

quarterly meeting of the Toronto auxiliaries, just after it was decided that I should come to Japan. I was feeling overwhelmed by the thought of the responsibilities of the work before me, when she said: "But it will be only step by step, sister." There have been trials, different in kind to those I had expected, yet none the less hard to bear; but the pleasures have been so many more that I would rather speak of them. The work in the schoolroom has been very pleasant indeed, especially the last term, which I enjoyed exceedingly. I never imagined before I came here, that I could become so really attached to the Japanese girls, as I am to many of them. We learn to love them, not only because we are working for them and trying to do them good, but because of their own lovable natures. During the two years and a half since the school was established, there have been about sixty conversions; and from last Christmas until holidays, there was hardly a week without one, and often several, of the students deciding to become Christians and asking for baptism. Even as I write, I am filled with the remembrance of the joy that I felt at different times during the last term, when certain ones in whom I was especially interested surrendered themselves to the Master. Pray with us that all those gathered into the fold may be kept faithful. You would be astonished to see how completely changed in disposition, manner, and even looks, many of the girls are who have become Christians. The attendance has increased so marvellously fast during the past year that it has been almost impossible to have anything like a settled state of affairs in the class-room. However, during the last term, the classes have been getting into better shape; and we have been very much pleased with the good work that the majority of the pupils have done.

Now that the attendance of the school has become so large, we feel very much the need of more room for playground. We have extended the buildings over so much of our small lot to accommodate the students *inside*, that now we have not space enough *outside* for them to take proper exercise, which is so important in this country.

The daily students, as well as the boarders, are required to attend the services on Sunday from nine to eleven; and three Sundays' absence in succession, except for sickness, on the part of any pupil who comes regularly during the week, entitles us to drop her name from the register. Many foreigners, engaged in mission work here, when calling upon us and inquiring about our school, have been very much astonished to learn that we had such a rule; and their usual question has been, "But will it work in this heathen land? Will the Japanese submit to it?" Our answer is, that it seems to work well in our school, for during the last term we have had an average of about 200 at the Sunday morning services. And it has been very encouraging, since we came to the country, to hear how regularly the students who live in Tōkyō are attending church in our absence, and not only the Christian girls, but others who have hitherto apparently taken no interest in Christianity.

Several new subjects in English have been begun since Christmas. Mental arithmetic and geography in the lower classes, arithmetic in the "second," and

English literature in the "first" (highest) class. We are finding out that the sooner our English students can take up subjects in the language besides the usual read, translation and dictation, the better it is for them, even if the lessons at first do not amount to much more than conversation lessons.

I send you two compositions, written by girls of the "first" English class during the last term. They were not composed specially for this purpose, but are just selections from the regular class work, and are short, as I limit them to a certain amount. You may publish either or both of them as you choose. They could be criticized a good deal, of course; but we think they do the girls credit, as they have studied English only about two years and one term. Very sincerely yours,

S. AGGIE WINTEMUTE.

August 11th, 1887.

#### AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A BOTTLE.

I, the Bottle, am made of glass, that was formed by the chemical combination of silicon, sodium, and calcium. Before I received my name, the Bottle, I had a terrible time to make my body. I was given the name of Black Bottle, because my color is very dark. One day, some very bad smelling-water named liquor, came into me, and my mouth was fastened tight with a cork. I heard that I must be exported to Japan with other friends. We were sorry to leave our own country, Paris, but we could not help it. We took the steamer from Marseilles, and during the voyage on the ocean I was troubled on account of sea-sickness. When we arrived safely, we met with cruel treatment without having any rest; and immediately we were carried on to some shop. We were standing in a row in the front of the store, and were gazing at each other, and at the street, as if hoping some one would come to buy us.

One evening a gentleman came in and he bought me, and carried me back to his home. While I kept the liquor he was very kind and tender.

One Sunday evening he brought me to his table at tea, and took off the cork from my mouth, and began to drink. Just at this time his little brother came into the room, who went to the Sunday-school that day, and looking at his brother who was drinking the liquor, he said: "Brother, don't drink wine, I know it is injurious; to-day I went to Sunday-school with other friends; in that time one of our teachers explained these words, 'Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit;' and I promised that although I grew larger, I would not taste it." When he heard these words, he felt very much, on account of the little boy's influence and immediately he hated wine very much, and took up me with anger, and threw me to the garden where the small stones were scattered—therefore I broke down to pieces. Then I repented for becoming a vessel for wine, but it was "behind time."

M. A.

#### AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A PAIR OF SCISSORS.

Many years ago I lived in a mountain, and at that time I did no work; and I knew nothing in the world except my friends in the mountain. Once a person came and took me out from the mountain; then I was