

PALM ✻ BRANCH.

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JUNE, 1898.

OUR prayers are asked for India and surely India shall have our prayers. Not only because our own great and good Queen is also its Empress, but because of India's extreme need which no mere earthly government can supply.

Our Woman's Missionary Society has no Mission in India as yet, but that is not because there is no need of its help and sympathy, but because of youth and lack of means to extend its work so far. We hope the day is not distant when this work will be vigorously pushed, not only into India but into darkest Africa too. This will be when all the women of our Methodist Church of Canada have become fully awake to their own Christian privileges and the reasonable demands that God and His church are making upon them.

Some one says the enlightenment of the Hindu woman means the redemption of India. The greatest instrument of good there is the Christian home. The Indian woman is steeped in idolatry; it is her life, and she teaches it to her children from their very birth. The caste system is the greatest foe to Christianity. It is said to be the strongest thing in the world, and the Hindu woman is the life of it. Only the power of God can break it down. That the women of India have heart and brain, that they are worthy of effort and sacrifice on a part of their Christian sisters, not only for their own sakes but for the sake of the good they can do, is clearly proved by the unselfish devotion of Pundita Ramabai and her wonderful success in her home-school of child widows, as well as her care of the famine sufferers. The story of Sooboonagam Ammal, one of the richest among high caste women and intensely devoted to her idols, who was converted to Christianity simply by the reading of the Word of God, which was her lesson book in the Tamil language,

as taught by teachers of the Mission school, is more wonderful than any romance. The sketch is written by Miss Stephens, of the M. E. Mission, to whom she came as a Christmas gift when she fled from the bitter persecution which had begun for her at home—"I am God's Christmas gift to you," she said. The fact of the poor mother, after having pleaded vainly for her beautiful daughter's return to her family, leaving home and friends and going on a long pilgrimage full of danger and hardship to propitiate the gods and make amends for that daughter's crime, is most pathetic.

One of the most reliable papers in India, the "Indian Witness," gives the following news: "This note from the Kau-kab-i-Hind will be of pleasing interest to all our readers: 'It has for some time been the opinion of those near Miss Reed, the Missionary lady who has such a large place in the sympathies of the Christian world because of having in some way contracted leprosy while engaged in Mission work in India, that she was being gradually healed. No medicine has been used, as the disease is universally acknowledged to be incurable, but Miss Reed has believed from the first that the leprosy would be stayed and she would be cured. A couple of weeks ago she left her work in Chandag and came to the plains to undergo examination at the hands of competent physicians. Brigade-Surgeon Condon and the civil surgeon of Cawnpore, on Friday, Feb. 25, pronounced her practically cured. Miss Reed's many friends will rejoice in her signal recovery. Inasmuch as her case had been previously investigated by a number of experts and physicians of high repute, all of whom agreed as to the nature of the malady, there can be no doubt that she has been healed of an incurable disease. We usually consider the age of miracles as past, but to those who believe in an active Providence, this staying of the disease will surely be accepted as an instance of Divine interposition.'"—*Faithful Witness.*

Next month we will give the picture and story of a dear little Japanese girl to our young readers.

Cordial thanks are due to our kind friend, Mrs. Ross, of Montreal, for the instructive and helpful Bible reading to be found on the next page.

We are glad to be able to give you Miss Preston's interesting letter from Japan this month. Miss Preston kindly says that she is pleased to have our little PALM BRANCH come to her far-a-way home, and she thinks it is a bright and helpful little paper.