

Mrs. Eliza Spencer Large.

"Hark! The bugle-call of God
Down the ages sounding,
"Go ye," and proclaim abroad,
News of grace abounding."

The name of Mrs. Eliza Spencer Large adds another to the long list of ministers' daughters, who have gladly responded to the "bugle call" and have gone to live and teach the Gospel in heathen lands. Her father, the late Rev. James Spencer, years ago, "entered into rest," but in the person of his gifted and devoted daughter still proclaims "redeeming love."

In the year 1884 it was found necessary to send some one to the assistance of our first missionary, Miss Cartmell, whose health could no longer bear the strain of work and responsibility. It was important that not only a consecrated worker should be sent, but one possessing sound judgment and executive talent. When the name of Miss Eliza Spencer was presented to the Board of Management, it was felt that many prayers had been answered, for her ability was well known, and the fact that she had been a most successful teacher in the Ladies College, Winnipeg, gave evidence that she had also the experience necessary.

The writer remembers, as though it had been yesterday, when before the Board in the old Richmond St. church, Toronto, Miss Spencer with much emotion, told of her long continued desire to go to Japan, and of her hope to do her part in the service of the Master, to whom she had fully given herself.

Her arrival in Japan was hailed by Miss Cartmell with joy. She says, "Of course my expectations were high but none are disappointed, Miss Spencer's wonderful talents and wide experience added to her self-reliance not only command my admiration and deepest love, but rest me too."

Our two first workers seemed to be the complement of each other, and therefore able to work together in the greatest harmony.

So often during these first years of hard work and anxiety do we find recorded this joyful experience: "I am happier every day that my lot is cast in this land and work." "Our lot is a joyful one." "We feel it no sacrifice to be here."

Heart and brain as well as body were severely taxed, for the school in Tokyo had a phenomenal growth and although Miss Spencer had after a time, efficient helpers, yet upon her fell much of the planning of the building and the responsibility of seeing that plans, so carefully made, were as carefully carried out. While she is gratified with the numerical success of the school, we notice in her reports, that she rejoices still more in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit has come to dwell in many of the students' hearts. Her position enabled her to exert a wonderful influence, and to these young maidens, she was not only teacher but mother and friend, nursing them with unwearying care when ill and advising them in times of perplexity.

In the year 1887 our missionary, whom we had learned to know and love as Miss Eliza Spencer, became the wife of the Rev. T. A. Large, B. A., but retained her connection with the W. M. S., and no doubt this object lesson of a Christian home

and family had a good effect upon the lives of these young girls who would soon enter homes of their own.

After a year or two of ideal happiness in which a little daughter was given to Mr. and Mrs. Large, like a bolt out of a clear sky, came the terrible tragedy which ended the life of the brave and tender hearted husband, whom every one loved, and left Mrs. Large so sorely wounded that had it not been for her heroic fortitude, she too would have lost her life.

During this time of anguish, God's sustaining power was marvelous, for His glory; and that Mrs. Large's character may be better understood, we quote the following from one of her letters "My heart is very sore but I can say, 'Thy will be done,' and 'Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.' I wish I could tell you what a rich blessing the Father above has given to me; every moment present with me upholding and keeping. 'Wonderful woman! Wonderful recovery!' say those outside our own house. How it hurts me to hear it! 'Kept by the power of God,' and when we realize His power as I have during these four past weeks, there is nothing wonderful. I can but stand and wait for whatever blessing He has in store for me. The tears do flow, but 'Jesus wept,' and may not I, I, weak child? Indeed, these weeping times are times of special manifestations of His power to comfort and bless." So wondrously did this servant of God carry out the injunction to "declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people," that the leading Japanese newspaper says: "We cannot fathom the secret of such fearlessness, and must be content to note it as another example of that devoted courage which the earnest practice of the Christian faith has repeatedly been observed to inspire."

In the following July, 1890, Mrs. Large returned to Canada greatly enfeebled in health, and bearing in her person traces of the dreadful suffering through which she had passed, but with characteristic courage she appeared before the Board of Management in October, and did grand service for the society, as far as her health would permit, during the year. August of the next year, was all too soon to return to the land where she had been so sorely smitten, and to take up threads so rudely broken, but her heart was there and she longed to return. This manifestation of her love, after all she had suffered was greatly appreciated, and her welcome from the Japanese people was hearty and sincere.

The society is greatly indebted to Mrs. Large and Miss Cartmell for the strong Christian character of our school; from its first inception the thought most prominent in their hearts was the training of native workers who might do what they were powerless to do, visit from house to house, and in their own tongue tell the wonderful story.

That Mrs. Large is eminently fitted for the position of honor she now holds, none will deny, and the following from one of her fellow workers shows the high esteem in which she is held. "Mrs. Large is endowed with a truly devoted spirit, a clear, strong, vigorous intellect, and of all the Christian ladies I have met, I have never known one to possess in so high a degree the qualifications required to govern a work like that under her charge.