

having a distance to go home before our city gates closed."

We have learned by the sorrows of 1895, that this security may not be permanent; but the perils of this year are deemed largely exceptional, the not unnatural outcome of the unsuccessful war with Japan.

In Japan, the land where much of the best literature of the present age is the work of women, the land where five or six years ago an experienced missionary, like Mr. Warren, could compute that already forty per cent. of the Christians were women, there is a field for the activities of the trained and cultured lady, such as no other part of the heathen world can show, a field eagerly worked not only by European, but also by American agencies.

Africa was one of the earliest lands in which the fruits of work, distinctly woman's, was gathered. It was to West Africa that the first unmarried women employed by the Church Missionary Society, sailed in 1820. Work in the Dark Continent lacks both the comparative safety and much of the interest which attaches to zenana work in India; but it does not lack recruits. North, south, east and west, these women workers are to be found. Bishop Tucker has just been escorting into the very heart of Africa a group of English women who have volunteered for work in Uganda.

In May, 1894, the unmarried female agents of all the Protestant Societies numbered at least 2500, and the total number of women in the field exceeded the men by about a thousand. They are engaged in teaching old and young, in training female agents, in the systematic visitation of homes, and in medical work.

But a bare recital even of all the fields occupied by women would fail to convey any clear conception of the nature and the triumphs of their work. I hope, therefore, out of the history of a few noble women, to show how, as to enterprise, devotion, patience and industry, men have been well matched in the mission field by workers of the sex often condescendingly labelled "the weaker."



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