

# PALM \* BRANCH.

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St. JOHN, N. B.

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St. JOHN, N. B., MAY, 1900.

"O lilies of Easter, unfold, unfold!  
 And offer to Him your hearts of gold."

"And we? Ah! we cannot, like Mary,  
 The Saviour in person now greet,  
 With odours most rare to ancient him,  
 Or weep out our tears on his feet;  
 But hearts that shed incense of praises,  
 And hearts that shed perfume of prayer,  
 Most precious to him of all others,  
 May the weakest of us to Him bear."

We cannot but be interested in the new home at Kitamaat, so lately become the property of our Society. A good, noble work is being done there among the Indians of our own Dominion, and it is right that the hands of our self-denying missionaries should be well sustained. And the results, so far, have been good.

"Na-na-kwa" says:—

"In non-Christian villages the girls are neglected and often ill-treated and tortured. They are not considered equals of men and when married become literally slaves.

Since the advent of the missionary a great change has taken place, and a good step made towards Christian civilization.

We cannot reasonably expect in a few years to bring into perfect civilization large tracts of territory which are covered with weeds, noxious herbs, giant trees representing the growth of centuries. Neither can we reasonably expect in a few short years to uproot all customs, all superstitions, habits, antipathies, tempers, the growth of centuries of paganism.

Six years ago we began work amongst the children, using as a home a dilapidated schoolhouse, and a small building of rough boards made from borrowed lumber, only one thickness of board to keep out the winter's frost."

Now, as we have seen, they have a nice, comfortable Home for the children gathered in.

We are sorry to learn that Miss W., the young lady who so kindly furnishes us with "Auxiliary Prayer subject talks," has been seriously ill. We trust soon to hear of her complete recovery. We would refer our readers for this month's subject to February and March numbers.

THE NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH OF THE W. M. S.  
 1882 TO 1900.

Travelling hundreds of miles to the west, and northward up one of the mightiest rivers in the world, we come to Chentu in the heart of wall-bound Western China. We stop at the door of a house, which we think must belong to the W. M. S., and ask, "is there anyone in this far-off world belonging to home—to Nova Scotia?" Two young ladies spring to meet us—they are Miss Mary Foster, of Kingston, and Dr. Maud Killam, of Yarmouth. Their work here is most hazardous and difficult. To Miss Foster's energy and oversight is due the completion of the Jennie Ford Home, and we have in Dr. Killam our first Nova Scotian medical missionary consecrated to the work of saving the bodies as well as the souls of the poor Chinese.

Other devoted and honored women from our own country, Nova Scotia, have been Miss Agnes Knight, of Halifax, who labored for five years at Port Simpson; Miss Maggie Shoults, of Maitland, who did good work at Chelliwhack; Miss Leake, of Parrishoro, now Mrs. Tuttle, who still retains her love for the work in the Chinese new Girls' Home in Victoria, where she spent several years. There was also Miss Leda Caldwell, of Summerville, who went to Port Simpson, and Miss Laura Elderkin, who went from Port Greville to Chilliwhack. Most of these last named ladies have married or retired, but leave themselves on record as faithful servants of the Master.

Let us look up the work done by this Branch at the various stations in connection with the whole W. M. S. of the Methodist Church of Canada. In Japan there are five Branches—Tokyo, Shizuoka, Kofu, Nagand and Kanazawa, and in four cities there are schools where English, Japanese and Christianity are fully taught. There is also a dispensary—a powerful factor in missionary work. The Word is rapidly spreading into new districts, and it is not too much to expect that the next century will see a Christian Japan. Here, too, we find King's Daughters, schools, orphanages, Sunday-schools, day-schools, night schools, young men's classes, policemen's classes, visiting and hospital committees; all this and very much more is done by our devoted missionaries in the twenty-four stations in Japan.

A great concession has been made to Christianity in that the proprietors of the huge silk and cotton factories now allow our ladies to visit their establishments and hold short services with the women, who stand at the whirling looms from five in the morning until seven at night. One of the chief encouragements in Japan is the altered attitude of the nobility to our schools and work. Where they once held aloof with hatred and suspicion, they now listen courteously and in very many cases prefer sending their daughters to our school instead of those of the government. Let us pray that nothing may hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in this most essential direction.

N. S.

M. R.