

How thankfully, too one remembers that God is no respecter of persons, that money confers no advantage on its possessor in seeking help from God. By no expenditure or device can an earlier answer to prayer be procured by the rich. The rich must become poor in spirit, and the poor must become possessed of the riches of faith. The poverty of spirit and the riches of faith that are required are alike the gift of God to the seeking soul. 'Ask, and ye shall receive.'

The same traveller tells us: 'One Sunday afternoon, at Shingaji, a small procession passed the house; it consisted of a decorated palanquin, carried and followed by Buddhist priests. This contained papers inscribed with names of individuals, and the evils they feared, and the priests were about, to cast these papers into the river, whereby, through the mercy of their gods, they imagined the dreaded ills would be averted.'

How much more, I thought, should we, whose souls are lighted with wisdom from on high, be definite in prayer. How speedy, gracious, and abundant was God's answer of help to one of old, who, in the hour of distress and peril, 'went into the house of the Lord, and spread his oppressor's letter before the Lord.' He who can truly say, 'I poured out my complaint before Him, and showed before Him my trouble,' will unfaillingly have cause to add, 'He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.'

Religious News.

The 'Bombay Guardian' gives the following suggestive facts showing the progress made in the operations of the Indian Sunday School Union in the decade from 1896 to 1906: The number of candidates presenting themselves (voluntarily) for examination in Scripture has risen from 600 to 16,000; and during the decade more than 58,000 certificates have been awarded. These are given in three grades. A large percentage of the candidates belong to non-Christian homes. A silver medal is presented to the student who gets highest marks in each language. Some seventy-five medals are thus given every year. In our thoughts and prayers about the work being done in India for the Master a place of remembrance is due to this solid, unobtrusive, evangelistic labor, carried on under difficult conditions, often under heavy discouragement.

Six girls' schools at Hankow were allowed to attend the athletic meet, where over fifty boys' schools took part in the parade; and when Hankow College Alumni gave a concert for the Famine Fund, the girls of our mission school were invited to assist by singing. 'A new departure indeed,' writes Miss Lois Lyon, 'for Chinese girls to appear in public before an audience.'—'Woman's Work.'

Sixteen years ago, when Rev. S. A. Moffett went to Pyeng Yang, Korea, one of the men who stoned him in the streets was Yee Kee Pong. When the first ministers of the Korean Presbyterian Church were ordained last September at Pyeng Yang, Rev. Yee Kee Pong was one of the number. He was immediately set apart as a missionary to the island of Quelpart, which is directly south of Korea. The 100,000 inhabitants of the island are destitute of the Gospel. In connection with the setting apart of Yee Kee Pong a thank-offering was taken by the Korean Church for his support. This is one of the many evidences of the work of grace in Korea, the genuineness of which is shown in the missionary spirit which moves them to send one of their own number to a people who need the Gospel.

Work in Labrador.

A SCHOOL AND ITS SCHOLARS IN THE NORTH.

The life of the doctor, the work of the nurse, the place of the minister among the fishing people of the rocky northern coasts all have had due attention given to them in the weekly reports of the Labrador work, but the school teacher has been noticeably absent. Dr. Grenfell, however, is not one to neglect any phase of the work under his charge, and, as the Rev. J. T. Richards mentioned in his report published last week in ~~these columns~~, ~~where~~ the little neglected

school at St. Anthony was finally left without a teacher for last winter, he secured the services of Miss Ruth Keese, an American lady teacher with the true missionary spirit in her heart. Her report sent to 'Among the Deep Sea Fishermen' gives some idea of the great difficulties with which she had to contend, but it is not the difficulties that loom largest in her sight, for in a more personal note accompanying her letter she says: 'If this will be of any use to you, I am glad. I wish I could really tell you how perfectly beautiful the life here is, and how we all love it—the work and the place and the people and the clear cold weather. We feel as if we wanted to hold on to every day.'

St. Anthony,
March 9th, 1908.

Dear Mr. Editor,—When I came to St. Anthony it was with the idea that I was to start a Kindergarten, where and how, I knew not, but of that one thing I was sure. Somehow, I missed Miss Storr on the wharf, so I arrived at the Orphanage in the pouring rain to be met by, 'I'm sorry, but you mustn't come in, we have scarlet fever here. I'm sorry.' It was Sister McMahon from behind the screen door. We explained and laughed, and I went down to the hospital to be cordially met by Sister McDonald, 'the tall sister,' as the patients came to call her. It appeared that the whole harbor was just recovering from a light form of scarlet fever, but that it would not be well to start school for some time at least. Accordingly, the next day I started on my hospital career. I will remember the terrible fear with which I began to rub the 'rheumatiky' knees of poor old Mrs. Short and the awful faces she used to make up. Later, when we became good friends, I used to tease her about the faces, until, much against her will, she would laugh, 'though I doesn't feel much like laughing, my dear.' It was Mrs. Short who could tell when the 'Strathcona' was coming because 'I always dream of dead people the night before.'

By the first of October the schoolhouse was fumigated and cleaned, and I started in with about twenty-five children, up to the age of fifteen. There were no desks, just a kind of sloping shelf around the walls, with benches in front of them for the children to sit on. Of course this puts them all with their backs to the middle of the room, and backs are, not inspiring to talk to. Also the benches, being wobbly, are easy to tip over. It happens occasionally that a bench will fall over and spill two or three little ones, but you get used to it.

All schools in Newfoundland are denominational, and this one happens to be under the care of the Methodist Church, but it has been hard to get the Methodists or anyone else to take much interest in it. Last year the school was open for about eight weeks. With that exception, the only school for three years has been that which Mr. Jones has conducted in the Mission Hall. Now there is not even a School Board, and the people could hardly believe that there was to be 'regular schooling' all winter. When that became evident, the numbers began to increase. 'Our Harry's coming next week,' boasted Mary Jane. 'So's our Solomon,' said Mary Annie, 'soon as he've finished with the fish, if school don't knock off before the frosty weather.' And they came, until there was no more room, and five sat on a bench meant for three, and 'we've no room to write here, Miss.'

But the schoolhouse, what with age and hard use, kept getting more and more out of repair. The roof leaked and the stove pipe leaked, and things were altogether bad, but it seemed impossible to get anything done. One of the children suggested that it needed to go to the Hospital. Finally, when Dr. Grenfell came, he suggested that we move school over to the other side of the harbor, about ten minutes' walk on the ice, where the Church of England schoolhouse stood waiting—clean and in good order—with rough but serviceable desks. We were glad to go, and most of the children went also gladly. Of course some dropped out, but for ten that we lost we gained twenty. At present there are about fifty in attendance, and we shall probably stay on 'the other side' as long as the walking holds good on the ice.

The work has been much hampered by lack of books, especially readable geographies and histories; but in the 'Three R's' they

have made enough progress to be encouraging. The children are not bright, but they do want to learn, many of them. I was touched the other day when one boy came to school asking, 'Can I have three copy books for dad? He wants to write, too.' This same man is saving money to send his boy to college.

It means much to them, this chance to 'get l'arnin'.' 'It's no trouble for my boy to learn, once he gets the chance,' you hear again and again, and one poor woman said to me, 'I never expected to see Mary in the Second Reader before I died.'

An important feature is the teaching of Dr. Grenfell's catechism—'Is fresh air good for me? I cannot live without it,' etc. Dr. Grenfell gives prizes to all those who know it. It really is taking effect, too, for this week I heard some children urging a chilly, white checked little girl to 'come out and get the fresh air so's you won't have the consumption.' Also they take pride in the 'don't spit' cards, and any infringement of them is considered a crime—around school at least.

In the evening I teach Phoebe and Emmie, the two big girls, such nice girls, at the Orphanage, for an hour and a half. Phoebe especially is very ambitious. She wants so much to follow her sister to America and learn to be a teacher.

It is a busy life and a very happy one. I hate, as we all do here, to have the winter go, for the time seems so very short when there is so very much to be done. But it is something one will always be thankful for—to have had the chance of doing this little.

RUTH E. KEESE.

Acknowledgments.

LABRADOR FUND.

Received for the launch:—A Well-wisher, Hamilton, \$2.00; 'In His Name,' London, Ont., \$2.00; St. Peter's Church Branch S. S., Dorchester, \$4.00; A Friend, Brooklin, 25 cents; Total \$ 8.25
Received for the coats:—'In His Name,' London, Ont., \$1.00; Harmony Union Mission S. S., Toronto, \$10.00; Little Helpers' Club, Great Village, N.S., \$1.50; Total \$ 12.50
Received for the komatik:—'In His Name,' London, Ont., \$2.00; Mrs. E. Bentley, Toronto, \$2.00; Total \$ 4.00
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Address all subscriptions for Dr. Grenfell's work to 'Witness' Labrador Fund, John Dougall and Son, 'Witness' Office, Montreal, stating with the gift whether it is for launch, komatik, or coats.

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