

I do not know who is responsible, but I deny it emphatically. No such idea was ever suggested, nor did I ever put pen to paper to make an estimate, contenting myself with presenting the general question. Is it, then, really fair to judge and condemn the project, not on my published plan, nor on its merits, but on the suppositions, fears and prejudices of others, who, unlike myself, had not the courage of their convictions?

Another assertion—since it found its way in and out of the parent society's report—I feel compelled to meet. The fear has been expressed that a paper for us would be an exponent of "woman's rights." This attempt at ridicule, or aim to excite prejudice, is too unworthy to notice, were it not for the serious side of the question. Let me remind you, dear sisters, and myself also, that this very meeting is an exponent of "woman's rights." Once we should have had no right here. Once women had no rights in education, nor even in the ownership of their own bodies. And we missionary workers who now enjoy these rights and privileges, are striving to give them to those women who have them not.

The most important, prominent, and far-reaching movement in Women's Work that has ever occurred in the history of the Methodist Church is to-day attracting the attention of the Christian world, viz., the question of the admission of women as lay delegates to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the United States. I did not, I cannot, think an editorial note touching this out of place in our Women's Department, and from a Methodist paper speaking on the subject, I quoted a paragraph by Rev. Dr. Whedon. Dr. Whedon, as you all probably know, was a great Methodist commentarian and editor, whose books are in all ministerial libraries, and a man at whose feet Conferences have sat with profit and delight. In order that I may not be misunderstood, and because the quotation in question gave rise, I believe, to the fear expressed, kindly allow me to read it to you. Dr. Whedon says: "It is 'rights' they talk of. Every competent member of the Church of Christ, of either sex, and of every shade of complexion, has equal original rights. Those rights, they may be assured, when that question comes fairly up, will be fairly asserted and maintained. 'But you are a woman's rights man!' We are a human rights man, and our mother was a human being, and our wives, sisters and daughters are all human beings. And that these human beings are liable, as any other human beings, to be oppressed by the stronger sex, and as truly need in self-defence a check upon oppression, the history of all past legislation and government does most terribly demonstrate. *What is best in the State is not, indeed, with us the question*; but never with our consent shall the Church of the living God disfranchise her who gave to the world its Divine Redeemer. When that disfranchisement comes to a debate, may the God of eternal righteousness give us strength equal to our will to cleave it to the ground."

Now, in my opinion, if the OUTLOOK lives till the day of judgment, no more just or truthful sentiments will ever adorn its pages, because they are the expressed essence of a condensed gospel, which declares, "In Christ Jesus there is neither male or female." For inserting this I make no apology.

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And now, dear ladies, in regard to a paper of our own, we are not discouraged. Every innovation, every new idea in the Church, has first received that baptism of opposition of which our Lord Himself partook. But the germ life never dies. And thus we go from old methods to new, from one advance to another, because our Christianity, our Methodism, is progressive. I thank you for a patient hearing.

ANNIE PARKER.

Letter from Mrs. E. S. STRACHAN, our Corresponding Secretary.

OUR Women's Missionary Society will learn with deep sorrow of the total destruction by fire of our Home and School at Chilliwack, B.C., through the upsetting of a lamp, on the evening of November 30th.

The visible flames were quickly extinguished; but the oil having run under the wainscoting, carried them up the wall to the floor above. We are very thankful that no one was injured. The furniture that was saved was considerably damaged, and also the personal effects of the teachers. Miss Clarke lost nearly everything. Sixteen of the children were sent to their homes, and fifteen were hospitably taken by Mrs. Tate into their own home next door. We have not yet heard how much insurance will be allowed.

I have just received my first letter, written by Miss Brown, from China, and dated Presbyterian Mission, Shanghai, November 9th, 1891. She says, "On coming into port we found many missionaries driven from the interior for the present. The Consuls do not advise sending the ladies of our party up the river till March; so that while Dr. Hart and two of the other gentlemen may soon proceed to Ching-too, the rest will remain here during the winter studying the language."

Miss Beavis, who was chosen for the work at Port Simpson, left as soon as possible after the Annual Meeting and her aid was sadly needed. She would certainly meet with a hearty welcome, as whooping cough had broken out severely, two having died, and Miss Hart was very much overtaxed.

Letter from Miss PRESTON, Hakone, August 15th, 1891.

MY DEAR MRS. STRACHAN,—The holidays are passing rapidly, and though the flying hours are not carrying much with them by way of work accomplished, they are freighted with pleasant memories of intercourse with friends and the usual holiday rest and needed change. But ere their swift movement brings the holidays to a close, I must try to pen you a few lines.

The first two weeks of our holidays, Miss Hargrave and I spent in Karnizawa and Kamakura. While in Karnizawa, where we made our home with Rev. Mr. McKenzie and Mrs. Elliott, we went to see Kusatsu, a place noted for its mineral baths. Here there are about three hundred lepers. The landlord of our hotel took us to see them. One or two whom we saw were almost inhuman in their appearance; skin, yellowish-brown in color, with the blood apparently not in healthy circulation; eyes rather set in their sockets, at any rate of unnatural appearance, and a glance at once showing you a diseased body. The hot sulphur waters are considered very beneficial. It was a most interesting place, a village of hotels containing fifty in number, and from an immense enclosure in the middle, in which numerous springs of sulphur water were overflowing, there arose volumes of sulphur steam, and here and there through the place were other sulphur springs that helped to fill the air with moisture. The population of the place is largely floating, many sick, going, of course, solely for their health.

On the way home we climbed Asamayama, an active volcano, 8,000 feet above the level of the sea. The majesty and strength of nature's forces, their mysterious working, and the wondrous power of nature's God, are seen with peculiar force in a yawning pit, thousands of feet above the sea, from which dense volumes of smoke issue, and all around no sign of vegetation, naught but the variagated sulphurous stone and lava.

While at Kamakura we viewed an immense bronze image of Buddha, about fifty feet in height, with well-proportioned width, over six hundred years old. Not far from there we