

Editorial and Contributed.

COMMITTEE OF CONSULTATION AND FINANCE.

A MEETING of this Committee was held at the Mission Rooms early last month, and a good deal of business was disposed of.

In harmony with the decision of the last General Board, the Committee considered the case of the Chinese work in British Columbia, and it was agreed to provide a building for the Chinese Girls' Rescue Home, at a cost not exceeding \$3,000 for site and building, provided the Woman's Missionary Society would assume cost of furnishing and maintenance. (A communication has since been received from the Executive to the above Society gladly accepting the offer).

The General Board having fixed the place of its next meeting at Winnipeg, leaving the date an open question, the latter point was considered by the Finance Committee, and it was decided that the meeting begin on Monday, September 10th. This is a month earlier than usual, and will necessitate holding the Financial District Meetings not later than the second week in August.

Communications were received from Japan, containing a copy of a revised Basis of Union between the Missions of the Methodist Church (Canada), and the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States. The whole subject was referred to the General Board, and the Secretary was instructed to put himself in communication with the Secretaries of the Missionary Society in New York in regard to this important matter, so that full information may be laid before the General Board in September.

A request for two additional teachers in the Tôkyô School was laid over to see if the income of the year would justify further extension. In the meanwhile the Secretary to correspond with a view of securing suitable candidates.

"PACKING" WOOD AT PORT SIMPSON.

BY a recent mail from Port Simpson we received a crayon drawing, executed by a native lad, which exhibits a good deal of artistic skill. The drawing portrays a band of Indians "packing" firewood on their backs from the hills, near Port Simpson. Accompanying the drawing was a letter from Miss Knight, which we append, as it gives not only some account of the picture, but is itself a word-picture of some experiences that fall to the lot of our workers on these far-off stations:—

PORT SIMPSON, B.C., *March 1st, 1888.*

DEAR DR. SUTHERLAND,—A week or two ago Mr. Crosby gave me the little picture which I send you by this boat, at the same time suggesting that I send it to you and explain the meaning of it. It is drawn by our native artist, whom we think quite clever, as he is, of course, entirely self-taught. This shows how the people carry their wood during the cold weather. As they are away so much from early spring to autumn, they seldom get any great supply, so when the real cold weather comes, they have to get it as they need it. I always pitied them greatly, and wondered that they seemed so cheerful over it; even the little boys and girls seemed to enjoy it, and think it great fun. My girls said many times when the days were bright that they wanted to pack wood, too. We had been unable to get a good supply before winter set in, and one fine morning found ourselves out of wood. So Mr. Crosby said, we must all go to the hill and pack some, as there was no other way of getting it. So off we all started, Mr. Crosby and our artist with axe and saw, to cut the trees down and saw them into proper lengths; all the girls who were big enough to carry a load, with ropes to bind the wood on their shoulders, and, of course, I had to go to take care of them. The children thought it immense fun, but as they were not used to the work, they met with some rather funny mishaps. Not knowing just how to adjust the ropes, the load sometimes would roll off, or to one side, and overbalance them. One sat down on a log to rest, and, forgetting her load, leaned backwards and fell, much to the amusement of the rest. She was powerless to help herself, and I was fearful she was hurt; but after some trouble, we got her load off, and she was able to get on her feet. Well, we got quite a supply that day, and before it was all finished, we were able to get wood in the ordinary way. This was our only expedition to the hill this winter; the next time, however, we went, not for ourselves, but for an old woman who has a sick husband. We found old Mary was out of wood, so one afternoon I told the girls that all who would do it for Jesus' sake, might come with me to the woods, to get wood for Old Mary. We went by ourselves this time, but one of the bigger girls soon had some small trees cut, and we were well loaded and ready for home. I wanted to pack some, too, but the girls thought it would be dreadful for me to carry a load on my back, and wouldn't fix it for me, so I had to carry it on my shoulder, much to the amusement of the people who were passing with their loads. We took the wood to Old Mary's home on the Island, and quite took the poor people by surprise, as they were not expecting any such good fortune. We were overwhelmed with thanks; and Mary told Mr. Crosby afterwards, that they sat down and cried over that wood, they were so thankful to get it. So we found something more than a pleasant afternoon and fun that day. All this is over for this season, as most of the people are already scattered; they are at home for such a short time. It always seems to me as if the best we can do for our people in summer is to pray that the enemy may not take away the seed sown in the winter. Their wanderings seem such a hindrance, but we have the comfort of knowing that God's "Word shall not return void."

FROM LODGE TO LODGE.

BY REV. JOHN M'LEAN, B.A.

THE snow fell thick and fast on Easter Sunday morning, covering the prairie with a pure white mantle, which in a few hours vanished before the sun's strong rays. With a satchel filled with medicines, and a bundle of Sunday-school papers, I entered