

## PALM \* BRANCH.

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MARCH, 1898.

**T**HE latest news from Japan is very encouraging as well as interesting. What do you think our Ladies in Azabu are doing? Why, they are teaching the Policemen! by personal request, of course. That is a grand idea from many points of view. Who so need to learn the principles of love and mercy as those who are pledged to carry out the laws! We would that the policemen of all countries could be taught to serve under the gentle rule of our Prince of Peace. Well, these men are not only anxious to study English, but also the Bible.

There is a class of twenty, and they come twice a week. Miss Blackmore says: "The men are so eager to learn and manifest so much interest in the Bible lessons that it is refreshing to teach them." One of them has expressed before them all a desire to know more of Christianity. Miss Blackmore speaks well of the Japanese policemen in general; the members of this class now greet them on the streets as special friends.

Miss Alcorn writes from Shizuoka about work in Shimada. Ten years ago the opposition was so great that a house could not be rented for Christian work. But one of the pupils of the Shizuoka school, returning to her home in Shimada, received permission of her father (one of the first men in the town) to have a woman's meeting in her own house, which was the beginning of work there. After a time the old opposition returned and Miss Cunningham was advised that it was unsafe to go. She went, however, (such is the spirit of our devoted missionaries) and continued the children's meeting with an attendance, sometimes, of one hundred. Meantime one of the leading men was converted and he asked to have his wife taught Christianity. Miss Cunningham, with an interpreter, went to the house. The good work is going on—slow but sure. While the children are being told a Bible story they listen attentively, but there is a restless crowd of

men and women in the background who press forward to receive papers when the children receive theirs. Then twenty or thirty big boys come to hear the foreigners speak English, and a Gospel story is told them—so the good seed is sown.

Miss Alcorn says: "I cannot describe the hopelessness that came over me when for the first time I sat face to face with a soul who knew nothing of God! My whole heart goes out for that baptism of power, without which we are unable to lead one soul to Him." Let us pray more for these faithful missionaries.

Miss Robertson writes most hopefully of the Kofu school, but of the language as "such a barrier" to personal contact with the pupils. Miss Hargraves writes of the establishment of the Nagano Branch, and regular work started there.

We have no work, as yet, in Corea. The first convert was baptized in 1886, and the first church formed in 1887 with ten members. There are now six Protestant societies, and sixty-seven missionaries, men and women. In 1884 Dr. Allen, a Presbyterian medical missionary, opened the way for missions, two years after the treaty with the United States. There is a hospital there in charge of a missionary physician. Before the opening of Corea a Scotch missionary translated the New Testament and circulated it through the country with other Christian literature. Now the whole Bible is being translated.

There is good work being done in the New Hebrides by Rev. Fred. J. Paton, son of Dr. John G. Paton. The particulars are very interesting, if we only had space for them. He was the first white child born on the island on which his devoted father labored so faithfully. He was sent home from the Islands at the age of six for his education,—won college honors and prizes—and has now devoted his young life to Foreign Mission Work.

ERRATUM.—In February number, in Field Study, N. F. L. Methodist Orphanage, for the ages of the girls there 15 to 17, read 7 to 15.

"He must reign till He hath put all enemies under His feet."

We wait thy triumph, Saviour King;  
 Long ages have prepared thy way;  
 Now all abroad thy banner fling,  
 Set time's great battle in array.

Thy hosts are marshalled to the field:  
 "The Cross! the Cross!" the battle call;

The old grim towers of darkness yield  
 And soon shall totter to their fall.

On mountain tops the watch fires glow,  
 Where scattered wide the watchmen stand;

Voice echoes voice, and onward flow  
 The joyful shouts from land to land.

RAY PALMER.