

## Letter from Japan.

Tokio, Japan, March 1, '95.

To the Ontario and Maritime Provinces, C. W. B. M.

DEAR SISTERS: Since last writing, there have been many things for which we have lifted up our hearts in grateful acknowledgement to Him who is the giver of every good and perfect gift.

Two chapels have been built in Tokio in connection with the work of the Foreign Board here, one in Hongo Ku, the other in Koshikawa Ku. The latter is quite near us, so the company who have been meeting at our house for the observance of the Lord's supper now meet there. For the past three weeks services have been held every evening. The attendance is good. Many are interested and some are inquiring. The meetings will be continued as long as the people will come to listen.

At last the much needed monthly magazine has been started. This work is supported by the missionaries here and by subscriptions from home friends. Subscription price, 50 sen, or 30 cents, per year.

Eight have been added to the church in Tokio since last writing; of these two are from the Ushigome work. The charity schools are flourishing. Miss Oldham has started to build a school with funds mostly received from friends at home. In this school she will combine the Tanamachi and Yanchu schools.

The Matsugawa Cho school has increased by seven this past month. We have now forty-seven where there is scarcely room for forty, yet they are so anxious to come, we are willing to put up with a little inconvenience.

A woman's meeting has been started in our home and also in the Tanamachi school-room by Miss Oldham, who has at last succeeded in securing the services of a good Bible-woman.

The woman's meeting held at Matsugawa Cho is very encouraging. There are two or three who at last seem to evince some real interest. I very often get discouraged. Most of them come to every meeting, and we call on them at their homes, yet still they hold back, not willing to accept Christ as their Saviour. Perhaps I am not patient enough, or prayerful enough. In this section of the work there are two women who cannot come to the meetings, so we go to their houses and tell them of Jesus there.

The two girls from the school whom I mentioned before as wishing to become Christians, but whose fathers will not give permission, are allowed to at-

tend our woman's meeting. One of them especially is a sweet, earnest girl, doing her best to be like her Master, although not allowed to acknowledge Him in baptism.

That which is stirring every Christian in Japan, and causing them to acknowledge God's hand with wondering, grateful thanksgiving is the success of the work among the soldiers, begun by Mr. Loomis, of the Bible House in Yokohama. On a visit to Hi oshima, the headquarters of the Emperor and war affairs he saw the vast number of soldiers ready for active service and waiting to be ordered away at any moment. Knowing the intense feeling against foreigners he thought it best to start the work in the least offensive way.

The Chinese wounded prisoners, who are receiving such kind and humane treatment at the hands of the conquerors, the Japanese, were the first he asked permission to teach. The attempt met with such unlooked for success that he was encouraged to go on. Next the unwounded prisoners received attention, Bibles were given them and meetings held at regular intervals; then the work among the Japanese soldiers themselves was with many misgivings attempted. Afterwards the Imperial Guard itself and the navy were supplied with the Scripture, till now there are few soldiers who have not received a Testament or a portion of one.

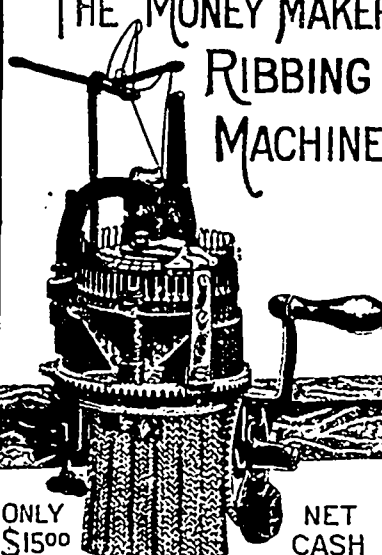
In each and every case the work was helped and encouraged by the Japanese generals, many of them putting themselves to no little inconvenience to assist Mr. Loomis and his co-laborers, of whom by this time there were not a few.

Last of all, the soldiers across the waters, who are engaged in actual fighting, were thought of. What could be done for them? Many prayers went up to heaven for guidance in this matter. With what result? The Emperor himself caused a letter to be written to Mr. Loomis granting him permission to go to China and distribute Bibles to his soldiers there, and also instructed his generals to assist in every possible way in carrying on the work.

Four Christian Japanese Evangelists (one being a member of our own Koshikawa Chapel), were allowed to go to China to preach to the soldiers the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Their passage across was paid by the government, and at the end of two or three months they will be drafted into the army as chaplains. Could you have been here to witness the bitter opposition to Christianity and the

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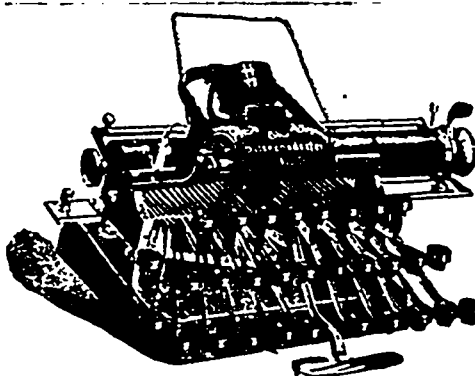
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persecutions the members have endured, you would realize with what full hearts we lift up our voices in praise to God from whom all blessings flow.

Was told the other day that the reason for this great change was that, the statistics of the army being taken, the Christian soldiers so far surpassed the others in sound bodies and good conduct, that the Emperor and the generals concluded that Christianity was a good thing for the country and should be encouraged.

The ordinary editions of the Testament being too bulky for the soldiers to be burdened with, a new edition was printed. Each gospel is printed in a separate little book. This the soldier can put in the cuff of his sleeve or in his belt with no inconvenience to him in any way.

Many are the letters received by Mr. Loomis from Christian soldiers and officers, thanking him for making their Christian life more possible, and also from some who through reading these gospels have been led to accept Christ. "Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end."

Yours lovingly,

MARY M. RIOCH.

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