

and the barb wire extension upwards, to secure the girls from running away, also the day school was removed to the Mission. All the above changes will greatly lessen and facilitate the new matron's duties. I left five girls in the Home in charge of Miss Ferguson on the evening of the 7th of December, 1898.

I would like to say just here that I greatly value the confidence and esteem of the Woman's Missionary Board, expressed in the desire that I should remain in charge of the Home. Thanking both the Boards and Advisory Committee for kindness and forbearance, believe me as ever interested in the Home and work, yours truly,

S. BOWES.

Japan.

MISS ALCORN writes from SHIZUOKA, *November 29th*, 1898.

OUR work is going on well. A spirit of love is in the air and we pray this may be one of our best years here in Japan. Again Miss Cunningham and I are together. We have a happy home and try to remember it as one of our mercies. It is lovely that God has so provided for us in a strange land, to give us homes and friends and so much to make the way easy. We are both quite well.

Do you remember I wrote last year of our hoping sometime to have a school for the poor in Ansai. It is a part of the city where we feel work can be done. The people are poor, but kindly disposed toward us. Prejudice was removed by kindness shown to a poor old woman by Miss Cunningham and Miss Robertson.

Takenchi san held a children's meeting in the home of the old woman, and found that many of the children could not read because they could not afford to go to school. We decided it would be a wise thing to open a school for these little girls. We secured a small room which we cleaned and had papered with newspapers. Miss Cunningham gave us tatami (mats) for the floor, also some old desks, or rather little tables made from the old desks, on which the children