

Foreign Missions.

Maritime C. W. B. M.

Expect great things from God.  
Attempt great things for God.

We know the sisters will be glad to read this hearty response to their greetings.

1742 Sherman Avenue, Denver, Colorado,

Mrs. J. S. FLAGLER, St. John, N. B.

To the sisters of the Maritime Provinces:

Dear sisters in Christ, your greetings to the National Convention of the "Christian Woman's Board of Missions" assembled in Richmond, October, 19-20, were duly received, were read to the Convention, and were highly appreciated. I was instructed to express to you the hearty thanks of the sisters.

It may seem a small matter to pen such words of love, cheer and hope as you sent to the true and tried sisters, but these messages had a deep meaning to those who heard them read. It was an assurance that you were trying to enlist other noble women in the work of the blessed master.

"The women who publish the tidings are a great host."

The convention, from the reception to the close, in the hour of prayer Sunday evening, was a success. The addresses and short talks were all of high order and never have I heard such fervent prayers as were offered. It does seem that there cannot help but be a great ingathering during this present year if the dear Lord answers according to the importunate petitions.

ANNIE B. STREATOR,

November 15th, 1894.

FROM JAPAN.

TOKIO, JAPAN, Oct. 8, 1894.

To the O. C. W. B. M., Ontario and Maritime Provinces:

DEAR SISTERS—It is so long since I wrote, that I feel quite ashamed, but am sure you will pardon me this time if I promise to do better in the future.

Have such good news to tell you that I feel like telling it the first thing instead of waiting to put it in its place.

It was in May, if I mistake not, that I last wrote you of the work. Since then the charity school on Matsuyawa-Cho has increased in numbers, so much so that we have room for no more.

By the way, I have been considering the advisability of building a small house here with the fifty dollars you sent me to aid in the support of this work, together with what more may be sent from friends who see this letter and think with me that it would be a good work. With about \$50 more it would be possible to put up a neat little house. The house we have at present—the only one we could get in the neighborhood—is so old that it shakes when a wagon passes, as most houses do in an earthquake. However, during the past month have put new paper on windows and wall, and tacked on some of the pretty picture cards sent me by friends at home, which make the room look much better. Since doing so, the children take a great deal of pride in it, and are very careful not to tear or soil the paper in any way.

This school was allowed one month's holiday (August), my helper who teaches here requiring a much needed and well-earned rest.

During August, the woman's meeting was also discontinued, but the Sunday-school was kept on uninterrupted through the hot weather, and it was gratifying to see how well it was attended considering the sweltering heat. As a rule, during the months of July and August, unless it is an absolute necessity, the people never stir out of their houses until the cool of the evening.

Now, however, since the cool weather, the meetings are picking up, and we have almost as many as ever.

The Sunday-school in our house has been a most pleasing part of the work. The same faces, with an occasional new one, are seen there every Lord's day.

The meetings held in our home on Sunday mornings for preaching, and the observance of the Lord's supper, is always well attended. The members seldom absent themselves, and we have visitors every meeting. The last two Sundays we were specially favored. We had English sermons interpreted into Japanese, by Bro. F. T. Williams,

from China, and Dr. Macklin, who is on his way there. The Dr. was telling me he enjoyed his visit in Canada better than in any place else.

But I must tell you the good news now, I simply cannot wait any longer. You remember the two women of whom I told you who always attended our women's meetings since they were started a year ago last September in the Matsugawa-Cho school room? Well, they have become Christians, and have been buried with their Saviour in baptism. One of them, the next day told my helper to tell me that she was very happy; "yesterday," she said, "was my little baby's birthday, and it was mine too, for was I not born into Christ's kingdom then?"

And not only these two have been gathered into our Lord's kingdom, but two of my girls. O Tami San, the first little one I took, and O Sono San, who is partly supported by the International Bridge Y. P. S. C. E., with two other girls in the mission home, have also put on Christ and risen to walk in newness of life. I wonder if the angels rejoiced more than I did!

Oh, pray for them, dear sisters, that they may be kept in the faith steadfast unto the end. It is so much harder for them than for us, they are such babes in Christ, and have so many more temptations than we who were brought up under Christian influences—and no one knows how very much that means till they have lived in a heathen country.

Your loving co-worker for Christ in Japan.

MARY M. RIOCH.

THE WOMEN OF JAPAN.

Very abundant and widely varying is the written testimony with reference to the women of Japan. On the one hand they have been represented as hopelessly immoral, bigoted, superstitious and ignorant. On the other hand, some have claimed for them a greater degree of chastity, gentleness, and all loveable qualities than is possessed by the women of the western world. Both views are exaggerated. That the Japanese women have shown themselves remarkably capable and attractive, I think, does not admit of a doubt. In literature, art and song; as empresses; in preserving and developing the pure Japanese language; in their homes, and in every way, they have proven themselves equal to almost any demand to which the feminine mind and heart could respond. In many things the women of the Occident might learn from these gentle efficient Oriental ladies. Japanese women now can advance by the side of their brothers in educational lines, a state quite impossible thirty years ago. With naturally equal ability to rise, that the western women possess, what is it that keeps Japanese women more or less in the back ground? The reason can very readily be found in the false religions of this land. Buddhism teaches that woman has no chance of salvation, unless in future transformations of her soul she becomes a man! But the educated Japanese man will tell you that that part of the Buddhistic code is a dead letter. Even though that may be true, it is very evident to the western Christian women, that the ignominy entailed upon women by such teaching, cannot be removed in a couple of decades. Moreover, it is an open secret in Japan, that the Buddhist priests are dissolute men. How can it be expected that such teachers will raise the women of a country up into a higher and clearer moral atmosphere.

Two great forces are in operation in Japan which are sadly against women. One is filial obedience taught as a religious duty, the other is polygamy. One may well ask, why filial obedience should be a curse. In this country and in China, it has been taught in such a perverted way, that it is that to a very marked and terrible degree. Pure sweet girls, are sold into brothels, going with a clear conscience, feeling that they are pleasing gods and men in thus making a sacrifice of themselves to relieve their fathers of some embarrassing debt, or saving them from some great suffering because of poverty.

When one has lived years in a land where such terrible wrongs are perpetrated, and where the idol shelves are adorned with lighted tapers and flowers, and the gods worshipped in brothels as enthusiastically as elsewhere; when houses of ill fame are built on temple grounds, and at certain shrines lewd women pray for foxily cunning to entice people into their haunts, etc.—one wonders at the gush about Theosophy, and can but pray—"Lord, deliver us from such a craze for fads."

Obedience is the watch-word of the women in Japan. To the father while single; to the husband when married; and to the oldest son while a widow. The mother-in-law is an awful bugbear to the wife in Japan, and many a bright earnest woman is kept out of women's meetings and the church, because the idolatrous old mother-in-law won't hear to any connection with the foreigner or the "new Jesus' teaching."

Just now, the women of the Empire, beginning with the Empress, are all a fire with war, like zeal and enthusiasm. Rolling thousands of bandages, and preparing winter clothing for their soldiers in Corea, engrosses all their energies.

Poor Japan! How she needs the gospel of love to God and man! Only that is needed to lift her up and make her a mighty power for good in the world. We cannot point to our own or other any land and say, "there is a country altogether worthy of imitation because of Christian," but we can point to Christ and His blessed Word, and say only in so far as nations and individuals imitate—"reproduce"—"Him and live His words, can they fulfil the high and holy purpose with which they were created by the all-loving Father."

LAURA DELANY GARST.

Hongo Ku, Tokyo, Japan, Oct. 14, 1894.

RECEIPTS.

Previously reported, ....	....	....\$ 90 89
A Friend, ....	....	.... 2 50
St. John—		
St. John S. S., Oct. \$3 25 }		
Nov. 5.43 }	....	.... 8 68
Portland S. S., per Miss Wilson, .	....	.... 2 00
Women's Auxiliary, ....	....	.... 1 40
		<b>\$105 47</b>

CHILDREN'S WORK.

Previously reported, ....	....	....\$ 8 30
A Friend, ....	....	.... 2 50
St. John,—		
Wide Awake Mission Band, ....	....	.... 70
Portland S. S., Miss Wilson, ....	....	.... 1 50
Total, ....	....	....\$13 00

SUSIE B. FORD, Treasurer.  
154 North Street,  
Halifax.

Children's Work.

(Address all communications to Mrs. D. A. Morrison, 26 Dorchester Street, St. John, N. B.)

Dear Children,—Our circular letter reached St. John a few days ago, and I cannot begin to tell you how interesting it was for us to read such good reports from all our mission bands. I think such a letter as that makes us all feel better acquainted with one another. We have sent it on, praying that each faithful band of workers may be helped and cheered by its contents as we in St. John were.

We had our first mite-box opening at our last band meeting, and we intend to have an "opening" once a year. We hope to be able in this way to do a little more for the master—you know the little things in this world count as well as great things. We have thought of another plan, and would it not be well for all our bands to adopt the same plan? It is that of having a "Birthday Box" in the band. As each member's birthday comes around, he or she drops in the box as many pennies as he or she is years old. Then at the end of the year have the box opened, and the money sent to our friend O Gin San as our "Birthday Presents" to her. Don't you think the plan is a nice one? I hope each band will decide to have a "Birthday Box."

We are preparing to have a Japanese Tea on the 30th of November, and hope to have a good report to give of it next month.

Before another CHRISTIAN is issued, we will have left Christmas behind us once more, so I will take this opportunity of wishing all girls and boys of our mission band a very happy Christmas; and while we are enjoying all the pleasures and good things that Christmas time brings with it, let us not forget, in our prayers, the thousands of little girls and boys who do not know what Christmas means, for they have never heard of our Saviour.

Your loving friend,

Mrs. D. A. MORRISON,  
Sup't. Children's Work.