



WE give you this month the thoughtful face of the beloved President of our Board, Mrs. W. E. Ross, of Montreal. Mrs. Ross is the worthy daughter of a worthy father—our late General Superintendent, Dr. John Williams. Many of you are personally acquainted with her, so there is no need of words to tell her worth. That she faithfully and most efficiently fills this high position accorded to her must be conceded by all her co-workers, but not the less do we she (and they too) need our sympathy and prayers in the arduous duties which will so soon devolve upon them. So much work to be done, such important decisions to be made, so much care in the appropriation of the funds raised—all these things need the wisdom which God alone can give. We cannot share the responsibility perhaps, but we can do a great deal. Why even the youngest Band member by diligence and faithfulness in her small share of the work can help on the whole Society.

By the way, somebody has whispered to us that it is hard to recognize in this dignified lady the once harum-scarum little girl who went flying in and out of a Methodist parsonage. So no one of our lively little Band members need despair of attaining the highest position in the gift of the Society.

THE SIGHT OF PRAYER:

An interesting story comes to us about two Zulu boys, one of whom was named Japheth. Mrs. Cowles, who writes about Vacation in Africa, says that Japheth was with them during the wonderful revival which blessed the boys' school at Amanzimtote last year. But he seemed utterly unmoved and very hard-hearted. The other boys were deeply interested, but Japheth was like stone, and he went off for a vacation in the same spirit. But to the amazement of his teachers, he came back at the end of his vacation full of love to the Saviour, and became instantly a leader in the prayer-meetings and foremost in all religious things. This spirit he showed through all the next term. Mrs. Cowles says that when she asked him what had wrought this change in him he replied:

"Last term, when the boys were all so happy, I felt nothing. I was like a stone; but during the vacation I worked in Durban, and Diamond (another boy from the school) and I roomed together and I heard Diamond pray. He did not talk to me; he just prayed, and it was his influence that changed me." Mrs. Cowles says that Diamond was a quiet, unpretentious boy who said little, but his life and faith in prayer did more



MRS. W. E. ROSS.

THE PALM BRANCH.

for Japheth than all the revival meetings and the exhortations of Christians. The coming into the Christian life of Japheth through the influence of Diamond's praying had a blessed effect upon Diamond himself, for he was so much delighted over the conversion of his comrade that he began to talk more and more about Christian things and came back full of fire and zeal, and thus brought a great blessing to the whole school.

Children, never be ashamed to pray, even before your comrades who do not care for such things. It may be that your prayers will do more than any number of sermons could do.—*Dayspring*.

AN OPENING EXERCISE.

[White Flag Drill for smaller children.]

Roll-Call and Offering (children with white flag carried over the shoulder march in to instrumental music, or singing, "We're Marching to Zion" One by one as they pass the collection plate their names are called and their offerings are made).

Prayer (with folded hands and closed eyes, and altogether in low voice):

Gladly now our gifts we bring
To our holy Saviour King,
Bless them, Lord, and let them be
Silent messengers for Thee.

Hymn.—"Brightly Gleams our Banner."
Drill.

Leader.—What is our call?

Children.—To send the Gospel.

Leader.—Who is our Captain.

Children.—The Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah lv: 4.

Leader.—What are our marching orders?

Children.—Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Leader.—What are we to teach and preach?

Children.—His word of command, the Bible.

Leader.—What is his promise to those who obey orders?

Children.—Lo! I am with you always.

Leader.—What armor shall we put on?

Children.—Eph. vi: 13-18.

Leader.—How shall we best serve Him?

Children.—Eph. vi: 6.

Motion exercise (descriptive of idols).

115 Psalm, 3-7 inclusive.

March (with waving flags) before settling down to the work of the meetings.

[Flags pure white, with the name of Jesus on them in red letters.]

M. U. WOOD.
—Over Sea and Land.

Have you got a brook in your little heart,
Where bashful flowers blow,
And blushing birds go down to drink
And shadows tremble so:

And nobody knows, so still it flows,
That any brook is there;
And yet your little draught of life
Is daily drunken there:

Then look out for the little brook in March,
When the rivers overflow,
And the snows come hurrying from the hills,
And the bridges often go

And later, in August it may be,
When the meadows parching lie,
Beware, lest this little brook of life
Some burning noon go dry.

EMILY DICKENSON.

A PRAYER:

ROBERT SOUTHEY.

Lord, thou art merciful as well as just,
Incline thine ear to me, a child of dust;
Not what I would; O Lord, I offer Thee

Alas, but what I can—
Father Almighty who hast made me man
And bade me look to Heaven, for Thou art there,
Accept my sacrifice and humble prayer;
Four things which are not in Thy treasury
I lay before Thee Lord with this petition—
My nothingness, my wants,
My sins and my contrition!

WHAT YOUNG WORKERS ARE DOING.

This is how two earnest young bands of workers earned money for the cause, as related by them in the *Junior Endeavor World*:

"To raise our money we gave an entertainment called 'An evening with the Flowers.' Twelve of the tallest Junior girls were each dressed as a single flower; and each flower represented a month of the year. As the girls passed, one by one, through the garden, which was made on the platform, they recited short verses referring to their flowers and months. Several small girls kneeling in the garden, holding paper pansies before their faces, were arranged in a pretty group to represent a pansy bed. The other Juniors sang in Choruses. Pretty songs relating to flowers were selected for these.

Suggested Programme for Mission Bands.—October.

Obtain Map of the World and Map of Japan.

1. Doxology.
2. Regular business.
3. Hymn 726, Methodist Hymnal.
4. Announce subject for study and prayer: "Japan, Corea, and Isles of the Sea.
5. Point out Japan, Corea and Isles of the Sea on map of the world, and name and point out the Mission Stations of our W. M. S. in Japan.
6. Talk by Leader on Matthew 25: 40, and all repeat the verse in concert.
7. Hymn 438, Methodist Hymnal.
8. Questions on Field Study, writing most important truths on Black-board.
9. Recitation—"So send I you," in Palm Branch, Feb'y, 1898.
10. Short prayer and the Benediction.

FIELD STUDY FOR OCTOBER.

"Japan, Corea and the Isles of the Sea."

Away west of us, across the rolling Pacific, four large islands and several smaller ones, so group themselves as to form a country in the shape of a new moon. This country we call "Japan," or "Land of the Rising Sun," but in their own language it is "Nippon" which means "Source of Light."

Although it is only since 1854 that we have known anything definite about this Empire, we must not suppose that it is a new country. Its history stretches in uninterrupted tale over 2,550 years, and the first ruler of the still reigning family was contemporary with Nebuchadnezzar. Since then there have been 123 rulers or Mikados in Japan, nine of whom have been women, and the present ruler can claim direct descent from the first Mikado. In olden times the Japanese were very long-lived and one Mikado is said to have lived 350 years. For six hundred years the gates of the Island were closed to all foreigners and it was only in 1854 that Commodore Perry forced an entrance into Japan. But when this people became convinced that they would be gainers by forming a treaty with the outside world, they threw open their doors to commerce and trade. Since then the advance of the country has been marvellous, and now there are few modern inventions which have not been introduced into this Island Empire.

With these came also the introduction of Christian Missions, and at the present time the outlook for Japan is more favorable than ever before. Still, in spite of the wave of Christianity which seems to have swept over this Empire, three-fourths of her people, 30,000,000, have never yet learned the Gospel story, and constantly the call comes to us for more workers.

It has been said that the civilization of a country can be easily judged by the condition of its women. The condition of a Japanese woman, viewed from the position of a Hindu or Chinese, has always been an elevated one, but from our stand-point, she is by no means to be envied. According to the Japanese, to obey one's father before marriage, one's husband after, and, if left a widow, one's eldest son, is to be a virtuous woman. Still, a little girl is nurtured and cared for as carefully as a little boy, and although her literary education may not extend as far, yet a Japanese woman of middle or high class is often well advanced in all useful and ornamental accomplishments. As the women have more influence in their homes, we can see that the evangelization of Japan can be soonest accomplished through the women and children.

In this respect our W. M. S. is doing a noble work. We have fifteen missionaries there, with boarding schools at Tokyo, Shidzuoka and Kofu, Orphanages in Tokyo and Kanazawa, and Industrial schools in the Kawakami and Daijime districts. The three boarding schools have 138 boarding and 93 day pupils, of whom 87 are attending class, five having been baptised this last year. Studies are carried on in both English and Japanese. Evangelistic teaching from house to house forms an important part of the work done in Japan, many being reached in this way that would not in any other. The King's Daughter school reaches out to sixty-four poor children who otherwise would receive no spiritual training. The two orphanages at Tokyo and Kanazawa shelter and train children until they are old enough to be apprenticed. There are now 29 being cared

for, whose tiny fingers work those dainty stitches in the Japanese embroidery we so much admire. Let us pray that their young hearts may receive the King of Kings as their Saviour and Redeemer.

Corea, "The Hermit Nation," one of the last to open its doors to civilization, remained secluded until 1882, when a treaty was made between it and the United States, opening its ports to Americans, and later, Great Britain and Germany formed like treaties. In size it is about twice as large as Ohio, with a population of 10,000,000. It pays tribute to Japan and China, but beyond that is not controlled by them. Most of the people are poor and ignorant, and the position of women is an inferior one, although they are not treated with such harshness as in some countries. Medical Missionaries have proved the most successful, the difficulty of mastering the language having proved a serious barrier in evangelistic work. However many missionaries can now preach in the Korean language and many conversions have been reported. Let us pray that this little country may soon be won for Christ.

In viewing the wonderful change that has been wrought in "The Isles of the Sea," we cannot but believe that prophecy has been fulfilled and that "Surely the Isles wait for me"—Is. 60. 9. Marvellous have been the results of the introduction of evangelizing power and today all the principal islands and groups of the Pacific, both North and South of the Equator, are under the direction of the Protestant Church. More than 300 islands of Eastern and Southern Polynesia have thrown away idolatry and its cruelties, and degraded cannibals have been transformed into men and women who are striving to follow the example of the pure and holy One. Surely what hath God wrought? Let us pray that all the inhabitants of these Isles may accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Master.

Ont.

A. C. M.

QUESTIONS FOR OCTOBER.

- Will you describe Japan?
- What is the history of Japan? How old is it?
- What is said of its rulers or Mikados?
- In what year were its gates opened to foreigners? Who forced an entrance?
- What did the Japanese then see, what did they do, and what was the consequence?
- What is the outlook for Japan now, and why?
- What proportion of the people have never heard the Gospel story, and what call comes to us?
- What has been said of the civilization of a country?
- What is the condition of a Japanese woman from a Chinese or Hindu standpoint? From ours?
- Give reasons for seeing that the country may become Christian through the women and children?
- Will you tell about the work of our W. M. S. there? How many missionaries?
- Are there any Christians among the scholars?
- What languages do the scholars study? Any Evangelistic work done there in Japan?
- What is said of the King's Daughters' school?
- What of the Orphanages in Tokyo and Kanazawa?
- What is said of Corea? What treaties were formed, and when?
- What is the size of Corea? What its population, and to what does it pay tribute?
- What is the condition of the people? Of the women?
- Which form of Missionary work is most successful, and why?
- Have there been any spiritual results?
- What change in the Isles of the Sea?
- What islands have thrown away idolatry and cannibalism?
- For what must we pray?

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER, 1899.

E have now come to the close of the Missionary year, and on looking over the record of the work done by our faithful workers abroad, we cannot but feel that by God's grace much has been wrought.

The Aug.-Sept. leaflet is one which will well repay a careful reading. And it is not only the work done, the results of which can never be really tabulated, that strikes us most forcibly as we rise from a perusal of its pages, but the fine spirit of our brave young missionaries. Hear Dr. Maud Killam as she talks to us from out her far-off Chinese surroundings:

"It is such a privilege to be out here for the Master. For the 'Master' turns the hardest duties into pleasure, because he has done so much for us. And whenever He asks me to be or do He says, 'Lo I am with you.' It is so comforting that the dear members at home remember us in prayer, for we do need it, lest some of this darkness about us should stealthily creep into our own souls. The communion with our Heavenly Father is our safeguard."

And listen to Miss Maud Sifton, who speaks to us from the distant field of Japan:

"Looking back over the few months which I have spent in the work at Kanazawa, I feel that there is great reason for thankfulness and encouragement. Our Heavenly Father's presence has been with us, and, by His guidance and help, service has been made easy, and has been a constant source of delight and blessing."

And this is the spirit of all our dear Missionaries—it is the very spirit of the Master—difficulties and discouragements have been and will continue to be, all along the way, but these workers are in "the secret of the Lord"—they live in a higher atmosphere—they are doing his will.

They are comforted because remembered by the home workers in prayer. Yes, and they shall so be comforted. But in return do they not comfort the home workers? Why here are little bits of heart sunshine in China and Japan reflected all the way back to Canada! Have they not a warming and comforting reflex influence?

This, from Miss Alcorn (in July No.), strikes us as really

pathetic and well worthy of consideration. Can we disregard such an appeal?

It is hard for the home friends to realize what a barrier the language is to us in our work. There are times when we feel we must speak, but cannot. We take great pleasure in the gradual growth of our knowledge: first recognizing a few familiar words; then understanding a little of the conversation around us; and, last of all, our own attempts at speaking. This last stage is oftentimes very perplexing. When we can speak a few words the people think we understand all they say, and talk freely to us. We are helpless, and any little pride which may have followed our first attempt is banished at once. Will the home friends—whose faithful prayers daily ascend on our behalf—add this petition: "That they may be helped in the study of the language." The promise to acquire it is a gift promised to the messengers of Christ—not without effort on our part—but none the less to be prayed for in a very special manner.

Our Missionaries come and go. Some back to the home land for rest and refreshment after years of earnest, patient labor, and others to new scenes and work, or, perhaps harder still, viewed in the light of a second parting from home and friends, to renewed efforts in the mission fields. All these command our interest, our sympathy and our prayers.

Miss Brackbill returned in April from Chen-tu, Western China, "the Riot districts," to recruit her exhausted energies at home, but she hopes to go back again before long to her loved work.

Miss Munro, Principal of our Girl's school in Azabu, Tokyo, Japan, came home in July in "broken health," after a second term of service—perfect rest is enjoined during the year.

Miss Belton just arrived home tired, and worn, believes that perfect rest and quiet for months will restore her wasted energies.

Miss Preston, we trust, will soon be welcomed home by her aged parents, who must long to see her after so many varied experiences in a foreign land.

Mrs. Snider takes Mrs. Bowes' place in the Chinese Home—Miss Crombie leaves for her second term of valued service in Japan and Dr. Henry and Miss Benniston are under appointment for China.

The work is great, the laborers are few—who will join the ranks of this army of the Lord?

One of our Band Cor. Secretaries has kindly called attention to the beginning of the new Missionary year as a good time in which to subscribe for Palm Branch. We heartily endorse this idea. Please make up your minds right away to take the paper. You will be sorry if you do not, as it is going to be a help next year,—our idea is to have a uniform study for Bands.

LEAFLET GLEANINGS.

MISS CLARKE, Crosby Girls' Home, Port Simpson, B. C., tells of Emma Taylor, a little Indian girl, who died of consumption, May 23rd:—

She was always a reticent, nervous child, difficult to hold conversation with, but she left a clear testimony of her love for Jesus and her hope of heaven. The last Sunday she attended Sunday-school, Miss Elliott was speaking to her class of the great desire she had that they should all love Jesus. Much to Miss Elliott's surprise, Emma spoke up and said, "I love Jesus." The surprise was not that the child loved Jesus, but that she found courage to say so. The last day she lived, while very weak and suffering very much, Miss Elliot visited her and expressing her gladness over her testimony that Sunday, asked her if she could still say the same. With a smile, she answered, "Yes." Miss Elliot went on to speak of heaven and to tell her the inhabitants know neither pain nor sorrow, when Emma added, "They neither hunger nor thirst." Emma was eleven and had been in the home less than two years. Her knowledge of English was limited, as she knew scarcely a word when she entered, still she had listened to God's Word and learned its meaning.

Sunday, May 21st, was celebrated as Children's Day, which is kept at this early date so that the Indians may benefit by the exercises. As it was, some had already gone to the fishing, still enough were left to make a large congregation. Flowers were not very plentiful, but sufficient were found to decorate prettily and provide a button-hole bouquet each for nearly all who came. A written text of Scripture was offered with each bouquet. The exercises consisted of a review service with singing interspersed, and a Scripture exercise called "The Water of Life," by eleven girls and five boys. They sang together at its close, "Shall we gather at the river," more sweetly than I remember ever hearing it sung. Mr. Richards, as superintendent, conducted the service, and Mrs. Dudoward, with the help of the picture roll, explained the Sunday-school lessons to the people in their own language. The service was most interesting, and the children did their part so well, one could hardly imagine how they could have done better.

From MISS MORGAN, Chinese Home, Victoria, B. C., June 29th, 1899

On the evening of June 5th, in the "Home," Elsie was married by Rev. J. C. Speer, before an audience of about twenty-two English and Chinese friends. The room was prettily decorated, and the bride looked quite charming in a simple white muslin, the gift of the groom, Peter Choro.

Bessie (Ah Ho) and Mr. Chan Fui stood up with them and everything passed off very pleasantly. Both English and Chinese friends were very kind in giving the bride and groom pretty and useful presents. The home is just two

blocks north of us, and Elsie is here every day. She and Peter are happy together and we are hoping she will settle down and be a sensible little woman. Before her wedding she asked to be baptized, but I did not think she was prepared to take that step.

MISS MORGAN also says:

Will you kindly remember at your prayer-meetings some of my women in Chinatown. I believe one is seriously thinking of becoming a follower of Christ. She and her husband have both had long talks with me. He has one of the worst gambling dens in Chinatown, but nothing is too hard for our Father to do.

MISS IDA SIFTON, of Kanazawa, writes:

I enjoy the work among the children so much. If they can only be reached and led to a knowledge of the Gospel of Christ before their minds are filled with erroneous beliefs, it cannot fail to have good and lasting results, for we have the assurance, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void."

There is a large Normal School just across the street from our home, and as day after day I see the young teachers in training around the school, and the hundreds of little children playing about the yard, I long for a chance of making their acquaintance and of seeing them brought under Christian influence. The authorities of the school, however, do not approve of the students having anything to do with Christianity, so we can only pray and wait. We are gradually gaining a little ground, as we have made the acquaintance of three of the teachers, and have entertained them in our home. Some of the children have also visited us. We find it a great help to make the little ones welcome at our home. Not only are we able to lead them to the Sunday-school after winning their confidence, but their friendship makes it possible for us to reach many homes to which we would otherwise have no entrance.

The more I see of the work among the women, and so get a knowledge of their superstitions and false beliefs, and find how very difficult it is to replace them by the truths of the Gospel, the greater do I feel the necessity for reaching the children.

MEDICAL WORK.

From DR. MAUD KILLAM, Chentu, March 5th, 1899.

We have eight or nine patients three times a week. Their diseases may be classed under minor surgery and skin diseases almost wholly. Several have had diseased bound feet.

Some of the women are exceedingly brave in bearing pain, much more so than is ordinarily seen at home. Why so, I do not know, unless it is that they are less nervous and know less about themselves and methods of treatment.

I have made a few calls out to homes. One was to a very pleasant place and among very pleasant women.

I was not able to talk directly about the Gospel very much in that house, but tried to interest them by a word or two now and then, and by singing for them. It was mission work, however, to just be pleasant with them and to break down prejudice. I do pray that God will yet lead them to Himself.



Address—COUSIN JOY, 232 Princeps Street, St. John, N. B.

Dear Cousins, Do you want to learn the Secret of Happiness?

There is a certain old lady who lives in a little old house, with very little in it to make her comfortable. She is rather deaf, and she cannot see very well either. Her hands and feet are all out of shape and full of pain because of her rheumatism. But in spite of all this, you will find her full of sunshine, and as cheery as a robin in June, and it does one good to see her. I found out one day what keeps her so cheerful.

"When I was a child," she said. "my mother taught me every morning, before I got out of bed, to thank God for every good thing that I could think of which he had given me — for a comfortable bed, for each article of clothing, for my breakfast, for a pleasant home, for my friends, and for all my blessings, calling each day by name; and so I began every day with a heart full of praise to God for all he has done and is doing for me."

Here is a secret then of a happy life — this having one's heart full of praise; and when we do as this dear little old lady does, that is, count our blessings every day, in a spirit of thanksgiving for them, we shall find many reasons why we should praise God — *Buffalo Christian Advocate*.

It is easy to see that the dear Cousins are away (many of them, we hope) on their holidays. We judge so because so few letters have reached us and so many puzzles remain unanswered. But that will be all right when they come home again and settle down to books and work, better and happier for the good time they have had. I hope they will all enjoy the season as much as Polly — Here is her letter:

Dear Cousin Joy,—I am so happy! I'm just having a lovely time in the country. No lessons to learn — nothing to do but enjoy myself, and I know how to do that. The sunshine is so bright and the grass so green and everything so beautiful. I think God has given us a lovely world to live in. Don't you?
Your loving cousin,
N. S. POLLY.

[Yes, indeed, Cousin Polly, and if earth is so beautiful what will Heaven be? You say you are learning no lessons — not from books perhaps, but from all the lovely things you see and hear you must be learning lessons — perhaps you can tell us some of them by and by.]

Dear Cousin Joy—Our Band is still increasing in membership, we have 28 members. We have lost our beloved Mrs. Deinstadt who took so much interest in us, but under the leadership of Miss Smith, of Berwick, I trust we shall do very well. I will send you what I think are the answers to Mr. Kirby's questions, which he said we could answer if we liked. 1st Jacob; Gen 32d Chap, from 24th to 30th verses. 2nd—Benaiah; 2nd Samuel, 23rd Chap., 20th verse. 3rd—The love of money is the root of all evil. 4th—Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, etc., etc.; Eccles 12th Chap, 1st verse.

If these are not the right answers I wish Mr. Kirby or someone else will tell us the correct ones. I guess Mr. Kirby wanted to give us an inspiration to search the Bible when he offered the prize.

From your loving cousin,

Snider Mt

EDNA A. KEIRSTEAD.

MISSIONARY PENNIES.

Where did my pennies come from?
Let me count them—one, two, three, four.
"One" is for always remembering
To shut the pantry door;
"Two" is for minding the baby—
Our dear, little, cunning Ted;
"Three" is for not interrupting
What the grown-up people said;
"Four" is what Uncle John gave me
When I bumped me and didn't cry—
If some of you think it was easy,
I only wish you would try.

What shall I do with my pennies?
There are candies and toys, I know.
And the children can always tell
How quickly the pennies go.
But this mite-box seems always saying,
"Give your pennies to me, my dear,
And send them across the ocean,
That the heathen God's word may hear."
I know they are only pennies;
Now they are few and small;
But I'll send a wee prayer along with them,
And the mite-box shall have them all — *Exchange*.

PUZZLES FOR SEPTEMBER.

I am composed of 31 letters.
My 31, 21, 22, 14, is what we can all mostly do.
My 14, 15, 16, is the only one we all should worship.
My 17, 21, 16, 6, is something we all love to do
My 7, 25, 21, 16, 8, is something wrong.
My 14, 29, 28, 10, 11, is a girl's name.
My 2, 9, 4, is something we do every day.
My 1, 6 3, what we usually see in an empty house.
My 5, 8, is a pronoun.
My 25, 23, 24, 22, 16, is what the world is.
My 13, 20, 27, 30, what we stand on.
My 26, 9, 19, 19, part of a house.
My 12, 18, 30, is not in.
My whole is what every one of us should do.
Fred'n.

KATHLEEN.

Have you had a Birthday Party in your Mission Circle when each child brought as an offering as many pennies as it was years old? Then now you can try a "Height Party," each one who is below a certain height (say forty inches) bringing five cents, and every one measuring more giving a cent additional for each inch over that.

EDITH'S MISSIONARY DAY.

"I'm going to be a missionary."

It was Edith's gentle voice that said that, when a lull came in the other voices. The children were all in grandma's room, having their go-to-bed talk. Grandma's white head gleamed among the little tousled, dark ones, and now and then grandma's low voice found a bit of a chink to creep into. Then it always said something worth while.

"A missionary, dearie?" she said now, peering into Edith's sober little face.

"Yes'm, truly honest, grandma; I decided that long ago, when I was little. I'm going to be a missionary like Aunt Faith. But it's such a long time to wait. I'm afraid all the heathen will be gone. How-old must I be, grandma?"

"To be a missionary? Why, let me see — about eight years old, dearie, I should think."

"Why — ee!"

All the children joined in the exclamation. All the little faces gazed at grandma in astonishment.

"Why, I'm eight *now!*"

"She's most quarter past," added Ned correctly.

"Then, dearie, you can be a missionary now. You needn't wait any longer."

Edith's mouth made up into another round "O!" but straightened again into its ordinary lines, for she suddenly understood what grandma meant.

"Yes'm," she murmured softly; "but it's too late to-night, grandma, anyway."

"Then begin to-morrow morning, dearie," grandma said quietly; but she got Edith's little brown hand into hers a minute, and squeezed it encouragingly.

Hannah came then and took them all off to bed.

Edith, curled in her little bed beside Bunch o' Mischief, dreamed she was in far-away China, teaching little Chinese girls to read the Bible. They made a great deal of noise, and kept pounding her with their fists — or, was it Bunch o' Mischief? Why, yes!

Edith opened her eyes, and there was Bunch o' Mischief trying to wake her up forcibly. It made Edith cross. "You naughty, naugh — ty baby!" she mumbled sleepily.

"Tell me a stoly! tell me a stoly!" coaxed Bunch o' Mischief. "'Bout how the mulley cow jumped over the moo — oon. Begin it quick! hurry!"

"No, I sha'n't eith —" but Edith stopped there. Would it be being a missionary to try to keep her eyes open, and tell the moon story? She was so sleepy, and the moon story was so silly; but —

"Well, once upon a time there was a brindle cow," she began bravely, "who — wh — oo — o." She was drowsing off already, but Bunch o' Mischief's hard little fists brought her back to consciousness. Then she sat up in bed and

told the moon story once, twice, three times, patiently. After that "Little Red Riding Hood" and the "Jack and Bean Stalk" story filled up all the time until the getting-up bell rang.

"I've begun; I *think* I have," Edith whispered to grandma on the way downstairs to breakfast.

Nora had a headache, and Edith washed the silver and glasses for her. That really seemed like being a missionary; for Nora lived in China; and, if it wasn't the right China, it didn't matter so very much. Hearing Bunch o' Mischief's letters seemed like missionary work too; for Edith heard them out of the Bible, and made believe she was teaching a little heathen (Bunch o' Mischief was *most* a little heathen sometimes) to read.

But the other things, the reading to the old black auntie and weeding the poppies — O dear! missionaries never did those; and if they did, it was not any fun. But Edith persevered stanchly. When it was time to go to bed she crept into grandma's lap, and cuddled happily against the dear, soft shoulder.

"It isn't as much *fun* as I thought, grandma," she whispered; "but it leaves a good taste in my mouth."

And grandma only kissed the tired little face, but the kisses talked to Edith very plainly.

ANNIE HAMILTON DONNELL in C. M. F.

OUR BABY.

Have you heard about our baby,
Our wee bit blossom girl?
I think if you could see her
Blue eyes and teeth of pearl,
The dimples in her rosy cheeks,
And hear her baby glee,
You would not wonder that we think
A sweeter cannot be.

God sent her when His flowers
Brightened the earth in June,
The robins and the bluebirds
Were all just then in tune;
She's had a birthday since she came,
And more and more we love
This birdling in our dear home nest,
Our little cooing dove!

I've heard of far-off countries
All bright with birds and flowers,
Where baby sisters are not loved
Tho' most as sweet as ours.
"She's nothing but a girl," they say,
"We're sorry that she came—
We're proud of baby boys, but girls
Are scarcely worth a name."

Such hearts are very dark and hard.
Because they've never known
The Saviour who has blessed our homes,
And can make them like His own.
What if our baby lived with them
As their heathen children do;
How can I bear to think of it?
She'd be a heathen, too!

O children! happy children!
Little boys and girls who know
That Jesus came to save us all,
Have we told the heathen so?
Didnt He leave His love for them,
Didnt He call them too?
I want to send some one to take
This happy news, don't you?

—Over Sea and Land. H. M. J.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

Bay of Quinte Branch.

Howard MacPhee, Cor. Sec., sends us a very excellent report of the Atherley Mission Band.

The Atherley Mission Band was organized one year ago, on May 8th, 1898, by our pastor's wife, Mrs. H. H. Buckler, with a membership of 20. We have now 22 members on the roll with on average attendance of 12. During the year we have held 24 meetings, Missionary and Temperance alternate—meeting on the afternoon of every second Saturday. We have had three elections of officers, that has enabled nearly every member to hold an official position in the Band.

The Flower and Fruit Committee have done excellent work, this department belonging chiefly to the very little children—25 Scripture texts accompanied by flowers and fruit have been sent to the sick. We take 11 Palm Branches and follow the Field Study.

Our Easter offering for the Japanese work amounted to \$2.50. In all, our Mission Band has raised \$7.25. We hope to do greater things for the Master in the future.

Have collected over 1,000 used stamps.

At the last meeting when our pastor's wife, who is to leave us, asked how many would like to unite with the church all signified their desire. Pray for us, that we may prosper in this good work.

MISS P. VALLEAN, Cor. Sec. of the M. B., Belleville, writes:

The Albert College Mission Band has 58 members for the year 1898-1899, and has raised \$71, which has just been forwarded to the Branch Treasurer.

We would like \$60 to be used for the support of three little girls in Chen-tu. Having a definite object seems to increase enthusiasm among our members.

M. G. HAWLEY.

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

CARSONVILLE—Miss Elsie Gauce, Cor. Sec. of the "Jennie Ford" Band, which is only a few months old, sends a most encouraging report. They got seven new members last quarter and expected more the next.

CANTERBURY—Our very youngest band is the "Busy Workers," of which Jessie Carr is President, and Millie Jamieson, Cor. Sec.

The Leader writes, "I sincerely hope the children will prove themselves worthy of the name," and goes on to ask about maps which shows that that Leader is going about her work in an intelligent manner.

TAV.—The Pansy Band is deeply interested in its work. At its last meeting it had seven new members—a total of thirty-one. Some walk several miles to attend the meetings.

And now I want to ask all the Bands to remember that the year is nearing its close and there is work to be done. When the Annual Report form comes to you do not delay in calling your officers together to make up the Report, and then mail to me at once.

Remember the election of officers in September, and let me tell you a secret—I have learned that some of the Corresponding Secretaries do not read Palm Branch and so do not know that I often ask them to report promptly. Now I advise you *not* to elect a Corresponding Secretary who neglects to read the Band paper, or, if you do, *compel* her to read it.

This is the time too to get new subscribers for Palm Branch. Will not each Band talk this over in its next meeting and arrange a plan to ask all the people in the church to subscribe. Show the paper, tell the price, and begin the year in October when we are all ready to begin work for the winter. Remember that if you induce people to take the paper *and read it* you are spreading information and that is missionary work.

E. E. COULTHARD,
Mission Band Sec'y.

Fredericton, N. B.

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Branch.

DARTMOUTH—On July 3rd the "Buds of Promise" Band held a farewell meeting for their president, Miss Lillie Lathern, who had been with them four years. The room had been beautifully decorated with flowers by the senior members who had also arranged the programme. On behalf of the sixty members of the Band, Misses Minnie Black and Maggie Bowie presented an address, accompanied by a handsome secretary and book-case combined. A social half hour brought the meeting to a close.

HALIFAX, WEST—The meetings of the Oxford Street Circle are very interesting and profitable. In March the Auxiliary asked us to send two delegates to their meeting which we did. Owing to the long distance some of the members have to come, the average attendance is not as large as we could wish, but some of us are gaining much knowledge about missions.

AUBURN.—The "Oak and Ivy" Band is still growing, having added ten new members this quarter.

GRANVILLE FERRY—Much credit is due the young officers of this Band who are nobly working in spite of some discouragement. Meetings are regularly held, and the reports sent quarterly.

MARCIA B. BRAINE,
Band Secretary.
124 Tower Rd, Halifax.

The nursing force of Port Simpson Hospital are pleased to add to their staff Miss Strycher of Ontario. Miss Spence and Miss Strycher are now at the Skeena River Hospital with Dr. Bolton.

John Amos our oldest boy has done the work of a monitor amongst the boys; in the Home his influence has been excellent.

KITAMAAT,