

*FIELD STUDY FOR MARCH.*

Our subjects for prayer this month are "Japan, Korea and the Isles of the Sea." Japan continues to be one of our most interesting fields of labor. It is believed that the war now raging between China and Japan, sad as it is, will be over-ruled for the further spread of Christianity in those countries. We must pray that it may be so. The news from Japan this year is very encouraging. The Japanese girls are being trained as Christian workers, and they do grand service. They conduct prayer meetings, mother's meetings, Sunday schools, and visit the sick. The advantage of this training is the character which they thus gain for themselves, and which makes them helpful to others. If the doors of Japan should ever be closed again to foreign Christians these inside workers would still be able to spread the truth. Little neglected children have been gathered into Sunday schools, and that has brought the mothers too. Orphanages have been opened at small expense this year in Tokyo and Kanazawa giving shelter and instruction to 22. The three boarding schools in Tokyo, Shizuoka and Kofu are growing. More than two-thirds of the girls are Christians, enjoy class and prayer meetings and the Bible lessons, which prepare them to teach others. Many of these girls are banded together as "King's Daughters," and they support a school for poor children in Tokyo; they also send one-tenth of their small earnings and savings to send the Gospel to West China. I wonder if we have as much of the true missionary spirit! In Kanazawa they have beside day schools and an Orphanage, industrial classes. These are to teach embroidering, and so help the poor girls by selling their work, partly to maintain themselves at school. Some of these girls might otherwise have been sold. There are also match-box making and envelope industries. Temperance work has also been carried on successfully in Japan. During the summer vacation, as the girls scatter to their homes, they carry the seeds of eternal life to many towns and villages. Let us go on praying for Japan.

Korea has been called the "Hermit Kingdom," because it has so long kept aloof from other countries. This is remarkable, because it is within two days sail of Japan and only 24 hours distant from the harbor of Chefoo, in China, and almost in a line of steamships. You can find it on the map—it is a peninsula. The law of the land made it death for any foreigner to be found on its shores and for any Korean to give shelter to a foreigner. Some converted Koreans in Japan were very anxious that the Gospel should go to their benighted brethren at home—God heard their prayers. In 1884 the first Protestant missionary went to Korea, and others followed. For a long time the Government

continued to forbid Christianity, so the foreigners could only hold meetings by themselves. It is only a very few years since Missions were organized; now there are many native converts. Churches and Sabbath schools have been started, and the success is wonderful. The country is rich in scenery, mountainous and well watered, valleys fertile. People mainly devoted to farming. Much gold is found there. The climate varies—Northern, like our own; Southern, warm. The Koreans are well-built and strong, a loyal and contented race, but easy-going. They are intelligent and learn easily. Their houses are well built and heated by flues under the floor. Rice is the food in the north, wheat in the south. They also eat much beef, and have fine cattle. The King rules as an absolute monarch, though he pays tribute to China. His palace is brilliantly lighted with electric light. You see this country has some advantages, but after all it is heathen in every sense of the word. But the time is coming when the true light will shine for Korea. Let us all help to send it! The Korean children are much better off than the Chinese—they are more kindly treated by their parents. The little girls do not have their feet bound, and can play in the street when little. After that they have to stay most of the time in the house, and when they go out have to cover their faces. They are married when 16 or 17 years old. Both boys and girls are dressed in very bright colors. They wear white for mourning. Let us pray for them and also for the people who live in the Isles of the Sea, of whom we shall tell you some other time.

S. E. S.

*QUESTIONS FOR MARCH.*

- What are our subjects for prayer this month?
- What is our hope in regard to this dreadful war?
- What is the news from our Japan missions this year?
- What is done for the Japanese girls, and what do they do?
- What is the advantage of this training?
- What advantage may it be in the future?
- What can you tell of the neglected children? The mothers?
- What of the orphanages? Of the boarding school?
- What do the King's Daughters do for others?
- What can you tell of the Industrial classes in Kanazawa?
- What other industries are there?
- What other work has been carried on successfully?
- How do the girls spend their summer vacation?
- What has Korea been called, and why?
- How is it situated in regard to Japan and China?
- What was the law of the land formerly?
- Through what means did God open the door?
- What event occurred in 1884?
- What did the Government do?
- How is it now?
- What can you tell of the country?
- What do the people do? What is found there?
- What can you tell of the people? Their character? Their houses? Their food?
- What of the King? Of his palace?
- Is this a Christian country?
- What is the prospect for Korea? What can we do?
- What about the children in Korea? The girls?
- How do they dress?
- For whom must we pray?