

Tuesday, the 14th, and accompanied by Miss Hart, we had about an hour's railway journey, and after that committed ourselves to the tender mercies of certain vehicles called "bashas," which, being springless, and conveying us over mountain roads cut up by recent and present rains, can be better imagined than described. Sometimes we thought we were really making two miles an hour. We stayed one night very comfortably at a Japanese hotel in a village, and rose the next morning at 4 o'clock, so as to resume our journey early. The scenery was very fine, grand and beautiful, at the same time the road doubling back and forth as we climbed the mountains, and revealing a constantly changing picture. Our attention, however, was somewhat divided, owing to sundry jolts and lurches, and it was with thankful hearts for preserved lives and unbroken limbs that at 3 p.m. we reached the Jo Gakko, and received a hearty welcome from Miss Preston and Miss Blackmore. These two young ladies are the *only* foreigners living in this province of 400,000 inhabitants, which speaks well for their courage and devotion to duty, and is no less creditable to the law-abiding friendly attitude of the people. Yesterday we visited the rooms first occupied by Miss Wintemute, and where she opened the school now so well established and pleasantly situated. We were sorry she had returned to Canada before our visit, but are glad to see much of the result of her thought and labor.

Besides the school which is being very satisfactorily carried on, much attention is given to evangelistic work, meetings being held by our ladies regularly in seven different places, and an occasional "general meeting" to awaken interest. Last evening, at one of these gatherings, about four miles distant, we were delighted to see about 200 people, which was quite a surprise, as this is the busy silk season. Addresses were given by the evangelist, in whose house the meeting was held by Yoshida Sau, one of our teachers, and by Miss Preston; eager attention being given even by the many children who had been attracted. Who can tell the result through aroused interest and the blessing of God.

The members of our Women's Missionary Society cannot estimate the good that is being done, nor be thankful enough for the privilege and honor that has been given them. The ladies in all our stations are doing a noble work for time and eternity, and it becomes us to uphold them with unstinted prayer and sympathy and to give them all the helpers and aid they need.

When one gets even a faint idea of the vast multitudes that have yet never even heard of Christ, the question forces itself more and more, what is the Church of God doing? Is not this its true work, to publish the glad tidings? Why was this treasure entrusted to us rather than to these other larger nations? Shall we not pray for grace and wisdom to meet our heavy responsibility.

I did not expect, dear Mrs. Parker, to inflict upon you so long a document, but there is so much of interest that a great deal has to be omitted.

Trusting that all is going on well with the work at home and that you personally are enjoying a pleasant summer,

I remain, yours sincerely,

E. S. STRACHAN.

#### THE DEACONESS MOVEMENT.

DEAR MRS. PARKER,—You will, I am sure, rejoice that the Toronto Conference is moving in this matter by the appointment of a Committee to consider and report at the next Conference. It is to be regretted that there is no practical move in any of the other Conferences, one or two reporting favorably, but going no further than verbal approval of the scheme. From the first it has appeared to me that this movement should be inaugurated by our Women's

Missionary Society, or at the least be affiliated with it and under the practical control of the Board. It is distinctly woman's work, and as far as the employment of women nurses—the establishment of homes for training the workers, etc.—is concerned, the practical management must fall into the hands of a Woman's Committee by whomsoever appointed. As to the relation of the work to our constitution as it now stands, I fail to interpret it as antagonistic to any branch of the work of Deaconesses. Article 2 referring in the latter clause to special laborers would I think be permissive. If others do not so interpret it our rules are not iron-bound, and such expansion is possible as may be necessary to cover the ground. The spirit of the movement is true to every Christian instinct that would rescue the perishing. It appears to me that we cannot at first grasp all the outcome of benefit that would accrue to the Society by this new departure. It would effectually close the mouths of those whose cry of "charity begins at home" has so often fettered our hands and tongues in pleading for Foreign Missions. As the results of this work would be a benefit to our local communities, aid to our pastors and inspiration to the Church at large, I have faith to believe that God's Methodists would sustain a special fund for the purpose. As our work is at present carried on we make no direct or personal appeals for aid to the general congregations or adherents. Surely the membership would be inspired by the faith of the W.M.S., and would acknowledge that "new occasions bring new duties." Perhaps my ideas are too crude to be of value, but I should like to have the sisters think of and discuss this important phase of Christian women's work.

Sincerely yours,

ANNIE G. MCMECHAN.

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