



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

Published Every Month.

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER, 1894.

VOL. I. No. 12.

Then and Now.

In the far past, the dim, prophetic ages,
 When this fair world was young,
 When truth was only uttered by the sages,
 Or by the poets sung,
 Men revelled in their fancy's weird creations,
 And in the starry skies
 They read the fate of empires and of nations
 And their own destinies.

But when the star appeared, whose glorious shining
 Showed where the Christ was born,
 Too pure and deep, beyond their strange divining,
 They turned from it with scorn;
 They would not see in that poor, lowly stranger
 The Christ that was to be.
 Nor the true secret, hidden in a manger,
 Of human destiny.

So the world spurned a heritage more royal
 Than earth could e'er confer,
 And only the few wise and truly loyal
 Brought gifts of gold and myrrh.

And still the star is shining and its glory
 Streams wide o'er all the earth,
 Still telling to our hearts the wondrous story
 Of that mysterious birth:
 Still luring to the goal, the opened portal,
 The promised Heaven to faith,
 No sleep eternal, but a life immortal,
 A life that smiles at death.

And do men yet despise, as in earth's morning,
 Their nobler destiny?
 Haste, haste the time when, grown too wise for
 scorning,
 A world shall bow its knee!

St. John. S. E. S.

Christmas Gifts.

Christine and Isabel were not sisters, although almost everybody called them so, for they lived together, and looked very much alike. Their eyes were just the same shade of blue; and their yellow

hair, brush it down as much as they would, turned up in just the same sort of curls over the head of each. They were not of the same age, though the birthday of each was the 22d of February, for Christine was born a year before Isabel. Grandpa sometimes said they were just as old as George Washington, but they knew that was only in fun. They live together, because Isabel's mother died when she was only two weeks old, and then her aunt, Christine's mother, took her home, and has taken care of her ever since. So the little cousins are just like sisters to each other.

This year they are very happy getting ready for Christmas; for when grandpa came to Thanksgiving he presented to each of the little girls a bright five-dollar gold piece. At first Isabel said she was always going to keep hers to remember grandpa by; but Christine said she should always remember grandpa without any gold piece, and she was going to spend hers for Christmas presents; and pretty soon Isabel decided to spend hers too. First each of them bought a five-cent blank-book; then they wrote in them the names of all their friends, beginning with father and mother; then they wrote against each name what they would like to give. This took a great deal of thought and planning, and there was a good deal of rubbing out and writing over; but finally against Mother, Christine had "A black silk dress," and Isabel, "A gold ring;" and against Father, Christine had "A dressing-gown with cord and tassels," and Isabel, "B." That meant barometer; for she had heard her father say he would like one, but she did not know how to spell it.

When they carried their books and read them to mamma, she smiled, and said they would need five hundred dollars, instead of five, to buy all the things they had written down. As they heard this, the

little girls looked very much troubled, but mother soon explained that their friends would value the gifts not for the money they cost, but for the love they showed. And she said she would go out with them next Saturday afternoon, and help them select such things as they could buy for five dollars. Then the children looked happy again.

"But," said their mother, "I do not see the name of your best friend here."

"Oh yes," said Isabel putting her arms around her neck, "we have not forgotten you dear mother; your name is first of all, but you know Christmas presents are secrets until the time comes."

"Oh yes," said mother, "I did not think I was forgotten; but I am not your very best friend, you know."

Then the children knew she meant the dear Lord Jesus, whose birthday Christmas means.

"But Jesus is in heaven," said Isabel. How can we give him a Christmas present?"

Christine said she knew how, for the last Bible verse she learned was, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." "That means," said she, "that money given to the poor and the heathen is just the same as given to Jesus."

"Then I think we ought to begin our Christmas presents with Jesus," said Isabel.

"I think so, too," said both Christine and mother.

So the children went away to write their books over again, and this time they began with something for "poor heathen children."

—*King's Messengers.*

My Offering.

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty winds made mean,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen—snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God! Heaven cannot hold Him
Or earth contain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away,
When He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him whom cherubim,
Worship night and day,
A breast full of milk,
And a manger full of hay,
Enough for Him whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What shall I give Him,
Poor as I am
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part
What I can, I give Him
Give my heart.

—Christina Rossetti.

The Promised King.

SUGGESTIONS.

Construct a ladder of some light wood, and cover it with gilt-paper. Place it upon the platform, with one end resting against the wall. On either side and back of the ladder, arrange evergreen trees, so that the upper end of it will be concealed by the branches. Seven rounds must be in sight! Above the trees place a large light with a reflector behind it, and a shade in front, so that the rays of light will be thrown directly upon the ladder.

Prepare seven strips of card board, 1½ in. wide, and 15½ in. long (these should be of the same length as the rounds of the ladder); cover one side with gilt paper, and have printed on them the following: "Good Tidings," (No. 1)—"Great Joy," (No. 2)—"To All People," (No. 3)—"A Saviour Born," (No. 4)—"On Earth Peace," (No. 5)—"Good-will To Men," (No. 6)—"Glory To God," (No. 7). The numbers should be placed on the back side of the cards, and each one will need two wire hooks, by which it may be attached to the round, which it is designed to conceal.

Mottoes, such as—"King of Glory," "King of kings," "Crown Him Lord of all," are appropriate; a crown and sceptre, cut from card-board, and covered with gilt paper or evergreen and flowers, placed upon the wall, above the light, will be a pretty addition to the decoration.

If preferred, this exercise can be used without the ladder, etc., any other appropriate decoration being substituted.

This exercise is arranged for 15 children, but it can be adapted to a larger or smaller number. To Nos. 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 14, the cards, already described, should be given, and placed upon the ladder, by the Superintendent at the time appointed: No. 1—"Good tidings," upon the lowest round, No. 2 next and so on.

To music, let the children march from their seats to the platform; when they have taken their places the music should cease. Immediately, from an adjoining room, singing should be faintly heard, and continued during this exercise. The children must speak loudly in order to be heard.

1st child, (listening).

"Hark! what mean those holy voices,
Sweetly sounding through the skies,
Sure th' angelic host rejoices;
Loudest hallelujah's rise."

2nd child.

"Listen to the wondrous story,
Which they chant in hymns of joy!"

3rd child.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them—Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings.

GOOD TIDINGS.

4th child.

"The angels now their wondrous tidings bring,
That tell the coming of their gracious King."
[Place card No. 1]

GREAT JOY.

5th

"I bring you good tidings of great joy."

6th child.

"Tidings full of greatest joy,
Joy eternal, full of gladness,
Joy which nothing can destroy."
[Place card No. 2]

TO ALL PEOPLE.

7th child.

And the Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before, the gospel unto Abraham, saying,—In thee shall all the nations be blessed.

8th child.

"Hear the tidings! A Deliverer
Comes to give the weary rest,
Through His birth shall every nation
Now and evermore be blessed."
[Place card No. 3]

A SAVIOUR BORN.

9th child.

Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

10th child.

"Sung with joy, 'tis Christmas morn,
Unto us a child is born;
Christ hath come on earth to dwell,
God with us—Emmanuel." [Place card No. 4]

ON EARTH PEACE.

11th child.

"O list, as sweetly sounds the glad refrain,
Peace now on earth begins her sacred reign!"
[Place card No. 5]

GOOD-WILL TO MEN.

12th child.

"And this Christmas time we're keeping
Brings to us remembrance sweet,
Of the Saviour's birthday blessed
And we, too, good will repeat." [Card No. 6]

GLORY TO GOD.

13th child.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men.

14th child.

"Thousand, thousand angels raise
Songs of glad triumphant praise;
Singing through the starry sky,
Glory be to God on high!" [Card No. 7]

15th child.

"O never hath sweeter message
Thrilled home to the hearts of men,
And the heavens themselves had never heard
A gladder choir till then—
For they sang that Christmas carol
That never on earth shall cease—
Glory to God in the Highest,
On earth good-will and peace."
Sing—Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

A Christmas Present for Jesus.

In drawing your attention to the decision of the Branch to urge all our Bards to hold a service and make a Christmas present to Jesus, we cannot do better than quote the words of "a loved worker."

"I wish I could make you feel to-day how much you owe to Jesus. How all that makes your Christmas a happy day—the pretty gifts, the Christmas dinner, the cheerful home, the loving friends, are yours, just because eighteen hundred and ninety-four years ago there lay in a manger of Bethlehem a little helpless babe; a babe just as helpless as your baby brother or sister, but whose tiny hands held, all unseen, the sceptre of the world, and whose coming meant, all unexpected, the redemption of the whole lost race of man. Oh, I wish I could make you feel what a blessing it is that you live in a land where He is known and worshipped. And then I wish I could show you the millions of other children who have no Christmas—no happy home—nothing that little children love—whose lives are sad and weary and hopeless. And this is not because Jesus does not love them as much as he loves you and does not want them to be as happy and glad as you are. O no, it is only because they do not know about Him. Wherever good men and women have gone, from these Christian lands, to tell the sweet story to these poor, wretched people, they have grown better. Their lives have taken on that brightness and gladness that only a knowledge of the love of Jesus and of the beautiful Heavenly home can give. And you can all help. Not one of you is too young to have a share in this glorious work. The Lord Jesus Christ is at his head and all who love Him are His helpers. You can each give a little money and you can each pray, pray for the heathen children and pray for the good missionaries who have gone to them."

In the old days the first fruits were brought to God. This is what we want now. Before we remember other friends whom we love and who have been kind to us, let us remember

"There is one above all others
Well deserves the name of Friend,"

and to Him must the first Christmas present be brought! Other friends may fail us, but this Friend never will.

"His love is as great as His power,
And neither knows measure nor end."

Palm Branch.

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N. E. SMITH, - - - EDITOR.

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MISS ANNIE L. OGDEN,
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Richmond Street, West,
Toronto, Ont.

DECEMBER, 1894.

We have come again to the last month of another year! We are standing on solemn ground. Another milestone of life is to be passed! Ere we pass it let each one ask the question, What have I done with this year which is about to be taken out of my life and story? Has it been spent for self or for God? Have I tried to please myself only, or have I sought to make this wide world just a little better because I have lived in it?

Our paper this month is largely made up of reports from Branch and Board. If this does not satisfy you please remember that your contributions would have made it better.

Contributions must be here by the 10th of the month, if we would make the "Field Study" available for the bands.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE!

Our year has now expired, the first year of the existence of the PALM BRANCH as our W. M. S. Band paper. Will our subscribers who began with the year—with the January number—and intend to renew it, please do so at once, before December 15th, that we may know how we stand.

After the first of the year subscriptions will only be taken quarterly, April, July and October.

You will see we have no "Field Study" this month. The reason is obvious. We wish to begin the year right, and have the January "Study" in the January number. We hope to have our paper issued in time to satisfy all the bands.

It was decided at Board meeting that PALM BRANCH should be 15cts. per single yearly copies, and 10cts. for clubs of 10 or more.

All subscribers not receiving paper regularly will please communicate with the Editor.

Will the new Corresponding Secretaries please send names and addresses?

Band Echoes from Branch.

On Monday, October 1st, a pleasant party of delegates, representing Auxiliaries and Bands of New Brunswick, met at Point du Chene to take the fine steamer "Northumberland" for P. E. Island where the annual meeting of the N. B. and P. E. I. Branch of the W. M. S. was about to be held.

After an agreeable passage across the Strait we landed at the pretty town of Summerside, where we were met and cordially greeted by the billeting committee who did their utmost to get us all comfortably settled in homes where we were most hospitably entertained.

I have said the pretty town of Summerside, but its beauty was only seen at rare intervals during the very few hours of sunshine vouchsafed us; for you must know that the rain, which so often dampens our zeal or tests our faith, on lesser Missionary occasions, came down with a will every day and hour of our stay; but for all that we had a good time!

* * * * *

There were sixty eight delegates altogether, I cannot tell you how many from bands, but enough to look after their interests, you may be sure. The reports from the various bands were very interesting, though many of them spoke of great difficulties in the work to be overcome, especially in country circuits, but on the whole the outlook is cheering and we shall look for still better things this year. The President's address was excellent, reviewing the work of the year, and showing need for greater zeal in the future. The Band Cor. Sec's report was as follows: 53 bands; 3 names fallen out; an increase of 5; 1,187 band members; increase 215; life members 32; increase 8; amount raised during the year \$1,332.88, increase \$5.08. The "discouraged workers" hour was ushered in by a very bright paper read by Mrs. Turner of Pownal, P. E. I. who is now your Band Cor. Sec. She and several other hopeful sisters made that hour one of encouragement instead. Their bright faces beamed a benediction. When one of them, after telling us of the anxiety she felt when most of her older members of a promising band went over to another organization, smilingly assured us "But we know it is all right, all for the best, for we can now turn our attention more fully to the little ones," a sympathetic laugh went round and we voted her a comforter. * * * * *

Band modes of work were discussed. One lady in

Frederick had offered money prizes for good attendance and Scripture verses, the money to go to the band.

The Talent system was discussed and approved. It had worked well in many bands.

Mite boxes had proved one of the very best means—a means of grace as well as of help to the funds.

There were two memorials, relating to bands prepared for Board. One, to enable a band having 40 members or raising \$100 to send a delegate to branch; another, to allow two smaller bands on country circuits on the same conditions to combine and send a delegate.

The devotional exercises were all helpful and impressive, as well as the consecration meeting, led by Mrs. Lawson. One of the devotional meetings was in the interests of Bands and Band leaders. Mrs. Dr. Johnson on that occasion spoke feelingly of the necessity and advantage of bringing the boys into the work, and the retiring Band Cor. Sec. Mrs. Howard, spoke hopeful and encouraging words. Where opportunity for testimony was given, many witnessed to the added power and joy that had come into their lives through this work.

The Editor of PALM BRANCH made a plea for it, showing that efforts must be doubled and redoubled before it can be called a success financially. This led to a discussion and we were glad to find our little paper so well appreciated. The President earnestly requested members to do all they could to increase the circulation.

Early in the meeting Miss Blackmore, our returned missionary, was introduced to us, also Mrs. Hart, as the Mother of Missionaries—she is the mother of Miss Sadie Hart, whom so many of us know and love, now Mrs. Spencer, but still a missionary to the Indians, and Miss Lizzie Hart, just returned from Japan on furlough. Another daughter is preparing to go out as medical missionary to China!

Miss Blackmore, who is already a favourite with us, gave us some interesting facts of the work in Japan. Told us about the Industrial school in Kanazawa, composed of girls whose fathers could not afford to support them while receiving instruction. The missionaries had therefore conceived the idea of making these girls self supporting, by taking orders for work—embroidery on silk and other materials. They also depended on Canadian friends to help them in their plan. Miss B. quickly sold all the samples she had brought. These girls had not only hitherto supported themselves, but saved a little of their money to send to China to help the work there, so they, in their turn, had become Missionaries.

All the public meetings were very interesting—

the first being a reception accorded us in the beautiful new church, in which we listened to fine, sweet music and kind greetings from ministers and people.

And last but not least came the Band public meeting, presided over by Mrs. Howard. The choir was composed of little girls, who sang very sweetly. Miss Blackmore told of her little girls in Japan. Mrs. Dr. Johnson, in well chosen words, presented the Branch to the delegate from Margate band, one of whose members, Miss Durant, had won it by her "Knowledge of our fields and workers." Another Island girl, Miss Large, had won our President's prize for learning the largest number of hymns in our "Hymnal."

So ended this pleasant and profitable Branch meeting. Next to be held in Sussex.

Band Echoes from Board.

I had the good fortune to be elected a delegate to the 13th annual meeting of the Board of Managers of our B. M. S. to be held in the town of Coburg Ont. Coburg is a beautiful town on the northern shore of Lake Ontario. I wish I could describe to you that lake as I saw it, on the last morning of my stay—the sun shining through the silver mist that overhung its blue waters—it remains a lovely picture on my memory.

Coburg has long been an educational centre, having till recently been the seat of Victoria College now transferred to Toronto.

Our first session was held in Division St. Church Tuesday, October 16th. Forty-five delegates responded to their names, 7 from the Maritime provinces; 1 from British Columbia. There were also 4 young ladies present—returned missionaries from Japan—home on furlough.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Gooderham of Toronto, ably assisted by her 1st Vice President Mrs. Dr. Carman of Bellville. The report read by our indefatigable Corresponding Secretary Mrs. Strachan, was most encouraging. It showed that we have 271 Mission Bands; a membership of 6,434; a total membership in one society of over 20,000. Think of it! Twenty thousand women and children in this Canada of ours, banded together! For what? That we may help those other women and children who are still groping in the dark; still suffering physical and mental torture because in their benighted land, they have never yet heard the joyful sound of the Christmas bell. We are helping them, but oh, how slow it seems, how much remains to be done. The Church has as yet, only sent out one Missionary to every 400,000 heathen! Suppose there was only one doctor in the

world to every 400,000 people, what would be the result? Who is responsible for this lack of enthusiasm? Am I? Are you?

The report from Japan was very encouraging. We have 3 boarding schools there. Two thirds of the girls are Christians. Many of them do good work in Sunday Schools and mothers' meetings. 20 of them go out every Sunday on Sunday School and evangelistic work. There are 30 Indian girls in the Port Simpson Home. Good work is being done in Dr. Bolton's Hospital by Miss Spence, our agent there. We are about sending another trained nurse there much needed. To show you that the secular education is not neglected, while the spiritual is cared for, I must tell you that the Indian girls in the Chilliwack Home recently, took the highest standing among the girls of British Columbia of any in that grade. I visited the French Institute while in Montreal and saw some of the good work being done there. It was Sunday afternoon and the Principal, Rev. Mr. Hall, was giving the International Sunday School lesson in French and English alternately, and the answers to his questions would have shamed some of our more highly favoured scholars. One third of the children there are from Roman Catholic families. They all looked bright and happy.

I cannot speak too highly of the ladies of Coburg. Besides the kind hospitality extended to us in their homes they gave us a delightful reception in the Church. One of the very best teas I ever had the good fortune to partake of. At the public meeting in the evening the Pastor presided and gave us many kind words. The meeting was addressed by three of the returned Missionaries:—Miss Blackmore, Miss Hargraves and Miss Nellie Hart of Ontario. One told us of the Industrial school in Kauawaza. Another of the good work among the soldiers in Kofu. All the addresses were interesting and showed that a good grand work was being done. Who knows the influence that will radiate from these five great centres in Japan where school and evangelistic work is being bravely carried on, amid difficulties and dangers, work that must tell, not only in time but in eternity. These young ladies seem to rally round Mrs. Largo and regard her as a mother. I was more and more convinced as I heard of her in connection with the work, that she is a grand woman and doing a grand work. May she long be spared to them and to the church in that foreign land. All the young ladies showed the effect of their five years' residence in Japan, and a resolution was passed that they should not be asked or urged to do any home work until they felt perfectly able to do it.

It was decided that a new Home should soon be opened up the Skeena River. This is where Miss

Sadie Hart, now Mrs. Spencer, has gone to make her home,—away from all white faces and all communication, even with home and friends, till the spring comes again. Let us pray for her. A grant was made to the Literature and Publication committee, which has done such good work, and Miss Ogden received a standing vote of thanks. Also Mrs. Dr. Parker and Mrs. Platt, for their services in Outlook and Onward. The Editor of PALM BRANCH was most kindly received. The receipts of the year amounted to over \$30,000, and appropriations were made to all work now on hand, beside new work. A new Medical Missionary, teacher and nurse are to be sent to China. Reports to be 10 cents and names of members continued.

What most struck a stranger at that meeting was the great amount of voluntary work being done—and well and methodically done—by the gifted women of the Board. Their hearts were in it and while they were doing so much for the work, the while they were doing great things for them. You could see it in their faces and hear it in the tones of their voices as they gave their noble testimony in the Thanksgiving meeting as to the personal benefit derived from it. This meeting was combined with a memorial service for Miss Hannah Lund, the dear young missionary whose loss is so deeply deplored, and for another who had been accepted for service here, but called up higher before she had entered upon it.

N. B. and P. E. I. Bands, Attention!

Will all the Cor. Sec'y's of Bands in above named Branch take note of the fact that the new Branch Cor. Sec. of Bands is Mrs. E. C. Turner, Pownal, P. E. I. This lady takes up the work with an enthusiastic heart and large experience in mission band work. I earnestly ask for her your hearty co-operation.

A. J. HOWARD.

[This introduction of our new Band Cor. Sec. by her esteemed predecessor should have been inserted last month but arrived a little too late. We take pleasure in giving it now and fully endorse it. Meantime Mrs. Turner has introduced herself.]

—Shall souls redeemed by Me refuse
To share my sorrow in their turn?
Or sin-forgiven, my gift abuse
Of peace with selfish unconcern?
Has saintly ease no pitying care?
Has faith no work, and love no prayer?
While sin remains and souls in darkness dwell,
Can heaven itself b. heaven, and look unmoved
on hell?

—Whittier.



Address.—Cousin Joy, 282 Princess St., St. John, N. B.

Luther's Cradle Hymn.

Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the sky
Looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing,
The baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus,
Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle
Till morning is nigh.

Now isn't that a sweet little hymn for any mother to sing to her baby boy or girl? How very close it seems to bring the dear Lord Jesus to us all, to think that He was once a little babe on this earth of ours. Your mother may not be very rich, but there isn't one amongst them all that has to put her dear little baby in the manger of a stable where the cattle are, because there is no room for it in the house. No room for the baby! Why baby has the best room in all the house. There is nothing in the house, nothing in the world too good for the baby.

"Stay by my cradle"

why of course He will stay by your cradle little darling, and let me whisper it dear little cousin,—if you are too big for the cradle or crib and have a little bed all by yourself now or share it with some little brother or sister and if you are just a little bit afraid in the dark (I used to be myself once and so know all about it) just remember that Jesus is close beside you too, though you do not see Him—smiling down upon you—and oh, such a smile! He grew up as we all grow up and went about doing good to the people and then He went to Heaven to get a beautiful Home ready for us if we have

learned to love Him very much and want to be with Him. While he was yet a little Babe the Shepherds sang His praises and the wise men brought Him gifts—we can sing His praises and we can bring Him gifts. Our gifts may be very small but if a heart full of love goes with them it is all He wants. He will accept them and they will go to tell other little children who have never yet heard of His great love for them.

Puzzle Drawer.

ANSWER TO OCTOBER PUZZLE,

M
B I N
B I S O N
M I S S I O N
N O I S E
N O E

We have been asked to explain this puzzle and therefore give the explanation in this way. As will be seen the answer is Mission.

And now the answer to November Puzzle comes from Miss Bessie L. Locke, of Summerhill, Toronto. Thank you, Bessie. "Shizuoka."

PUZZLES FOR DECEMBER.

ENIGMA.

My first is a treasure for mother to hold,
She counts it more value than silver or gold;
My second a word in itself very small
Is a word that we could not dispense with at all;
My third is a town in the far away East,
But the Bible has called it by no means the least;
My whole is the name of the One undefiled,
And should always be dear to the heart of a child.
Cousin Joy.

I am composed of 13 letters, My 9, 2, 7, 1, 6 2, is correct; my 8, 11, 12, 10, is a part of the body; my 2, 1, 9, is to tear; my 5, 11, 1, is a covering for the head; my 8, 13, 4, 12, 6, is a dividing line; my 7, 4, 5, 13 is one time; my whole is another name given to the Savior.
K.

Leaves from the Branches.

Dear Band Workers:—At our recent Branch meeting our attention was called to the need of making some special effort at Christmas time, by way of expressing our gratitude to our Heavenly Father for "His unspeakable gift"—the gift of His own Son. We wish, through the PALM BRANCH, to call your attention to this matter. All the blessings we enjoy, all the comforts of this present life come to us through this unspeakable gift. In no way can we better manifest our gratitude to God for His gift, than by presenting to Him our gifts, that may be the means of bringing to the little boys

and girls of heathendom a knowledge of God and of His Son. We should begin at once to make a preparation for a public Christmas service and if we find this beyond our ability, have a parlor service, and lovingly and prayerfully present our gifts to Jesus. Think the matter over and act upon the best promptings of your heart and make the coming festive season precious by adding to your treasure in Heaven.

IRENN TURNER.

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH.

In looking over the year's reports from our Bands one realizes how much there is that cannot be given in figures, nor yet in words. We believe the majority of our members have worked bravely the past year, although many could not show great results from their efforts. We are sure that all are determined to do their part toward making the amount raised this year, exceed, not only last year's, but that of any former year. May the efforts made be such as will not only increase our funds, but also our love for the Master, and our interest in carrying on His work.

Our new Bands for 1893-94 were as follows:—"Wayside Gleaners" Circle, Annapolis; "Golden Rule" Circle, Dartmouth; "Lone Star" Band, Bermuda; "Evangeline" Wolfville; "North Sydney" North Sydney, C. B.; "Jubilee" Sydney; "River Jordan" Jordan; and Barton and Lockport Bands. We hope to hear from all before long as we have not yet received names of the new Corresponding Secretaries, nor the names given the bands at the two last mentioned places.

The "Lone Star" band at Hamilton, Bermuda, received its name in consideration of the fact that it is the only mission band on the Islands. We cannot but hope that the name will before long cease to be appropriate. This band is composed of twenty-two members, and has, since its organization, contributed \$36.76 to our funds. The Cor. Sec'y writes.—"We take twelve copies of the PALM BRANCH," and cannot say too much in its favour."

"North Sydney" band organized by Miss Burns, Supt. of Cape Breton District, on July 6th 1894, holds fortnightly meetings, and has 26 members.

The "Golden Rule" circle of Dartmouth held a very successful entertainment and Floral Drill in June, and realized therefrom \$32. At their first meeting in Jan'y they numbered 10 and at the close of Branch year 32. Both this circle and "Buds of Promise" band, proved very helpful at time of Branch meeting.

We shall all be interested to hear something of the "Missionary Contest" which was carried on by the "Royal Workers" of Berwick, last summer.

We are glad to learn that the "Willing Helpers" of Hansport, who were idle some time, owing to unavoidable causes, were re-organized on July 7th with a membership of eleven.

"Cunningham" band, Canso, held a sale just before branch meeting, the proceeds of which amounted to \$23.33, but we regret that the affair was too late to be reported last year.

"Hillsburg" band, Bear River, was entertained recently by a "pay tea" at the home of Mrs. I. D. Vroom, a very pleasant evening was spent, a club for PALM BRANCH was started and about \$2.00 add-

ed to their treasury, ten cents being charged for tea.

It is with pleasure that we record the organization, since Branch, of "The King's Own" band, at Avondale. May it prove worthy of its name!

Will our workers kindly take notice that for the winter, the address of their Corresponding Secretary will be 35 Carleton St., Halifax.

A. F. BROWNHOOD

Nov. 3 1894.

COR. SEC.

TORONTO CONFERENCE BRANCH.

The action of the late General Conference at London, apportioned to our Branch the districts of Owen Sound and Uxbridge, which brings us the additions of a Circle and a Band in Owen Sound; a Band in Markdale; a Circle and a Band in Uxbridge, a Band in Stouffville and one in Unionville, 7 new Bands. Whitney District has been ceded to Bay of Quinte, by which we lose a Band in Claremont, and one of our fruitful workers Mrs. Geo. Browne, which we very deeply regret.

New Bands have been organized at West Toronto Junction, President Mrs. Jackson; at Weston, President Mrs. E. J. Irvine; at Woodford, President Miss L. Williams.

A very interesting and helpful meeting was held on one of the evenings of our Branch meeting, presided over by Miss McGuffin, it was an Open Conference of Mission Band workers. Difficulties encountered were stated, questions asked, and suggestions given as to modes of work. If District Conference for Mission Band workers to meet quarterly could be arranged for, they would surely be productive of much good.

A. M. B.

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

Wesley Mission band, Charlottetown, P. E. I. has now fully entered upon its year's work. With Mrs. (Rev.) Campbell as its efficient president, the members hope that this year will surpass all others in good work done for the Master. Subscribers to PALM BRANCH 40.

Acting upon a suggestion given at Branch, the president of the "Lavinia Clarke" mission band, Pownall, P. E. I. invited the members to her home one evening last week, tea was served and a social time was enjoyed by all. Three new members were enrolled and ten new subscribers were secured for PALM BRANCH.

I. TURNER, Cor.-Sec.

BAY OF QUINTE BRANCH.

The autumn work has secured to this Branch the following new Mission Bands: Springbrook, members 21, Miss O. Gunter, Pres., Miss E. Burkett, Cor. Sec.; Claremont, opens with 40 members, Mrs. Brown, Pres., Miss A. Hutchinson, Cor. Sec.; Hastings, lead with 27 members, Miss Daisy Jewett Pres., Miss Ida Granger, Cor. Sec. On Oct. 22, the Epworth League of Queen St. Church, Lindsay, organized a Mission Band with 28 members. They have selected the name "Wayside Gleaners." Miss Minnie Fees, Cor. Sec. Baltimore Junior Band, organized by Mrs. Wilson, will be known as the "Pansy" Mission Band in future, Mrs. (Rev.) Wilson, Pres., Miss Ethel Ball, Cor. Sec. The "Jubilee" Circle, Bridge St., Belleville, has been greatly energized by the interesting report of their delegate to Branch meeting. They have 71 annual and 7 life members, meet twice in the month.

M. G. H.