

## CHRISTMAS EVE.

Come hither, li tle children,  
Come gather round the hearth,  
And listen to the history  
Of your Redeemer's birth.

I'll tell you how He loved you,  
And left His throne above,  
And came on earth to save you,  
Children, was not this love?

A little babe in Bethlehem  
The Lord of all became,  
To save your souls from ruin  
From endless grief and shame.

But now He lives in Heaven,  
And prays for you and me,  
And from His throne of glory  
Can little children see.

Come hither, little children,  
Come bow the knee and pray  
That Christ, the blessed Saviour,  
May take your sins away,

May give you hearts to love Him,  
And make you fit to die,  
And take you to be with Him  
Forever in the sky!

E. B. S.

## FIELD STUDY FOR DECEMBER.

## MEDICAL MISSIONS.

**T**HE idea of Medical Missions is to combine the healing art with telling the story of Jesus—one of the most effectual ways of winning souls known to the missionary. It is only going back to methods used by our Lord and His apostles. Healing and teaching went hand in hand. When he sent out His disciples their commission ran, Go, Preach, Heal.

In Christian lands the influence of Christ has been stamped on the thought of the people. Even those who do not acknowledge him, are more tender and merciful, because of this, so we have ceased to think of a hospital as evidence of Christianity, though it is, just as much as a church. If you doubt, look for such buildings erected by the followers of Mahomet, Buddha or Confucius.

Access to a hospital is looked on as a necessity in the training of a medical student. Where these are not found, little or nothing is known of the science. It makes one shudder to read of the barbarous cruelties inflicted by *doctors*, so-called, in heathen lands.

What we cannot bear to hear, people with flesh as tender and nerves as sensitive as our own, have to endure.

Fancy curing a headache by thrusting a long needle into the ear, of course, destroying the hearing.

The ability to relieve suffering and cure disease often opens the way for the Gospel. A successful case has removed prejudice and given the missionary an assured footing. Corea was opened in this way: also many parts of China.

Li Hung Chang looks with favor on medical missions because his wife's life was saved through the skill of Miss Howard, a Canadian. He aided Miss Howard largely in establishing a missionary hospital.

God has blessed this work by the conversion of many souls. As the result of the cure of one man at Amoy, China, seven christian congregations have been formed with a membership of from 30 to 100 each and similar instances could be related.

## OUR OWN WORK.

For many years our missionaries at Port Simpson felt the need of a doctor. The Indians themselves wished one and promised to do what they could toward his support (they have given about \$200 a year). Dr. Bolton went in 1889 and, largely by his own efforts, a hospital was built, and later one at Port Essington, where he spends some weeks each year. In 1892 the W. M. S. engaged Miss Spence, a trained nurse, and later Miss Lawrence. Early this year Miss Lawrence left, her place being filled by Miss Stevenson.

Of this work Dr. Bolton says:—"We have attempted more serious surgical work this year than formerly and have been blessed with good success. These operations are hard on the nerves, when one has no other surgeon with whom to divide the responsibility. But we all draw strength from our invariable season of prayer before the operation. This soothes and assures the patient, and strengthens the nerves and hearts of the operator and assistants, and who can say that a measure of our success is not due to the direct answer to prayer? We have not the appliances and do not claim the skill exhibited in the larger hospitals, yet our results would compare well with any. Let us give the glory where it belongs, to our 'Heavenly Father.'"

We have made a fresh beginning in Chentu, China. Miss Foster, M. D., went out this summer; a building site has been purchased and we hope to hear soon of our hospital going up. Miss Ford, the trained nurse who you remember arrived just before the riots, will be better fitted from the knowledge she has gained of the language.

We need to pray for this little company so far away, that they may be shielded from harm, so many dangers, known and unknown, attend them. "God forbid that we should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for them."  
E. A. D.

## QUESTIONS FOR DECEMBER.

- What is the idea of Medical Missions?
- Of what are hospitals and dispensaries the evidence?
- Can you bear to think of the methods practised by doctors in heathen lands?
- What medical missionary was instrumental in curing the wife of Li Hung Chang?
- How did he show his gratitude?
- What Medical practitioner is at Port Simpson?
- Is there a hospital there?
- How much a year have the Indians given?
- What is the prospect in Chentu?
- What is our duty in regard to these workers?