



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

PUBLISHED BY

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, Canada.

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A YEAR.

Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month :

"Our French-Canadian Missions."
"Jewish Missions."

French Work.

FRENCH METHODIST INSTITUTE.

THE annual Christmas tree and entertainment in connection with the closing for the holidays was a very interesting occasion. The Rev. Dr. Antliff, Chairman of the Board of Institute Directors, presided. With him on the platform were the Rev. Principal Maggs, of the Wesleyan College; the Rev. G. W. Kerby, the Rev. E. DeGruchy, the Rev. L. Massicotte and Prof. Kneeland. Very interesting and appropriate addresses were delivered by these gentlemen. The Rev. Principal Pinel read the report, showing the result of the recent examinations, in which it was stated that twenty-one pupils had made seventy per cent. or over, and the rest very satisfactory progress. An excellent programme of songs, recitations, etc., followed, after which the presents were distributed by Santa Claus, *alias* Mr. J. M. McKim. The Christmas tree was beautifully decorated.

From Miss Matthieu.

EAST END MISSION SCHOOL.

OUR time has been filled with many loving thoughts and diligent hours in our outlook for the sick and poor families in connection with our school. I have had to give part of my afternoons in preparing sewing and parcels for the needy families. Then I felt it necessary to be in the class-room some afternoons in order to drill our pupils for their Christmas programme, which is a difficult task, as you will all understand, that *all* have to be taught really in the class-room—our hymns in both languages. Scripture recitations are never heard repeated in their homes. I feel safe in saying that our pupils (most of them very young) did very well. Scripture recitations, Commandments in rhyme, dialogues, etc., in both languages, were given. I am pleased to say the mothers of our pupils were all present, and some of them brought their friends, who were not of our faith. We have never had such a full attendance of Roman Catholics as we had at this Xmas entertainment. We return our sincere thanks for the kind and benevolent sympathy given us from the ladies of St. James Methodist Church. Rev. L. Massicotte acted as chairman, Father Saddler spoke in terms of kindness to teachers and scholars, making us feel that our efforts were truly appreciated.

WEST END MISSION SCHOOL.

A VERY interesting celebration in connection with the West End French Methodist Day and Sunday Schools took place—the Rev. Mr. DeGruchy, pastor of the church presiding. There were about two hundred children present, as well as the members of the Woman's Missionary Society in connection with the church, and the hymns sung by the children and recitations given in both French and English reflected great credit on their teachers, Miss Jackson and Miss Beauchamp.

Japan.

From Miss Veazy, 8 Torii Zaka, Azabu, Tokyo, Jan. 5, 1901.

WHEN too late to get a letter off on the December steamer even, it was suddenly borne in upon the Tokyo Branch that not one of us had embraced the opportunity of writing to the *OUTLOOK* in November, though according to the list as arranged at our annual meeting, it was our privilege so to have done at that time. It was a matter of regret to each of us that the others should have been so delinquent, and to prove my regret sincere, I announced my intention of writing the November letter during the Christmas vacation, and as this is the last day but one of that vacation, I have shut my door on the outer world and sat down to have an hour's chat with you and our *OUTLOOK* friends, wondering, as I begin, which of the many topics that come to my mind will prove of greatest interest to you. The four months that have passed since the re-opening of school in September have been crowded with "events," many of them out of the ordinary in our quiet lives here. The settling into our new school and making a home for ourselves once more—the coming of the three ladies from China, Drs. Killam and Henry, and Miss Brimstin, thus relieving

the anxiety of the summer concerning their safety—then our long looked for reinforcements from home in the persons of Misses Howie, Forrest and Laing—a brief visit from Misses Foster and Brooks, and then farewell to them as they turned their faces homeward. After that the Missionary Conference which brought a number of our ladies in for a few days from the outside stations, and gave us the pleasure of having them with us during the formal opening of our new school, which took place on the 1st of November—the illness of Mr. Tsuzuki, our head Japanese teacher, who has so faithfully served the school for the last fifteen years, and the anxious search for a substitute through all the month of November—the coming of a new teacher in December, and Mr. Tsuzuki's death the middle of that month—then the Christmas preparations in the Sunday Schools taught by our girls, and in the "King's Daughters" School, and the closing of our school on December 21 for a two weeks' vacation—such would be an outline of some of the happenings of these last few months; but it would take a great deal of filling in of details to convey adequately the degrees of pleasure, anxiety, sorrow, gratitude, etc., shadowed forth in this simple recital of the events by name.

Mr. Tsuzuki's death has meant a great loss to the school, and was felt personally by all who had known him long. Exceedingly quiet and retiring by nature, he yet filled a large place in the lives of the girls who had grown to look upon him as a father. When he first came to the school (which was the same week as Mrs. Large's first coming to Japan) he was not a Christian, and as he said afterwards, if he had been required then to promise to attend church and Bible classes he would not have accepted the position. Within a year or so, however, he was baptized at the Azabu church, of which he has been through all these years a consistent member, and was for several years a steward of the church. His eldest son, the pride and hope of the family, died with consumption last Spring, and since then the father has gradually succumbed to the same disease. Though very weak, he suffered little and taught until the middle of October. The end came very peacefully and he slept away on December 16. There were few dry eyes when the news was announced to the girls, but their thoughts seemed very quickly to turn from the sadness of the parting here to the reality of the life into which their loved teacher had entered, and as they stood grouped about his grave in the bright December sunshine and sang together softly the Japanese words of "The sweet bye and bye," I believe that Heaven seemed nearer and more real to all because of our Mr. Tsuzuki having entered there; and it was a great joy to us to know that the majority of those singing the words that day had for themselves the sure and certain hope that "shall meet on that beautiful shore." The family is left almost unprovided for, so we have taken his only daughter, a promising little girl of eleven, into the school as a supported student, and the knowledge of this arrangement was a great relief to the father's anxiety before he passed away.

We have not yet found anyone who can take Mr. Tsuzuki's place in the school, but we have teachers engaged to conduct his classes for the present and trust that the right person may soon be found.

Speaking of supported girls opens up another topic on which I might write a whole letter if time permitted, but I must not enter on it this time, only to say that I do wish those at home, who are making sacrifices in order to help in the work here, could see into what grand helpers the majority of our supported students develop, and how much the success of the work here depends upon the assistance that their training in the schools here is fitting them to give. Two of our most satisfactory girls are to be graduated in March, and we were much pleased to have the opportunity in October of securing two others as supported students, so that the number may be kept up, for the demand for these trained workers is still much greater than the supply, and it is so difficult to keep a girl as a worker after her graduation unless we have some claim on her, in which case the relatives are obliged to postpone her marriage for a season. These two girls whom we have just taken are sisters, who have been for several years in the school, and had hoped to remain until graduation. Financial trouble in the home, however, led to their being withdrawn from the school in September, much to our regret, as they were fine students and great favorites in the school, and had just begun to show that they had a personal interest in their Bible lessons. The offer of a little help from the Society, amounting to not more than fifteen dollars per year each, for the three years remaining, was effective in retaining them in the school as regular supported students, with the promise to give two years of work to the Society free after graduation; and many times that amount would be well