

with water and everything soaked through and through—fancy work, pillows, books, table linen, bedding, etc.—so you could wring the water out of them; and box after box of books ruined, the covers all loose, and most of them wet through.

In regard to my books I was very fortunate. Though I had between forty and fifty ruined, all my new Chinese books, and most of my poems, were in a trunk on the other boat, but my fancy work was spoiled and my table linen and bedding is colored so I doubt if it ever comes out. Plenty of coal could be purchased very near, so three large fires were built and we went to work drying things. We worked until twelve o'clock Saturday night and got up at twelve o'clock Monday morning and began again. The gentlemen took turns watching at night.

We have all had a big loss in stores, as our meals are spoilt entirely. Our sugar ran out of the boxes as syrup, and the boatmen collected it in bowls and ate it, and many other things are a complete loss; but we were able to save considerable by working at it steadily.

Mr. and Mrs. Endicott are the greatest losers of our party, I think, though Dr. Gifford has had a big loss in books.

Many boxes belonging to other people—not only our own party in Chen-tu, but others as well—were on board, and most of them suffered the same fate. It fell to my lot to dry the contents of a box for a young lady of the China Inland Mission, who is soon to be married. The box had been sent from England and contained, besides clothing and wedding presents, a cake made and sent by her mother, and it seemed as though no one but herself should have opened it; but if anything was to be saved it had to be done. She had been in Chung-king, and the box was taken off there for her, but, finding she had gone on to Chen-tu, it was put back again. How pleased she would have been to have got it before it had been touched, but what a disappointment now to see it!

On Saturday it rained slightly, so we could not work to much advantage during the forenoon, but in the afternoon it cleared up, and on Sunday the sun shone out warm and bright, and all the rest of the time it was beautiful weather. This seemed so providential, as we had scarcely seen the sun for nearly three weeks before this. Just think of living outdoors for several days the forepart of January and it being warm enough to not need even a jacket on part of the time! We got all through by Wednesday evening, and started once more on our journey bright and early Thursday morning, and have been making good progress since.

Yours sincerely,

SARA C. BRACKBILL.

FROM JAPAN.

AZALIN, TOKYO, *March 29, 1894.*

DEAR MRS. PARKER,—It is now six months since I crossed the wide Pacific and entered this new sphere of action on the other side of the world. How strange are the sights and sounds which greet us on arriving! How entirely different from those with which we are familiar!

School opened after the summer vacation the day following my arrival, and that term, which closed at Christmas, was a very pleasant and successful one, as the current term promises to be. The ladies at the head of the work here certainly understand their business, as results show, and from this school there goes out into the highways and byways of the city such a band of faithful, earnest Christian workers as must have a powerful influence. Accounts of their work have already been published, and it is not necessary for me to tell how the children of the street are gathered into Sunday-schools and taught the way of salvation; how the women are visited in their homes and told of the way of life everlasting, interested in Christianity and invited to come to church; and how the children of the poor not only have the Gospel taught to them, but also receive a secular education, which will better fit them to take their place in the world. As these workers go forth in little groups, and return bringing their reports in order to get counsel and help, it reminds one of the disciples in the days of old, going forth at the word of their Master. I say it reverently, for are we not to

follow His example? In this way the number of workers is greatly increased and not only so, but the Japanese with the language at command, and a thorough knowledge of their own people, can accomplish more among them than foreigners can do. And this thought is always kept prominently before the minds of the girls that they are receiving a Christian education in order that they may impart their knowledge to others, and thus extend the kingdom of Christ; and special pains are taken to train them for teachers, and to help them in the preparation of the lessons they are to teach. And, in fact, the diligent workers we have spoken about are not the natural consequence of inborn goodness, but the fruit of patient, earnest effort, the line upon line and precept upon precept, which have been owned and blessed by the Master.

The monthly meeting of the workers was held this week, and a very pleasant and profitable season it always is. The reports of the month's work are read and everyone knows just what is being done, and thereby is stimulated to greater effort. Difficult or doubtful points are discussed, opinions exchanged, experiences related, and mutual help and encouragement given. After the meeting is over we all have supper and a little social time together; in this way the workers become better acquainted and more in sympathy with each other, nationality is forgotten and rank ignored, and we realize only that we are working for the same object, and that all have the same end in view.

The report from the Orphanage, which is always listened to with earnest attention, was very satisfactory. The numbers are increasing; the conduct of the children is improved, and the expenses are slight. The matron seems to fill her position well, and there is every prospect of the work being a great success, and it is one which we know He who said "Let the little children come unto Me and forbid them not" will be sure to bless.

The Bible women are faithful and earnest in their work, but their reports are not glowing accounts of numbers flocking to hear the truth, but of a hand-to-hand fight with indifference, superstition and sin. The attendance at their meetings is usually small, and each new face is hailed with delight and anxiously looked for at the next meeting. Though these are not the reports we might hope for, yet they are a true index of the character of the times, and we hear the same accounts from other missions. Christianity is by no means popular, and those who accept it are made the subjects of persecution—even a poor woman, who supports herself and her child by gathering glass in the streets, is driven away from many doors because she attends church. But this very persecution helps to develop true Christian character, and is, perhaps, the safeguard of the church, preventing those from entering it who are not sincere. Altogether we feel that we have reason for thanksgiving, and as this is the season of hope, and the beautiful blossoms around us promise an abundance of fruit in the autumn, so in our work we look forward hopefully to a bountiful harvest of souls.

Words From Workers?

NORWICH.—Since our organization in 1888, we have not been without discouragements, but at the same time have had a fair amount of success. We began with nine members, and now number thirty-two, reporting each succeeding year an increase in both membership and funds. The attendance at our monthly meeting is increasing. We take fifteen copies of the OUTLOOK, and have also distributed several mite-boxes. During the last year we organized a Mission Band, the "Happy Workers," who have undertaken to provide clothing for Mary Newton, of the Crosby Home. They have already raised \$40, and are now making preparations to give an "At Home," at which they will present an attractive programme and also serve refreshments. We secured the Rev. J. W. Saunby for an evening last week, who gave us his lecture on "The Lady Missionary and her Heathen Sister." He very vividly portrayed the customs and habits of the Japanese women, and showed us the deep degradation and hopelessness of the lives of those who have never heard the glad news of salvation. A silver collection was taken at the door, and after paying expenses we had a few dollars for our treasury.

S. BATTY, *Cor. Sec.*