



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

OL. IV.

DECEMBER 1897.

No.12

CONSTANT CHRISTMAS.

BY PHILLIPS BROOKS.

The sky can still remember
The earliest Christmas morn,
When in the cold December
The Saviour Christ was born.

And still in darkness clouded,
And still in noonday light,
It feels its far depths crowded
With angels fair and bright.

No star unfolds its glory,
No trumpet wind is blown,
But tells the Christmas story
In music of its own.

No eager strife of mortals,
In busy field or town,
But sees the open portals
Through which the Christ came down

O never failing splendor!
O never silent song!
Still keep the green earth tender,
Still keep the grey earth strong.

Still keep the brave earth dreaming
Of deeds that shall be done,
While children's lives come streaming
Like sunbeams from the sun.

O angels sweet and splendid,
Throng in our hearts and sing
The wonders which attended
The coming of the King.

Till we too, boldly pressing
Where once the shepherds trod,
Climb Bethlehem's Hill of Blessing
And find the Son of God!

A DELEGATE'S EXPERIENCE.

DEAR COUSIN BESSIE:—I have had such a delightful experience lately, that I feel I want to tell you all about it. It seems such a funny thing for a little girl like me to be a delegate to a Missionary Convention—but such I was last month. One day at our Mission Band meeting our President, Miss Campbell, told us that the Woman's Missionary Society was going to hold a Convention in S——, a town a few miles away, and she wanted to appoint one of our Band members as delegate. Well, what do you think they did? They chose me. I was so delighted and excited about it, mamma said she was seriously afraid something would happen me before I got away, but nothing did, and Tuesday morning saw Miss Campbell and me safely on the train on our way to S——.

We went directly from the station to the church where the meeting was to be held, and found about one hundred ladies there before us. We were a little late and when we entered two ladies were conducting the opening devotional exercises. As I listened a great hush came over me for I felt there was One there whom we could not see.

There was a sweet-faced lady sitting behind a little table whom the ladies called "Madame President," and when the opening exercises were concluded, she asked the officers to come upon the platform. Then she brought forward and introduced such a dear, old lady, whom she said had at one time been President. She was so sweet I could not but think of my dear, old Grandmamma at home and wish I could see her. I would like to have gone up to the platform and kissed this dear, old lady, but of course this would not have been in keeping with the dignity of a delegate.

I wish you could have seen all those ladies sitting there so patiently for three whole days with paper and pencil, trying so hard to take in everything that was said. I had always thought that the ladies who attended these conventions were ladies who had nothing to do, like Mrs. Judge Burnham. But they all appeared to be hard-working women, like my own dear mamma, and they all did seem to love the missionary work so dearly. One afternoon they had an experience meeting, and it was very interesting to hear them tell how much good the Woman's Missionary Society had done them. Some said that before they joined the Society, they had been so taken up with self they had no time to think of anything else, but now they felt it to be a pleasure to deny themselves all they possibly could, to help forward this great work. I would have liked to have told how much I loved our Mission Band, but I felt ashamed when I thought how very little I had ever denied myself for it.

Of course the ladies talked about a great deal of business a little girl like me could not be expected to be interested in or understand. But some of these questions seemed to be of great importance, for often two or three of the ladies wanted to talk at once. But I can tell you whenever the word "Mission Band" was mentioned I was wide enough awake. Our dear Mission Band Cor.-Sec. gave such a nice report of the work all the Bands had been doing during the year, and of how much money had been raised. And Oh, Cousin Bessie! She made special mention of our own Band and told of some work we had done. I felt my cheeks getting so red that I was afraid people would notice me.

But what I liked the best of all the Convention was on Wednesday evening, when a real, live Missionary was introduced to us. She is a trained nurse in one of our Hospitals on the Pacific coast, and is just my idea of what a nurse should be. Her face is so pleasant and kind, and her hands looked so smooth and soft, I almost wished myself a little Indian girl so that I could have her wait on me when I am sick. But when I heard her tell of how few patients the hospital would hold, and that the Indians often came three hundred miles for treatment and medicine, I concluded that if I were a little Indian girl there would be no room for me among so many other sick ones, so I thanked God that I had been so fortunate as to be born in Ontario. She said that there was only our doctor and a doctor sent by another church in an area of one hundred thousand square miles. Why papa thinks it is terrible if he has to drive twenty miles to see a patient, and when I told him about Dr. Smith he just gave that peculiar whistle of his and never said a word, but I saw him drop something into my mite box afterwards. Then she told us how ignorant, degraded and superstitious the Indians were before they heard the blessed story of Jesus, and how changed they became when they learned to love Him. She said she had always been so kindly received by the people and allowed to read and pray with them, and when she told of how many of these poor

Indians there were who never yet had heard of Jesus, I felt that if God would allow me, when I grew to be a woman, I would so like to go and tell them of Jesus and His great love for them.

There is a great deal more I might tell you, but I think my letter is long enough. The very best wish I have for you is that some day you may be fortunate enough to be a delegate yourself.

Your loving Cousin,

A. C. W., Ontario.

MARGARET.

IN MEMORIAM.

Miss Jennie M. Ford, whose death on the Mission Field in China, has been so widely deplored, was born in Ontario, but, when very young, removed with her parents, first to Chicago and afterwards to Milwaukee.

She very early manifested those qualities which, from what may be called an inherited tendency toward the religious life, and this was cultivated in a Christian home and fostered by the influence of church and Sunday school. Small wonder that when but a child she consecrated herself to God and began the service of Jesus. The Seed of the word found fertile soil in her heart, and its growth was rapid and strong. Trials only seemed to make her Christian character more sturdy and stalwart. She was naturally of a studious disposition, and she became a diligent student of the Word of God. That word became the man of her counsel and the guide of her life. Her familiar acquaintance with it was the sword with which she repelled the darts of evil. She delighted in all forms of Christian work that came to hand, and in the choir, Sunday School and Epworth League, she was ever ready and always helpful.

It was while she was in London that her mind was strongly led out toward mission work, in which she had always manifested a keen interest. It was about that time that our medical mission in China was instituted, and a conversation she had with Dr. Hart, prior to his going out as head of that mission, decided her to offer herself and prepare for that work. In preparation for it she spent two years in the city hospitals in London, from which she graduated as professional nurse in the spring of 1894. In the autumn of that same year she hopefully bade good bye to loving friends, whom she would never see more on earth and set out for her distant mission field in Chentu, China. After a short two years of difficult, and arduous, and anxious toil, just as the first difficulties were being overcome and she was beginning to master the intricacies of the language, she was called home to be with God.

Across a channel of fierce and fiery pain—conscious of the pain but unconscious of the gentle ministrations of loving friendship that would fain have assuaged it, she passed to be glorified with Him whom she had served.

And so she lies in that far-away land, alien skies canopying her grave and strange flowers blooming about it to await the day when His own shall be gathered from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

[From the Paper read by Mrs. Strachan.]

IN LITTLE FACES.

"In little faces pinched with cold and hunger,
 Look, lest ye miss Him! In the wistful eyes,
 And on the mouths unfeared by mother kisses,
 Marred, bruised, and stained, His precious image lies!
 And when ye find Him in the midnight wild,
 Even in the likeness of an outcast child,
 O wise men, own your King!
 Before this cradle bring
 Your gold, to raise and bless,
 Your myrrh of tenderness!
 For, 'as ye do it unto these,' saith He,
 'Ye do it unto me!'"

FIELD STUDY FOR DECEMBER.

IN A NEW DRESS FOR THIS OCCASION.
 CHRISTMAS AND MEDICAL MISSIONS.

Two young girls enter; one with a branch of fir or evergreen in her hand, singing softly to herself one verse of "Crown Him Lord of all" or some other appropriate Christmas hymn. Another approaches her and says—

I.—"I suppose this is some of the Christmas decoration—it is always pretty and fresh, but I have sometimes wondered whether it had any meaning."

II.—"Why, yes, I suppose the use of the evergreen means that we are keeping the memory of this precious season fresh and green in our hearts and perhaps too, it is a fitting type of the mission of Him whose birth we celebrate."

III.—"Isaiah says the birth of Jesus Christ was the breaking forth of a root out of a dry ground, the beginning of a growth which shall cover the whole earth and make the wilderness and the desert place to be like a garden."

I.—"It is certain that Christmas season does encourage and cultivate kindly feeling, forgiveness of enemies, love to little children and a thousand other good impulses and emotions, but tell me, is it not because we know the story of the wonderful birth and the lessons taught us by the life and death of our Saviour?"

II.—"Of course it is! What meaning can the Christmas season have to those who know not the story of the Manger and the Cross? What meaning does it have to the nations who are sitting in darkness—the heathen nations?"

III.—"I'm afraid there are a good many in our own land who lose sight altogether of the meaning of Christmas and only think of it as a time for the giving and receiving of gifts, a time for family re-union and parties and social enjoyments."

II.—"Oh, if they leave Jesus out of the Christmas

season they leave out all the beauty and significance of it. He is the gift which gives value to all other gifts."

I.—"Yes, I know he came to give gifts unto men, but then they were spiritual gifts."

II.—"Not altogether. He opened blind eyes, you remember; He caused the lame to walk and the dumb to speak. He gave bread to the hungry multitude and cured the bodies as well as the souls of men."

III.—"It seems to me that in doing Medical Missionary work people are following Christ more fully than if they only took the Gospel to the heathen."

II.—"That is just what our Woman's Missionary Society is doing and they feel that the women and children have special claims upon them, for they suffer most from the ignorance of the native doctors who are not doctors at all, but only jugglers who practice tricks. It is awful to read about them."

I.—"Isn't it grand that so many young women have studied medicine and nursing, and gone out, even from our own land, prepared to minister to both soul and body?"

III.—"Yes, I read in the leaflet how, while patients are waiting in the Dispensary for their turn to come, the missionary always tells them about Jesus and points to Him as the great Physician."

I.—"Do you know the names of any who have gone from Canada?"

II.—"Dr. Gifford went in 1893—she soon married but did good service for us in China as Dr. Kilborn, till the riots came, and indeed since then. She withdraws from our work in February, but it was decided at the Board meeting to send another doctor and nurse soon to China. Miss Ford went out there in 1894, as a trained nurse, but alas, her work there is ended. Isn't it lovely that the orphanage she wanted so much is to be built there now and to be called 'The Jennie Ford Home?'"

III.—"Lovely indeed! and Dr. Maud Killam went from Nova Scotia last year and bids fair to do valuable service. Her letters are so interesting, as indeed all the Missionary letters are. Then there is Miss Foster!"

II.—"Miss Spence, too, has done grand work at Port Simpson Hospital, also Miss Lawrence and Miss Stevenson. Oh, they are a grand army of workers altogether!"

I.—"I think that idea of the other Candidates going into training in the Deaconess Home is a fine one, for they do say that they need to know a little of everything in a foreign land, so many emergencies arise."

II.—"Well, I should think so—and I tell you what, girls, they do need our prayers. I think so more and more every time I hear them speak. This work grows upon me."

III.—"I wish it would grow upon the whole church."

I.—"The Church would grow more if it had more of the Missionary spirit. That's what I think about it."

* PALM BRANCH *

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MISS S. E. SMITH,
 282 Princess Street,
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DECEMBER, 1897.



HE pretty town of Whitby, Ont., was more than usually astir the last week in the month of October, '97, because of the presence in its midst of fifty ladies from all the Provinces of the Dominion, representatives of the W. M. S. met to talk over the successes of the past year, and to plan new work for the future. The weather was all that could be desired, as was also the kind welcome given in hospitable homes, Church and town. Mrs. Strachan's report of the various mission fields was very interesting, and told of good work done by our faithful missionaries. The Home Report showed no lack of interest and zeal in our home workers. Total amount raised by Branches, Auxiliaries and Bands for last year, was \$36,455.32, an increase of \$8,731.18. There are 680 auxiliaries in the society—increase 17, there are 15,071 members, including 843 life members and 5,833 Band members. \$83.20 of this amount sent in by the Manitoba and North West Branch, was given through a little crippled boy, Herbie Bellamy, of the Moose Jaw Aux. He has no use of his hands and Mrs. Carcary showed a little letter written with his foot. We hope to be able to give this letter next month to the girls and boys of the Mission Band, and to tell them a little more about this dear boy who shows so much love for Jesus.

Wednesday an interesting memorial service was held by Mrs. Ross, and a tender sketch of Miss Jennie Ford's life, written by her Uncle, part of which we give in our pages this month, was read by Mrs. Strachan. The meeting adjourned somewhat earlier than usual, to admit of the acceptance of a kind invitation from Dr. Hare, Principal of the Ladies' College, to a reception within its hospitable walls, where two or three hours were delightfully spent. It was really

a delicious break in the midst of details and statistics, and fully appreciated. This College is beautifully situated and brilliantly lighted for this occasion made an imposing picture as we drove up to the door. We were escorted into various rooms and peeped into dormitories, in which, here and there, were groups of sunny-faced young girls. We much admired the home like aspect of the place. Then came an invitation to the dining-room, where little tables for four were invitingly set and a generous repast was served by teachers and pupils. Later on, choice music, consisting of sweet songs and fine organ and violin solos, was given by the young ladies. After pleasant speeches and mutual good wishes, the guests departed, well pleased with the entertainment.

In the Anniversary meeting, held in the evening, Miss Spence told of successful work done among the Indians, and of the improvement in their lives, and of work still to be done; and Miss Veasey told of Japan, of the encouragements and difficulties in that field. Both of these faithful missionaries, unconsciously to themselves, revealed their own great adaptability to the work. Let us not forget that they are at home for a much needed rest!

Miss Hattie Jost, of Nova Scotia, who has been some time in the Deaconess Home, was introduced to the Board, and carried the hearts of all with her, as she touchingly told of the way in which she had been led to devote herself to this blessed work. It was decided that she must go very soon, so as to reach Japan before Christmas. Let the prayers of all our young people go with her as she goes to that untried land and work. It was decided that a small Orphanage be built this year in Chentu, to be called "The Jennie Ford Home," and it was agreed to ask Mission Bands and Epworth Leagues to give a "Thank-offering" for the building of this Orphanage. A new Doctor and Nurse are to be sent, as soon as possible, to China. The petition against slavery and ill-treatment of Chinese girls, in British Columbia, is to be sent direct to the Government. The action of our Japan ladies, in opening up work in Nagano, was heartily approved.

In reference to Mission Circles and Bands being merged in Ep. Leagues, it was earnestly recommended that Circles and Bands maintain their identity and work as separate societies. Resolutions of good will and continued interest were sent Mrs. Gooderham and Mrs. Large, now in Japan. We give a part of one of the many Resolutions passed:

Resolved,—"That the thanks of this Board be given to Mrs. Gordon Wright, Editor of the W. M. S. department, of the *Outlook*; Miss Smith, Editor of THE PALM BRANCH; and to Miss Ogden, Sec.-Treasurer of the Literature and Publication Department, for their self-denying work and labor of love, during the past year."

A very happy Christmas to all our readers!

Do not forget that next month will be the beginning of the New Year. That is the time, for those who have not already done so, to subscribe for the PALM BRANCH.

CANON WILBERFORCE'S PRAYER.

Lord, for to-morrow and its needs
I do not pray ;
Keep me, my God, from stain of sin
Just for today.

Let me both diligently work
And truly pray ;
Let me be kind in word and deed,
Just for today.

Let me no wrong or idle word,
Unthinking say ;
Set Thou a seal upon my lips,
Just for today.

From Thy Commandments, gracious Lord,
May I not stray,
But faithful and obedient prove,
Just for today.

So, for to-morrow and its needs,
I do not pray,
But keep me, guide me, love me, Lord,
Just for today.

"THE LONGED-FOR LEADER."

CONTINUED FROM NOVEMBER NUMBER.

You must be a "Leader." It is not a leader's place to do all the work herself. It is hers to direct, suggest, plan, control. Therefore, every member of the Band can be utilized to further the success of the work. In its spiritual exercises, programmes, visiting, etc., each member can be made useful. Let the Leader arrange for her work and workers, previous to coming to the meeting, and except for the time and work spent in organizing, planning and directing, the carrying out of the work need not altogether devolve upon her. The members will feel all the more in love with and loyal to the cause, if they find they are needed for its advancement. But great care should be taken that the work be properly distributed, and to do this the Leader must know the members.

Therefore, be the *Friend* of each member in the Band. A child soon knows who cares for it. Your loving sympathy and helpfulness will soon win the heart of every member in the Band. It does not require great acts for you to prove your love to them. A visit, if one is ill ; a willing ear to listen to their troubles ; a kind word of advice or warning ; all will show that each individual is dear to your heart. And when you have won their confidence, respect and love, you will find willing feet to run with messages, ready hands to perform the tasks, loving hearts to sacrifice for the cause so dear to you all.

Let me here mention a few things that will help in the closing up of a successful year's work : Aim to have every member's fee paid as soon as possible after the beginning of the year ; keep the mite-box giving before the members—not that a few cents be placed in the box at the close of the year, but encourage them to small sacrifices on some true basis, such as that of the beautiful true story that comes into our Auxiliary this year. It will do you all good to know it.

In a dingy, back-room, without even the necessaries of life and none of its luxuries, sits a little crippled creature. Deformed from birth—without any power to use hands or feet—two bright eyes look out from a massive head, where, thank God, the reason is clear and bright to realize God's love and care for her. To this sister was given a mite-box. Some one now and then would give Nellie a cent for candy, for though a woman in years she is a child in many ways. She loves the bits of sweets, but some lady had told her of her heathen sisters far away, and she is bright enough to grasp the fact, that life without Christ would be sad indeed. What could poor Nellie do without the Saviour? So the poor trembling, shrunken hand drops the penny into the box, and each mite is a golden coin in the Master's sight. Sixty-seven golden coins ; they will soon be performing their mission. May we not hope great things from such a source? Only sixty-seven black coppers, but golden with the victory over self, that each represents ;

"Tis not what we give, but what we share.
For the gift without the giver is bare."

You, dear Leader, will strive to keep up the membership, by visitation, and enquiry after absent members. You need not always go yourself, your willing workers will often run on such an errand for you. Having your visiting committee, this work will be well and faithfully done.

Dear Band Leader, set apart for this year to be the Leader our cause has longed for, it means toil and self-sacrifice on your part, but the reward will be great, if, at the end of the year, you see God's blessing on your labors in the group of earnest, loyal, loving workers for Christ, whose toil and gifts are commensurate with their love.

How beautifully Whittier expresses the true, loving service :

Hands that open but to receive
Empty close. They only live
Richly, who can richly give.

Love that self-forgetful gives,
Sows surprise of ripened sheaves,
Late or soon his own receives.

In closing let me say, that, in order to make your Band a success for this one year, if it be possible, lay aside all that interferes with the devoting of yourself and time to that purpose. The failure of many is often due to overcrowded hands and minds.

The yoke is easy, and the burden is light for all who have with them the Christ of God. If He is thy Leader, Teacher, Friend, thou canst not help but be the Leader "beloved and longed for."

M. LOUISE D'ORSAY.

St. John, N. B, Sept. '97.



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

When Cousin Joy was at the Board meeting this year, she was very kindly entertained in a home where there was a dainty little twin girl, four years old, who had come on a visit to her Grandma. This little girl chanced to be out with a friend on a night which would have been very dark but for the shining of the stars. As she drew near home she looked up to the sky and said, "You may go in now, little stars, I see my Gran'ma's light." Wasn't she a dear little girl? She thought that all those bright little stars had come out in the sky just to see her safe home. And if they had, it would not have been the first time that a star had proved a guide.

Nearly nineteen hundred years ago, wise men followed a star which led them to the home of a little child—a home which after all was but "A manger full of hay," and yet the home of Him who was to be their King. Who was the little Child?

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I am a member of the "Day-spring" Mission Band. I take the PALM BRANCH, and find your Cosy Corner very interesting. I think I have found the answers to three of the October puzzles, 1st, Let brotherly love continue; 2nd, Come unto me and I will give you rest; 3rd, Lavinia Clarke. I am sending you a puzzle which I hope you will think worth publishing. Your loving Cousin,
Nappan, N. S. MINNIE BLENKHORN.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—As we have never written to you before, we thought we would write to you now. We belong to the Sunbeam Mission Band; we take THE PALM BRANCH and find it very interesting, especially the puzzle department. We think we have found the answers to the October puzzles, they are as follows: 1st, Gospel Senders Mission Band; 2nd, Arthur C. Borden; 3rd, Charlottetown.

Your loving Cousins,
LOUISE DURANT,
LUCRETIA DURANT.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I thought I would write you a letter. I belong to the Onward Mission Band, of Cornwall, P. E. I. I take THE PALM BRANCH, and like it very much. I think I have found the answers to some of the October puzzles. They are (Second) "Come unto me and I will give you rest." (Third) Lavinia Clarke. I think I will close,
Yours truly, MABEL DRAKE.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—We held a meeting of the Cheerful Toilers Mission Band, Sept. 6th., and elected our new officers for the coming year which are as follows: Mrs. Geo. Calhoun, President; Mrs. Chas. Hutchings, Vice-President; Lizzie White, Secretary; Annie Tyner, Assistant Secretary; Anna Cassidy, Cor-Secretary; May Johnston, Treasurer. We also take the PALM BRANCH and find it very interesting. Yours truly, ANNA E. CASSIDY, Cor.-Sec.

St. John.

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I belong to the May-flower Mission Band, of Bloomfield. I am a little girl, twelve years old. I got ten subscribers to THE PALM BRANCH. I take THE PALM BRANCH, and like it very much. I think I have found the answer to the first puzzle in the November PALM BRANCH, It is Gospel Senders Mission Band. I will now close. Your Cousin
Bloomfield, Car. Co. MYRTLE.

"He came to bring a glorious gift,
"Good will to men!" and why?
Because He loved us, Jesus came
For us to live and die.
Then sweet and long the angels' song
Again we raise on high."

DEAR COUSIN JOY:—I think I have found the answer to two of the puzzles for October; they are, Lavinia Clarke and "Come unto me and I will give you rest." I belong to the Loyal Workers Mission Band, Montague. We have 18 members. We had more last year but some of them have dropped off. Our youngest member is only four years. Our Band meets every second Friday after school. We take the PALM BRANCH and like it very much. Your loving Cousin,
SADIE MARTIN.

PUZZLES FOR DECEMBER.

I am composed of 19 letters,
My 2, 3, 13, 18, 6, the original pen.
My 4, 16, 5, is to be sick.
My 14, 1, 9, 10 is what we find on the shore.
My 8, 11, 12, 4, 17, a month.
My 19, is a vowel.
My whole is the names of two devout Jews, whom we have been studying about in our Sabbath Schools lately.
Charlottetown, MABEL.

I am composed of 16 letters,
My 8, 6, 2, is something precious.
My 11, 3, 4, 10, belongs to the fairies.
My 3, 13, 9, 2, is a very small particle.
My 7, 15, 13, 1, is a musical instrument.
My 8, 7, 5, 1, is a sticky substance.
My 16, 2, 12, 13, 14, is a not uncommon name.
My whole is one of the most sacred names given to our Saviour.

I am composed of 35 letters,
My 11, 14, 23, 7, is one of the seasons.
My 14, 13, 22, 5, 10, is a small passage.
My 16, 3, 33, 19, 34, is something we use every day.
My 12, 32, 24, 21, 15, is a musical instrument.
My 1, 5, 23, 18, 4, 10, is something good to eat.
My 26, 21, 34, 31, is something to hold flowers.
My 2, 6, 8, 14, 26, 27, is made of eight.
My 9, 14, 17, 21, is an exclamation.
My 20, 2, 21, 1, 27 is a boy's name.
My 35, 29, 25, 28, 29, 30, 33, means to that place.
My 13, is a consonant.
My whole is a proverb.
Nappan. LILLIAN BLAIR & NELLIE COATES,

THE PALM BRANCH.

HYMN.

Solo.—Children, can you truly tell,
Do you know the story well,
Every girl and every boy,
Why the angels sang for joy
|| On the Christmas morning ? ||

All.—Yes, we know the story well ;
Listen now, and hear us tell,
Every little girl and boy,
Why the angels sang for joy
|| On the Christmas morning. ||

Shepherds sat upon the ground,
Fleecy flocks lay scattered round,
When a brightness filled the sky,
And a song was heard on high
|| On the Christmas morning. ||

Joy and peace the angels sang,
Far the pleasant echoes rang,
Peace on earth, to men good will,
Hark ! the angels sing it still,
|| On the Christmas morning. ||

For a little babe this day
Cradled in a manger lay,
Born on earth our Lord to be
This the wondering angels see
|| On the Christmas morning. ||

The music may be obtained from W. H. Boner, 1102 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. Price fifteen cents.

[If the music cannot be obtained now, this would make a good dialogue for one large girl and two little girls and two little boys, or all girls, if preferred.]

LETTER FROM REV. W. J. KIRBY.

DEAR CHILDREN OF THE PALM BRANCH: I am writing on the fifth of November, and I am reminded that that is just twenty days from Thanksgiving Day—and that again just one month from Christmas Day, and that once more, one week from New Year's Day, and then don't forget to head your letters 1898.

Have you anything to be thankful for? "Why yes," I almost hear some child say, "I am thankful for Christmas Day." Well, why? "Because we always have a good time, plenty of fruit and candies, and presents, and lots of things." Well, is that all? I am thankful for what Christmas Day commemorates; thankful for a lovely little baby born on that day hundred of years ago.

It's true He had a very strange cradle, but he had a choir which came all the way from Heaven to sing about Him. He had a wonderful Star which guided some very wise men a long way across the desert to see Him, and worship Him. He was with the cattle in a stable, but such company as he had did not often come to see a little baby.

In our city a mother had three little babies come to her house at one time and every body wanted to see

these little triplets, but when one baby comes to our homes only a very few are anxious to come and see it. But here was a baby born, and very wise men, very good men, and even Angels, came to see and celebrate the event.

Now it appears to me that if there was so much interest taken in the little babe in Bethlehem it must have been an important event. I read in the Bible that "Angels desired to look into it," and then I think of what the great Apostle Paul said, "Great is the mystery of Godliness, God manifest in the flesh," then I think again that when they found a name for this baby it was a name which meant a good deal.

He was called "Jesus," and that means "Saviour," and explanation was given that He was called divine because He should save from sin. Then I notice He had another name, "Immanuel," and that was said to mean "God with us," and now I seem to hear somebody saying, "why, of course, Jesus was a Saviour and being God as well as man, He was able to save to the uttermost all that came unto God by Him."

Now I have it, I am thankful for Christmas because it celebrates the coming into this world of one who can save me from that awful thing, sin. All the time I am enjoying myself on Christmas day I want to remember that if Jesus had not come to our earth as our Saviour, we should not have had a Christmas day to be thankful for. While we thank God for this happy day, let us not forget there are millions of people who know nothing of Christmas day, because they know nothing of the One who was born to save.

A happy Christmas and a happy New Year to all the Mission Band children in the world.

Yours, &c.,
W. J. KIRBY.

A LADY.

RECITATION.

I know a lady in this land
Who carries a Chinese fan in her hand,
But in her heart does she carry a thought
Of her Chinese sister, who carefully wrought
The dainty, delicate silken toy,
For her to admire and enjoy?

This lady has on her parlor floor
A lovely rug, from Syrian shore;
Its figures are woven with curious art—
I wish that my lady had in her heart
One thought of love for those foreign homes,
Where the light of the gospel never comes.

To shield my lady from chilling draft,
Is a Japanese screen of curious craft.
She takes the comfort its presence gives,
But in her heart not one thought lives—
Not one little thought—ah, me! ah, me!
For the comfortless homes that lie over the sea.

My lady in gown of silk is arrayed,
The fabric soft was in India made.
Will she think of the country whence it came?
Will she make an offering in His name,
To send the perfect, heavenly dress,
The mantle of Christ's own righteousness,
To those who are poor and sad and forlorn,
To those who know not that Christ is born?

Edna A. Walker

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

Miss J.M. McGeary, Brantford, writes—Dear Miss Smith: At the Hamilton Conference Branch meeting, held last week in Guelph, a resolution was most unanimously carried, expressive of the appreciation in which your most efficient services as Editor of the Palm Branch are held by the officers and members of that Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society, and of the value of your paper to Band and Circle work. It was ordered, that I, as the newly elected Mission Band Corresponding Secretary for the Branch, forward this resolution of thanks to you, and at the same time assure you of the heartier sympathy and co-operation of this Branch this year.

The Prize Banner for increase in Circle or Band membership in our Branch was this year captured by the Woodstock Mission Circle, which, at the beginning of the year, had a membership of seven and reported eighty at the close, an increase of seventy-three! Mrs. Hoare, the President, said, in receiving the Banner, that it was only by persistent, continuous effort and hard work they achieved their success. I was also encouraged by receiving news of a new circle started at Nassagarvey, only three days after the Branch meeting. Mrs. Gayfer, our Recording Secretary and an indefatigable Band worker, read us a most helpful paper on "Suggestive Hints for Band Work" which, at the request of the Branch, will be printed in leaflet form, and which I am sure every Circle and Band or Junior League worker ought to have in their possession as soon as possible. Would you mind stating this through your paper, or rather, ask all such to be on the look-out for it, as soon as published.

MONTREAL BRANCH.

Miss E. S. Bailey, Cor. Sec. Mission Bands, writes—It is with much pleasure that I forward the enclosed copy of a resolution passed at the annual meeting of the Montreal Conference Branch, held in Cornwall, in October:

Resolved—That this Branch authorize the Cor. Sec. of Mission Bands to convey to Miss Smith, Editor of PALM BRANCH, their appreciation of the value of the PALM BRANCH, as an educational force among our young people. Carried unanimously.

BAY OF QUINTE BRANCH.

We are pleased to report a year of fair progress for the Circles and Bands of this Branch. Five new societies have been organized, two of which have not been reported in this paper, viz: Dalrymple and Courtice. The former remitted \$28.50 to Branch Treasurer, the latter \$29.00. Oshawa, Simcoe Street

Mission Band has the honor of being the Banner Band of the Branch, having contributed the largest amount to the funds of the Branch. Lindsay Excelsior Circle takes second place in this respect, and reports one new life-member, Miss Tillie Rogers. Albert College Mission Band takes third place in regard to finances, having returned \$52.00 to Treasurer. Tweed, Sunbeam, has done good work during the year, a number of conversions having taking place in the Band, the subjects of which are now taking part in prayer meetings. The President, Miss Eunice Wilson, is one of our new life-members. The latest and youngest life-member of the Branch is Miss Georgianna B. Walt, a baby girl of two months.

M. C. HAWLEY.

LONDON BRANCH.

Derwent, Ont.—On Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 29th, the Auxiliary of the Methodist Church, Derwent, held its annual meeting. One of the most interesting features of the meeting was the address given to the school children, who have recently formed a Mission Band, which is to be known as the Salem Mission Band. Mrs. Evans, of London, District Organizer, gave a pleasing and profitable address, and also ably questioned the children as to the duties of their several offices. Mrs. Boyd, of London, also entertained the little people for a short time, after which refreshments were served. Our officers are as follows: President, Maud Beattie; Vice-President, Edwin Hare; Secretary, Oliver McCallum; Treasurer, Ethel Dibb. The outlook for our Band is bright and promising, and we pray that we all may ever have the presence of the Divine Guide, and that we may do what God wills, to hasten the coming of our Master's Kingdom.

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

Mission Bands please take note: The basis of competition for the Banner this year will be the greatest increase of subscriptions to PALM BRANCH in proportion to the membership.

Question Drawer will be open next month—please take advantage of it.

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH.

The Lone Star Band, Bermuda, reports: The outlook for the coming year is promising. Quite a number of new members will probably join our band. The officers for 1897-'98, are: President, Mrs. A. A. Abell; Vice-President, Mrs. A. D. Hollis; Treasurer, Miss Rosie Moore; Rec.-Secretary, Miss Kittie Jones; Cor.-Secretary, Miss Ruby Siggins.

MARCIA B. BRAINE,
124 Tower Road, Halifax. Mission Band Sec'y.