weepest thou?"
 From India's temples, from her fanes most rare,
 From hut and palace and zenana close,
 A sound of voices, like sad winds, arose,
 And breathed of woman's sorrows past compare.
 There thrilled again the Christ-voice through the tropic air,
 "Woman, why weepest thou?"

"Woman, why weepest thou?"
 Thy help is near! The Christ has heard the sound
 Of world-wide tears! His heralds swift proclaim
 Surcease of weeping through his mighty name!
 Woman, He died, and on the cross was bound
 To lift thee by unfathomed love from depths profound!
 "Woman, why weepest thou?"

HOPE FOR CHINA.

THE 7th November, 1894, was a very important day in China, for it was the sixtieth birthday of the Dowager Empress An, generally known as the Western Empress.

Those sixty years, which they call a "cycle," may correspond to the jubilee which we celebrated when Queen Victoria had reigned fifty years; so we can understand how there were decorations, and illuminations, and feasts, in the great cities of China, though, of course, they differed largely from ours.

On the 12th of that month the Emperor (by the way, young as he is, he is called "the father of a myriad years,") received all the western ambassadors.

This was partly due to the war, and partly to the Empress Dowager's birthday. She is much respected and beloved in the Flowery Kingdom, so many rich and rare presents were laid at her feet. But on this day the two most noted gifts were presented by the British and American visitors. One of these, presented, of course, by the British Minister, was a token of love from our own Queen Victoria; the other, a joint presentation by the two ministers, was perhaps the most magnificent copy of the New Testament ever made. You see it had to be magnificent to be acceptable to the chief woman in so great an empire. We, in this Christian land, know of its great intrinsic worth, but we can understand that it would have to be made attractive outside to a Chinese woman before she would be led to look inside and discover its wonderful truths.

It was on exhibition in Peking for a while. Don't you wish you had been there to see it? Well, as you were not, we will have to give you the description of it, which we have read. First there is an elegant teak-wood case, and within that a box covered with old gold plush. Inside a solid silver casket is seen, ornamented with bamboo and birds in relief, the bamboo being an emblem of peace, and the birds representing messengers. The casket cover has a gold plate, stating that the book is the gift of the Christian women of China. Within this casket is the Testament itself. Upon the left hand corner of the book, in raised gold, is an inscription, and another on an oval plate in the centre of the cover, meaning that it has power to save the world. Its silver covers are also embossed with bamboo and bird designs. Each page has a border of gold. You understand that this Testament is in the Chinese language.

Some years ago an English copy was presented at the palace, but it, of course, was of no practical value.

It is said that eleven thousand Christian women in China contributed their mites to this gift. It cost about \$1,200. Can we doubt that these Christian women are praying every day for the conversion of the Empress? Shall we not join them, for we know not what effect all this may have upon the great Chinese nation, but we do know that the "Gospel is the power of God unto salvation."

A beautiful address, written by a lady, accompanied the gift—one sentence of which reads: "We, Christians in your empire, constantly and fervently pray that your Highness and all the members of the Imperial Family may also gain possession of this secret of happiness to the individual, and prosperity to the nation, so that China may be behind no nation on the earth."

The Empress Dowager is a woman of strong character. She is wise and progressive. She has been regent for two Emperors, and would have done much more for her country if she had not been checked by the opposition of those who are known as the learned men among her subjects. She will no doubt turn over and, we trust, read the pages of her new book. Let us pray that the light of the Holy Spirit may shine upon them.

On the very day on which the gift was presented to his mother the Emperor sent an order to the Bible Society Depository for a copy for himself of the Old and New Testament, such as is used by the common people. It was sent by the hand of one of the high dignitaries of the court, to whom was also given other Christian books. So let us hope that a bright day is dawning for China!

Rev. Mr. Beach in "Life and Light for Woman," to whom we are indebted for a description of the gift as well as our facts, says, in speaking of the Testament: "It comes to the palace after some religious preparation. The stereoptican illustrations of the life of Christ, exhibited by one of our helpers at the residence of the present Empress, just previous to her marriage, created a deep impression upon her family; and at that time the New Testament, spread out daily before our Christian tailor, while he wrought on the imperial trousseau, is said to have been borrowed and read by some of her relatives. That "scatter-shadow-lamp" exhibition was doubtless one of the most remarkable events that had occurred in her home, and would be often talked of by the Empress elect. Now the explanation of the striking picture of Christ on the cross, which caused her grandmother to exclaim,

in tones of wonder and sorrow, "Why, why did they cause a good man to suffer so?" is in the palace, and can be read at leisure. Surely there is hope for China!

In the *Wesleyan*, a week or two ago, a "broken hearted mother" asked for the insertion of Robert Burdette's sad, but beautiful, little poem, "Alone." As so many of our missionary workers are now passing through the sorrows of bereavement, we also give it a place in our columns:

ALONE.

BY ROBERT J. BURDETTE.

Since she went home,—
Longer the evening shadows linger here,
The winter days fill so much of the year,
And even summer winds are chill and drear,
Since she went home.

Since she went home,—
The robin's note has touched a minor strain,
The old glad songs breathe out a sad refrain,
And laughter sobs with bitter, hidden pain,
Since she went home.

Since she went home,—
How still the empty rooms her presence blessed;
Untouched the pillow that her dear head pressed;
My lonely heart hath nowhere for its rest,
Since she went home.

Since she went home,—
The long, long days have crept away like years;
The sunlight has been dimmed with doubts and fears,
And the dark nights have rained in lonely tears,
Since she went home.

Mr. Burdette and our readers will forgive us when we say that sweet and sympathetic as these lines are, they seem to us to lack a suggestion of the comfort that God gives when He takes away our treasures, and we have felt inspired to supply the lack:

NOT "ALONE."

"Since she went home"
Earth-shadows catch the sunlight of the spheres,
And oh, how small this little life appears!
I measure time by God's eternal years,
"Since she went home."

I list no more earth's voices manifold,
I hear the song that never shall grow old,
The harpers, harping with their harps of gold,
"Since she went home."

Not empty is her vacant room or bed,
I see an angel sitting at the head,
And at the feet a form with wings outspread,
"Since she went home."

O heart of mine, be still and know no fear,
Earth fades away, and God's own Heaven draws near,
The angels smile, and Christ, Himself, is here,
"Since she went home."

HYMN.

TUNE AURILIA.

Earth's Christless millions dying,
Defiled by sin and shame,
In deepest darkness lying—
No knowledge of his name—
New call on us to bring them
Glad tidings of our Lord,
Now plead with us to tell them
The message of his word.

And with their earnest pleading
Lo, now before us stands
Our Saviour, interceding,
With piercéd feet and hands !
Beseeching us to help them
For whom, in love, He died,
Beseeching us to lead them
Where souls are purified.

Then haste with footsteps eager
Where Christless souls are found ;
Lift high Immanuel's banner,
Proclaim the Gospel's sound ;
For brighter gleams His glory,
For deeper rolls its flood,
As heroes tell the story,
"Redemption through His blood."

W. M. S. HYMNAL.

FIELD STUDY FOR MAY.

China, for which we have to pray this month, is an exceedingly interesting country for many reasons. It is a vast empire, and until a few years ago so walled up that no missionaries could get or stay inside. That is why there is so little Christian civilization there yet, and why so much ignorance and sin prevail. Then there are so many people in it. Nearly 400,000,000, which is one quarter of the population of the globe. Napoleon was once asked why he did not make war on the Chinese and he said, "There are too many of them." Yet you see the Japanese, a very much smaller nation, is now making war upon them successfully. One reason of its success is that it has learned so much more from civilized nations. We hope that some time the people of China will thank God even for this war: they will, if through it they obtain the Gospel.

China has always thought she had the best learning, the best customs, the best worship and the best army in the world. Now she is finding out her mistake. She has many religions—one of them is very queer—you would think it very funny to worship your grandmothers and grandfathers, yet that is what they do and call it Ancestor worship. So they are very kind and respectful to their parents. But you can see how it would be a hindrance to progress of any kind, for it would keep them looking back instead of forward. That worship and many others will die out when they

learn of Christ. You must read on the first page how two Chinese Bibles have lately found their way to the palace, and every one of you must pray that the Lord will bless them to the conversion of the whole Chinese nation.

The Chinese language is the most difficult one in the world, and that is hard for the missionaries. They write straight up and down, in perpendicular columns. They read backward, beginning at what we call the end of the book, at the top of the page and going down. They have frames with sliding balls with which they add and figure. When a Chinaman meets a friend he does not shake his friend's hand, but his own, and instead of saying "How do you do," asks "Have you eaten your rice?" When he wants to pray he writes a prayer, or buys one already written and burns it that it may go up to his god. They are very superstitious, burn fire-crackers in their grave yards and worship the spirits of the dead. They wear garments made of cotton or silk and wad them in winter to make them warm. Somebody says they look like pin-cushions walking. They are an industrious people, skilled in mechanics, not noted for sincerity, and have a good opinion of themselves. Opium is the great curse.

The women and children are most to be pitied. We all know what they suffer with their poor crippled feet. A society has lately been formed for the prevention of that cruelty, called "The Heavenly Foot Society." Let us pray that it may prosper.

The need of China as of all heathen lands is Medical Missions. A hospital is to be established in Chentu, and our W. M. S. has already sent out a doctor and trained nurse. Miss Brackbill, whose interesting letter on Chinese schools we publish this month, is one of our missionaries. Let us pray for them all as they work for the salvation of the Chinese

S. E. S.

QUESTIONS FOR MAY.

For what country do we pray this month ?
Why is there so little civilization and so much ignorance and sin ?
How many people there ?
What did Napoleon say ?
What nation is making war on them now, and what is the secret of success ?
What do we hope for the Chinese in regard to this war ?
What has China always thought of herself ?
Tell us what you know of Ancestor worship ?
Is it a help or hindrance to progress and why ?
When will that worship, and others, die out ?
What new society has been formed ?
What is the great need of China ?
What has our W. M. S. done towards the hospital in Chentu ?
Who is another Missionary there ?
Can we help them ?

* PALM BRANCH *

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MAY, 1895.

 UR interest this month centers in China. We are glad to have an entertaining letter from Miss Brackbill, regarding the school system of China, if indeed it could be called a system, where there seems to be no system at all. No wonder that ignorance and superstition and cruelty everywhere prevail. And yet when we read recently that a Chinese Sunday school in San Francisco gave for China Missions to the value of \$12 a piece; that a Brooklyn Chinese Sunday school gave \$1,900 to Home Missions and over \$2000 to Foreign Missions, and that the Boston Chinese were not behind in generous contributions, we felt that it was well worth while to bestow our means and our efforts on those who can so fully appreciate what is done on their behalf, and who become, in their turn, so truly missionary. "It is said to be very difficult for the poor down-trodden women of China to believe the good news of a God who wishes to save a woman,"—and yet when they do believe it, what good news it is, and how eagerly they embrace it. Returned lady missionaries represent the women of China as exceedingly sensitive to kindness and unkindness, praise and blame, so we can imagine what their life is in a country where ignorance and cruelty abound. If they have any degree of the mother feeling how can they exist in a country where Infanticide is not the exception but the rule! It is the little girls who are killed, because they cannot earn money, but have to be provided for—the boys are always welcome! A missionary speaker telling of the Baby Towers everywhere seen in China said: 'If you saw a man going along in the early morning with a baby in his arms, you would know one of two things. Either it is a

Christian father caring for his child, or a heathen one carrying it to a Baby Tower, there to throw it down into an abyss where its cries will never more be heard." And worse than that the mother is often compelled to be the murderer of her own child! the only thing that could possibly reconcile her to such a deed would be the fact that she could thus save her child from a worse fate than death, a fact proved by her own terrible experience.

Surely for the evils of such a nation as this Christianity is the only remedy—Christianity with its hospitals, its skilled physicians and nurses, all ready to minister with Christ-like touch to body and mind alike diseased. Let us thank God that the world is waking up to recognize the value of medical missions. The Easter offering this year, of the Auxiliaries, will go toward the founding of the hospital in Chen-tu, China, where our W. M. S. has already sent a lady doctor and trained nurse. Dr. Kimborn has told us how next to impossible it is to effectually relieve the miseries of the crowds who come to them for medical and surgical aid, and how many they have to send unrelieved away, because of the lack of a building in which the sick and suffering can be cared for, while undergoing treatment at their hands. Let us do what we can for this Christ-like enterprise and pray that God may give it complete success.

One of the fraternal delegates to the Woman's Council, recently held in Washington writes: "We were given seats on the platform and treated with great courtesy all through. I thought before I went that I would scarcely care for our Society to belong to such a Cosmopolitan Association. It is indeed heterogeneous. Jews and Mormons and Liberals of all kinds have full right of speech, and take great advantage of the opportunity to air their peculiar ideas before vast audiences. Yet now I seem to feel that since they will do it, it might be better to leaven the mass with as much of the Gospel as possible, and this can only be done by being members and taking part in the discussions. I heard a great deal of the Gospel from the W. C. T. U. speakers and the other religious bodies represented there, and, as I said before, they make, by far, the most impression."

SPECIAL NOTICE.—We would call attention to the fact that our 2nd quarter begins in April.

Any subscriber not receiving the paper will please communicate with the editor.

Articles intended for publication must be here by the 8th of the month—that is of the previous month: For instance: contributions to the June number must be here by the 8th of May.

Please observe that all canvassers for PALM BRANCH may, on application, obtain sample copies. Surely by a little patient, persevering effort, clubs of 10 may be made up on every circuit, and so the success of our little paper be assured. 10 cents only to clubs of 10.

THOSE MOTHERS.

BY ANNIE E. MELLISH.



Sister May, do come out for a drive, it will do your headache good and make you feel much better."

"No thank you," answered the wearied girl, "I cannot possibly go this afternoon, as my Band meets at half-past three o'clock."

Her sister knew that it would be no use to coax her, and so passed on.

About half an hour afterwards, just when May was starting out, she met a number of friends who urged her to go on a snow-shoe tramp with them. Oh! how she longed to go, but *no*, she must be true to her duty as President of the Mission Band, and again a negative answer was given. When she arrived at the church, she found five little girls awaiting her, and so with that number commenced the meeting. After the opening exercises the President said: "As the Secretary is not present I will call the roll, and if any who are present can tell me the reason why so many are absent, kindly speak out."

Katie Jones:—"Present."

Janie Flagler:—"Oh, please, she is having a party to-day."

Anna Smythe:—"Please Miss, I called for her and her mother said she just couldn't be bothered getting her ready."

Josie James:—"She is out snow-shoeing."

Gladys Boasho:—"Absent."

Mary Coles:—"Oh, please, Mary told me, in school this morning, that her mama was just sick and tired of these Mission Bands and things, and she wouldn't let her come any more, for charity began at home any way."

With a wearied sigh the president read on.

Betsy MacQuillian:—"Oh, please, she has gripe."

Jennie Corey:—"Please ma'am she said she would come if she didn't go for a drive, but I s'pose she is gone as she is not here."

Winnie Luffell:—"Present."

Bella Penna:—"Absent."

Cora Penna:—"Present—please Belle's at the rink to-day."

Lou Hawthorne:—"Her is at the party."

Susan Collins:—"At the party too."

Jeanie Cameron:—"Oh, please, she is out buying valentines."

Clara Flood:—"Oh, ma'am, her ma made her stay home and darn her brother's socks, for her mother said there is more mission work in it than comin' here learnin' a lot of stuff about the heathen."

Katie Ketchum:—"Present."

Lily Lacy:—"Oh, please, Miss, her mother made her stay home and nurse the new baby."

Anastatia Duffy:—"Please I was in her place coming down, and Mrs. Duffy said it was such a glorious day that it would be a sin and a shame to go and keep children cooped up in a church, and so Anastatia went out coasting, but please I am here."

"And you are a dear good little girl to be here," faintly responded the president.

Bannie Bevan:—"Present."

Lizzie MacLoney:—"Oh, please Miss, her told me that your ma said her mother sold matches when her was a little girl and she did no such thing, and so now please, she says that she just won't let her family have anything more to do with your folks."

This seemed like the last straw to the already over-taxed President, but with a prayer for help and a determined effort she went through her usual programme and then dismissed the meeting. On reaching home she found that all the rest of the family had gone out pleasure seeking, so with a heart-breaking sigh she flung herself on a lounge and the tears ran down her face unrestrained. She was not to blame by any means, but oh! she did feel so discouraged, and wondered how it was that Christian parents could not or would not take a little interest in Band work. It would lighten her burden so much if they would simply do their part. For oh! she thought, when the mothers at home are so utterly indifferent how could she tell the children that it was their first duty to attend Mission Band before going elsewhere? how could she teach them about self-denial, talent money, prompt and regular attendance? And above all how could she tell them that it was in their power by prayer and work to help send the gospel to the poor little heathen away across the sea? How could she?

Charlottetown.

We see Him now. He walks no more,
By Zion, and Jordan and Galilee;
But sweet as the song the night winds bore,
And rich with meaning unknown before,
His words ring out as they rang of yore,
"Go forth, and tell the world of me."

EDNA DEAN PROCTOR.

- BAND EXERCISE.

First Protestant missionary to China—while a boy was apprenticed to a last maker—kept his book open while he worked, and had his bed in the shop, that he might study late at night—sent out, at 25 years of age, by the London Missionary Society in 1807—spent 25 years as Chinese translator for the East India Company—compiled a Chinese dictionary—translated both the Old and New Testament, and lived to see them completed and widely circulated.



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

DEAR LITTLE COUSINS,—You will be much interested in the subject for this month's prayer and study, for you all know and have thought so much already about the poor little Chinese girls, with whom you would not care to change places, no matter how unselfish you may be. I am sure you will be glad to hear about the Society that has been formed in China to put an end to that cruel fashion of torturing their poor little feet till they become crippled and almost helpless for life. It is to be called "The Society of the Heavenly Foot," and we will all pray that the members may go to work in earnest, so that the time will soon come when the dear little girls of China, will be as free to run about and have a "good time" as the girls of Canada. You must all read Miss Brackbill's letter on the very next page about the Chinese schools, and you will think more of your own pleasant school, and the knowledge you gain there than you ever did before. And now, I want to tell you a funny story about a poor man in China. He prayed to an idol and promised if his prayer was answered, he would give the idol a cow. His prayer was answered—that is he got what he prayed for. Do you think it was the idol who answered his prayer? Well, the poor Chinaman did, for he knew no better. When he found that his prayer was answered, he was sorry he had promised the cow, for she was the only one he had. So he went back to the idol with his cow, but begged that he might take her home again, as he was only a poor man. But the idol said "no," through the priest, I suppose, so all he could do was to tether the cow to the idol's chair, and go home to feel very sorry and wonder whatever he could do without her. While he was sitting there, feeling and looking so sad, he heard a great shout in the street—he looked out and lo, and behold, there was his cow coming home as fast as she could dragging the idol after her! how glad the poor man was, and how all the people laughed. I expect he felt very thankful to the idol, for will you believe it he never once thought that the cow had

brought the idol—he thought the idol had brought the cow back to him, because he felt sorry for him! I think this is a sad story as well as a funny one. Can any of you tell me why?
COUSIN JOY.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I have been reading some of the letters from other Bands, and so take the liberty of opening a correspondence. Our Band is getting on fairly well considering the illness of our president, who has been confined to the house all winter. We highly value your little paper the PALM BRANCH, and are trying to get up a club of ten among the members of our Band, and hope for success. And now, not wishing to take up too much attention I will close, asking you to accept the best wishes of the Silver Stream Mission Band. Yours truly, JEAN ALLEN.

Yes, indeed, we accept your good wishes with pleasure.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I have begun to take the PALM BRANCH, and I like it very much. The answer for the numeral enigma is Sadie Spencer, and the mite-box is mentioned in St. Matthew, I think. Yours truly,
ADELAIDE GRAHAM,

Toronto, April 4th. 23 Macpherson Ave.

The answer to the enigma is right,—the mite-box you mean, Cousin Adelaide, I think you will find in Mark 12th and Luke 21st, but that was not the first. Glad to enrol you as a Cousin.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I send you my answer to the April puzzles in your delightful little corner.

ANSWERS TO APRIL PUZZLES.

Numeral Enigma,—Sadie Spencer.

Bible Query,—2nd Kings 12-9

LOUIE ROUSSEAU,
Hamilton, April 7th. 58 Vine St.

PUZZLES FOR MAY:

ENIGMA.

I am composed of twenty-three letters.

My 1, 10, 9, 4, is a vegetable growth on trees.

My 5, 6, 7, 8, a kind of engine.

My 3, 2, 11, is what we all should hate.

My 12, 13, 23, 18, is opinion.

My 14, 16, 17, 18, is found on the sea shore.

My 21, 22, 20, 19, 15, means wounds.

My whole forms the names of two of our missionaries. C. S. Wilsonville.

ENIGMA.

I am composed of thirteen letters.

My 6, 5, 7, 8, is a very gentle animal.

My 4, 10, 4, 5, is one of the first words lisped by a child.

My 1, 5, 9, 11, is a Scotch word for lake.

My 8, 9, 5, 11, 12, 2, is a part of a tree.

Ty 13, 3, 11, is a domestic fowl.

My whole is the name of a welcome visitor.

DOROTHY.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

CHENTU, CHINA.

PERHAPS it would interest some of the boys and girls of Canada to hear a little concerning the schools of China, and the contrast may help them more fully to appreciate their privileges.

In China there is no school system, and in the rural districts no schools. In the cities the Emperor, or some wealthy person, may pay the expenses of a few teachers, while all the other schools are private enterprises, the pupils paying a few hundred cash, (a cash equals about 12th of a cent) per month to the teacher.

Do not let that word "school" bring up before your minds the comfortable buildings you have at home; but imagine, if you can, a small room with a mud floor, paper instead of glass in the windows, no pictures, etc. to brighten the walls. Instead of fine desks and comfortable seats, small tables and benches without backs, and not a fire at any season of the year, and you have a fair picture of a Chinese school-room. That luxury of a fine play ground they also know nothing about.

And yet the children—boys principally because there are only a couple of girls' schools in this city of about 500,000 inhabitants—arrive there shortly after daylight and remain until dark, with an interval of a couple of hours for dinner. While passing along the street one will hear them studying, and there is no mistaking the sound, as all the pupils, of whom there are generally from 16 to 30, repeat the characters in the loudest tone possible, each one appearing to try who can shout the loudest. It is not necessary they should know the meaning of the character. To repeat it parrot-like is all that is required, and thus the memory is cultivated at the expense of the thinking and reasoning powers. Those branches which cultivate these powers are almost totally neglected. When the lesson is learned the pupils come up, one by one, to the teacher, turn their backs to him and repeat it as fast as possible, then make their bow and return to their seats.

Then, too, the dress of these children would seem very strange to a foreign child, particularly the mode of dressing the hair. As the head is shaved when the children are very young, while the hair is growing out you will see any number of queues on one head, while a round spot is kept shaved on the centre of the head. As they approach the age of 12 years the front of the boy's head is shaved and the hair is all gathered in one queue at the back, while girls' hair in front is allowed to grow and is all coiled at the back.

But the most pitiable sight is to see these little girls limping around on their poor bound feet, not able to run and play, and paining them so, at times, they can scarcely sit still. You little girls at home who are free to raise your feet at will, can scarcely conceive of the suffering some endure here.

Another thing the children of Canada know nothing about is what it would mean to be sold by their parents. A short time ago, on going in one of the school rooms, the face of a strange little girl was

noticed, and on making enquiries I was told she had been bought the evening before by one of the pupil's mother for 1000 cash, as the father was dead and the mother had nothing to give her to eat or wear. Hence she was sold as a little slave girl.

What can we, each and every one, do to make life somewhat brighter for these poor heathen children? They appreciate what is done for them. The mothers of some of the little girls asked that the mission schools be kept open during the summer, as the rooms were cooler and pleasanter than their homes. Would any little Canadian boy or girl like to be deprived of their vacation for this reason?

They readily learn our Christian books and thus the truths of the gospel are carried into the homes. And who can tell what the harvest may be? It is only ours to sow the seed and look to God for the increase. Do you not all want a share in the sowing of this seed?

S. BRACKBILL.

EXTRACTS OF A LETTER FROM
MRS. SPENCER.

Like my new home very much indeed, it is much more pleasant than living on the Coast. We have not the sudden rain here and "spongy" ground, but a clear, lovely climate, and walks over the hills in all directions. We had a long wait on the Coast before the water was low enough for travelling, but we did get started after a while.

The trip up was all I expected. I should not like to take it very often in a canoe, but I dare say it could be worse than we had, for on the whole, we had very fair weather, but I was glad enough when we reached this place. I find the people somewhat different from the Coast people, but I like them. The language is quite different, but I can find out words here and there that are familiar, and hope soon to be able to make myself understood. Indeed when alone with an Indian, I can make myself understood after a fashion now, but use a good many signs. The people are very anxious to learn. How earnestly they do study the Bible, but their minds are very, very dark yet. Their first real turning from heathenism was only last winter. That blessed work is still going on, souls are coming to Christ. In almost every service some souls decide. We hope the time is not far distant when the village, as a whole, shall turn from works of darkness to the Light of the world.

We have organized an Epworth League here—the people have taken hold of the idea, and it seems to work well.

To-day Mr. Spencer, with about twenty-five Indians, left for Kish-ca-gaas, a two days journey, walking—the only way to reach the place. That village is still in the darkest darkness, I trust this will be the turning point.

So I am all alone, the nearest white person ten miles from here—the nearest white lady thirty miles distant—but I do not fear—of course I feel lonely! *

My life is a busy one, almost too busy even to miss the mails * * * * *

Feb. 14th—We have had no mail from the outside world since October! It seems a long time to wait. It will be the end of April before we shall receive any, but otherwise I have quite enjoyed the winter here. The work has progressed well, and there are many things to encourage the workers.

Kishpiax, Upper Skeena, B. C.

Are we praying for our lonely missionaries?

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

EASTERN BRANCH.

Mrs. A. Lynch, Cor. Sec. of Mountain Street Mission Circle, Montreal, P. Que., writes: Our meetings have been very successful, the attendance has been large, and new members added at nearly every meeting. They have also been very interesting and helpful. The object for which we work is to support one girl in the "Chinese Rescue Home," Victoria, B. C. We made a very pretty and useful quilt, with the names of the officers and others who had collected toward it, worked in the centre, and at Xmas sent it to the Home for our "girl Martha," and received such a nice letter from her, telling us how she liked it, so we feel the Lord is blessing us in our efforts for His cause. We are taking 20 copies of PALM BRANCH and all appreciate the paper very much.

Fred. Pickering, Cor.-Sec., Vankleek Hill, writes:—Our Mission Band was organized Nov. 1st., and we are in a very flourishing condition. We have at present fifty members and hold our meetings every Sunday afternoon, in which all take a great interest. We are now studying the life of George McDougall. Our interest may be seen by the way in which our mite-boxes are filling up.

Mrs. Bigelow, of Cornwall, Ont., writes:—We organized a Mission Band here on Saturday, March 10th., with forty-five members. Very promising circumstances.

The Mission Band in Athens has been re-organized with a membership of twenty-two.

The quarterly report cards have not all been returned, but those heard from report interesting meetings and an increase in their membership. E. S. B.

Miss A. Hutchinson, Sec. of the Claremont "Happy Helpers" Mission Band writes:—We were organized last October with thirty-seven members, now we have about forty-seven. We had a self-denial week before Christmas, and at our January meeting each one told how they had denied themselves. These are some of the ways adopted. Two boys denied themselves the pleasure of going to an entertainment, several others did without butter, fruit, tea, coffee, meat, potatoes, pic, etc. All enjoyed the "self denial," and we are going to have another before Easter. There are as many boys in our Band as girls. Our organist is a boy, our Rec.-Sec. a young man. We take up the field studies each month. We cannot do much or give much, but we are glad to do what we can.

N. S. BAND NOTES.

Glad to report a new Band and also a new Circle. The former was organized Feb. 16th. with a membership of 18, and is called "Willing Workers." We hope soon to have more facts concerning the Circle, which was organized by members of Halifax West Auxiliary. A. F. B.

35 Carleton St., Halifax.

E. R. writes from Rose Bay, Lunenburg Co., Feb. 12th, 1895:—We would say to those, who as yet have not taken up this Band work, organize at once, and if there are only a few at first the number will increase. Our meetings are interesting and instructive. Each member is provided with a mite-box. One of our little members after hearing about the little Chinese girls, who have their feet bound, said to her mother, "I am so glad I ain't one of them little girls." Who else is thankful for a Christian land and home? Won't you help in this great work for our Master, and send the "bread of life" to those who are in darkness.

N. B. AND P. E. ISLAND BAND NOTES.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.—A very pleasant "At Home" was given by M.s. R. C. Goff, at her beautiful residence, Fitzroy street, on the 19th inst. About seventy invited guests were present, including several delegates who were in town attending the District Convention. The social evening was interspersed with lively speeches, readings and songs, all of which were very much enjoyed. But when the missionary supper was served merriment knew no bounds, and it would have made a Chinese weep to have seen that vast assembly endeavoring to use chop-sticks while eating swelled rice! Evidently, to all appearance, they were more at home with the cake and coffee. A collection, of course, followed, amounting to \$8.00. Mrs. Goff then kindly donated this offering to the funds of the Wesley Mission Circle.

On Friday, March 15th, Mrs. (Rev.) Lawson organized "The Loyal Worker's" Mission Band in the Methodist church, Montague. Twenty names were enrolled. Mrs. Lawson was elected Pres, and Miss Lottie Lawson, Cor.-Sec. Twelve copies of PALM BRANCH were subscribed for. The quarterly report cards have not all returned, but those received tell of progress and increased interest. I. T.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO N. B. & P. E. I. BANDS.

Some of the Bands, holding their meetings once a month, seem to think they are excluded from the Banner contest because *ten* meetings are required in *eight* months. Ten meetings, at which the regular routine of business is carried on, excluding meetings held simply for practice, entertainment etc. Only two extra meetings required, while as all regular meetings held during those months have to be reported, it will be readily seen that even with this disadvantage they will find it easier to make a high percentage than those holding their meetings once a fortnight. No one is excluded. We wish every Band to compete, every member to assist. A. D. T.