

and shortly after the beginning of the New Year, still another, West Gore. Last April saw the birth of another children's band, Summerville, Queens Co., and in July one was organized also in East Rawdon, making a total of ten bands—an increase of six in our first year's work.

During the year, your superintendent of this work has been in correspondence with each band and band leader. Many of the letters I have received, have been from very young children, and I have often thought if the pastors would only read what the lambs of their flocks have written to me—of their interest in the work of missions, and their prayer for their little sisters and brothers in the heathen land—they would feel encouraged and perhaps enlisted more fully in the children's work. Ninety letters have been written to the different bands, and necessary tracts, etc., have been distributed among them.

Sister Riach has been most kind in keeping us in touch with her work in Japan, by frequent letters. She has also sent a basket of curiosities, pictures of the child, whose support we are pledged for, and samples of Japanese writing, etc. These I have sent around to each band, that each child might have the chance of seeing and handling them for himself or herself.

Several of the bands have collected cards and sent to me to be sent to Japan. A scrap book was also donated, and these have been sent to Miss Riach for use in her charity school.

The amount collected by our bands this year is \$65 33. We hope to see more bands organized during the coming year, and increasing work done. May we not have the interest of the prayers of each one here, that much more may be done among the children for the cause of missions.

Submitted in Christian love,

Mrs D. A. MORRISON,  
Supt. Children's Work.

St. John, N. B. Aug., 28, 1894.

A resolution was passed requesting the superintendents to have Children's Day observed in the Sunday-schools. This day is now being very generally observed in the schools among the Disciples of Christ, as one upon which the children are permitted and requested to make their offerings for the spread of the gospel among the heathen.

The evening meeting opened at 8 o'clock. After devotional exercises conducted by Sister Gates, the president addressed the large audience that had gathered. She spoke of the organization of the work three years ago at Westport, told of the growing interest in it, and of the increased contributions towards its support.

Sister Emma Christie, of St. John, then read a paper prepared by herself, on "What is an auxiliary, and how may the interest be maintained." It was claimed that the object of an auxiliary is to cultivate a missionary spirit, to spread knowledge and to raise money. Various ways of keeping up the interest were mentioned. Bro. Murray and Bro. Ford discussed the paper only to commend it.

After the following letter from Sister Riach was read, Bro. W. H. Harding prayed for the success of the work abroad, that God might protect and strengthen His missionaries, and greatly encourage and use our missionary in Japan.

LETTER FROM MISS RIOCH.

TOKIO, August 2, 1894.

To the M. P. C. W. B. M.—Greeting:

DEAR SISTERS—Allow me to express to you my sincerest congratulations on this the return of your yearly conference. May God's richest blessings attend you in all that you do.

A detailed report of the past year's work has already been sent in, so it need not be repeated. At present, the entire attention of the people is taken up with the recent heavy earthquake, the war and rumors of war, so much so indeed, that one of the native brethren was telling us they were sure the world was coming to the end, for says he, the Bible says so. These, together with the intense heat, interfere with the work. We are in hope, that these in time may lead to the furtherance of the gospel.

O Gin San, in whom you are more especially interested, is well and doing nicely. The schools

are now closed, and she is spending a part of her vacation at home with her people.

There was what might have been an amusing incident, had not its sadness more than counterbalanced any feeling of that kind which attracted our attention a few weeks ago.

During a short but severe thunder storm, a couple of trees in an avenue leading up to one of the leading temples here were struck by lightning, or as the Japanese would say, the thunder god fell upon them. One of our mission was passing through this avenue a little after the storm in a jinrikia (man-power-pull-man waggon) when her man suddenly stopped before one of these trees and directed her attention to the marks of the god's claws made on the bark as he descended to these lower regions. A day or two later the bark of these trees were noticed to be stripped off. On enquiry, the people had taken it, ground it into powder with the intention of using it as a preventive against tooth-ache. How foolish, one would say, yet how sad. This in a city where civilization's shadow has rested for many years—where one can have street car conveniences, electric lights, telephone and telegraph wires stretching in all directions, immense foreign buildings almost everywhere. This in a country where it was told those who were preparing to come to this country as missionaries, at the late Student Volunteer Convention held in Detroit last March, that their services were not needed, that Japan was almost Christianized. God would that this were so!

Dear sisters, pray for us—pray that we may to our utmost discharge the debt laid upon us of preaching Christ and Him crucified, till that blessed time when Japan may in truth be Christ's.

Lovingly, your fellow-worker and sister in Christ.

MARY M. RIOCH.

Following a delightful and touching solo by Sister Myrtle Freeman, of Milton, there came a short address by Bro. Stewart on the needs of the foreign fields. A paper by Sister Lamont, of St. John, on "The need of intelligent workers," was read by Sister Annie Gollie, of Milton. Many and strong reasons were given why such workers are required. After this paper Bro. G. D. Weaver gave a stirring address on Foreign Missions. He sought to bring our duty home to us by showing our responsibility. The closing paper was on "What the children have done." It was prepared and read by Sister Morrison, and gave, in brief, an account of the efforts of the children in the States, in Ontario and in the Maritime Provinces. Bro. Flaylor spoke of our duty to the heathen, after which a collection of about \$21 was taken up.

The Sunday morning prayer meeting is nearly always the best one of the convention, and this year it was no exception. It was led by Bro. L. Peters, formerly of Westport, but now one of the earnest workers in the church in Everett, Mass.

At 10 30 a. m. a large congregation assembled to hear a sermon from Bro. Harding. He chose as his text Matt. xvi. 18, and spoke of the foundation upon which the church rests and of her history. He maintained that the rock was not Peter, that it was not the confession, nor the truth in it, but that God was referred to. The gates of hell represent the ways in which Satan would assail the church; for example, persecution, the union of church and state, divisions among Christians, formality, etc. We need be on the rock to be safe.

After this service, the Lord's Supper was observed, and a very large number thus remembered their Saviour's death. Bro. Carson, with Bros. Barnes, Payson, and Freeman, presided. At the conclusion, "When I survey the wondrous cross," was sung.

The Sunday-school was called to order at 2 o'clock, by the superintendent, Bro. J. M. Ford. After the opening exercises Sister Morrison addressed the children on life in Japan. She then gave a short chalk talk, illustrating the sinfulness of the besetting sins of children. This she followed by an object lesson showing the evil influences of bad companions and how these may be counteracted

and destroyed. This was an enjoyable hour, and the grown people, of whom many were present enjoyed it as much as the children.

At 3 p. m. Bro. Ford preached on "Being changed into Christ's image," his text being 2 Cor. iii. : God wants us to be like Christ. Man was created in God's image but has lost it. The end of the gospel is to restore it. Man was not made for the gospel but the gospel for man. In the Bible we behold the glory of God. As we gaze into the gospel, and continue to so gaze, we are changed into the image of Christ. The devil knows this and he seeks to pluck the word out of the heart. It is important that we be Christ-like; that it should not be we who live but Christ who lives in us. If here our characters are like Christ's, the time will come when our vile bodies shall be changed like unto His glorious body.

Bro. Cooke preached an excellent sermon in the Baptist church at 7 p. m., on "The proper objects of Christian thought," his text being found in Phil. iv. 8. Not having been present we regret our inability to give even a brief synopsis of the sermon, about which we have heard many words of highest praise.

At 8 o'clock, there was a very full house, and Bro. Stewart spoke from the words, "If any man will come after me," etc., Matt. xvi. 24. As the writer was the then preacher, he failed to take any notes, being unable to speak and write at the same time. Suffice it to say, that he hoped to bring some sinners to a decision for Christ, but utterly failed. Many were disappointed in the sermon because it was not doctrinal.

After this service, a short farewell meeting was held, which was appropriately closed by singing "God be with you till we meet again."

In closing this report, which is being hurriedly written on the *Monticello* as she is rolling away somewhere between Digby and St. John, but now nearly across, there are a few things that should be added. The meeting was among the most interesting, and we believe shall be among the most fruitful in good that have ever been held. Much of the pleasure and profit of the meeting may be traced to the Milton church, and to Bro. H. Murray, who worked so faithfully with them. The flowers around the platform made a pleasing appearance, and suggested the importance of our growing up beautiful in character, and filling the spheres in which we live with the sweet fragrance of a Christian life.

One of the most pleasing features in the convention was the singing, which was led by the Milton young people and joined in by the congregation. Sweeter and more expressive singing we have not heard in any church of any denomination in these provinces. It was singing with the spirit and the understanding—for every member of the Milton choir is a Christian—and it was such singing as lifted the heart to God.

We must say for the delegates at the convention, that they seemed to have attended in the proper spirit. They sought blessings, and they sought to bless. They entered heartily into the work of the meeting, and they seemed determined to aim at greater success during the present year. They left Milton sanguine of doing great things for God. May the report of the next meeting, which as noted above, is to be held in Halifax, commencing on Thursday before the second Lord's day in August, 1895, show that these great expectations have been realized.

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