

I believe the women and children in many cases would be glad to receive instruction, if the husbands would allow it. My heart aches as I see the nervous, troubled look upon the faces of the little girls, who used to come to me with shy pleasure, and say English words as I would try to win them.

Of the twenty-four Chinese women, whose names I have succeeded in obtaining and whom I have visited once or oftener in their homes, I have seen eighteen this week. Out of these, and besides the five married girls from the "Homes," there are only three, perhaps four, others, where, now, I see a faint reason to hope I may be suffered to go, relying upon the Lord to work.

There are many women, and oh! so many little children in Chinatown. Numbers of them are of school age, showing the necessity of them being ready, watching and listening for the "Sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, and then bestir ourselves; for then shall the Lord go out before us." That time will surely come, and the Lord will give abundant fruit to the faithful sower and patient watcher.

Though my work has been so intermittent, full of weakness and defect, when calmly considered, the condition of things is only what ought to be expected. A good deal of thought has been aroused, and though opposition is the first expression of ignorant prejudice, knowledge of our true aim may result. Early in the year I sought aid from the Bible Society, asking a grant of portions of Scripture, the "Gospels" and "Book of the Acts" in Chinese for distribution. This was kindly and very cheerfully granted. Several hundred copies have been scattered as judiciously as possible. Pray that His Word may not return unto the Lord void.

We are not left without encouragement in the Chinese Sabbath-school, though it has not been thought best to encourage the attendance of the women, at one time desired.

We have attempted, though not succeeded, in forming the Christian women into a band for prayer and Bible study. Some are too busy, and the husbands of others object to their wives being on the street, and from home oftener than agrees with Chinese ideas of right for young married women. The women themselves do not feel their need keenly enough, and there is no use forcing things. It will be of more benefit when somebody comes who can instruct them in their own tongue. We have need of patience, till these Christian women know enough of the constraining love of Christ to be aroused to individual responsibility and effort for their friends.

From my heartfelt experience I pray, if the Lord sees best, that He will send us one for this work, whom He has prepared in the province of Canton, China, who will come among the people with a knowledge of themselves and their language.

Until that time comes, may His lot fall upon the right one to meet the present need of the "Home," and the work outside.

With deepened reverence for the work,

Very sincerely,

M. J. CARTMELL.