

TO THE FORE.

BY JAMES BUCKHAM.

Move to the fore,
Men whom God hath made fit for the fray!
Not yours to shrink, as the feeble ones may,
Not yours to parley and quibble and shirk,
Ill for the world, if ye do not God's work.
Move to the fore!

Move to the fore,
Say not another is fitter than thou—
Shame to the manhood that sits on thy brow
Own thyself equal to all that man may.
Cease thine evading; God needs thee to-day,
Move to the fore.

Move to the fore.
God himself waits, and must wait, till thou come,
Men are God's prophets though ages lie dumb.
Halts the Christ kingdom, with conquest so near?
Thou art the cause, thou, thou man at the rear.
Move to the fore!

Boston,

Recitation for boys.

KANAZAWA ORPHANAGE.

HIS has been our King's Daughters' meeting which is held at the Orphanage once a month. The 18 children all belong to this Society, but as many of them are too young to understand its meaning fully, we do as other societies have done here in Japan, have active and associate members, though this changes the character of the society somewhat from its original form, I believe. It is interesting to hear the treasurer's report each month and see in what various ways these little people who possess no cent of money of their own in the world, yet manage to have something to pay in to the general fund. Sometimes it will be 1½ cents from O Teru San for ripping up some old dresses, ready for making over—one cent from O Haru San for doing some errands out of school hours—½ or perhaps 7-10 of a cent from O Mika San for some other service, for it must be remembered, that in Japan each cent is sub-divided into tenths, each of which tenths is a separate piece of money called a "rin," about the size of the cent, but having a square hole in the middle, and among the very poor in Japan, a rin means as much to the children as a cent does to you in Canada. In addition to this specially earned money, we have adopted the tithing system, and each child is allowed one tenth of her earnings during the month to pay into the King's Daughters' funds. Most of the children are only practicing at embroidery as yet, but two or three of them have become skilful enough to earn a little, so that last month O Kin San paid in 3 sen, 1 rin, as her tenth, and O Hatsu San, 2 sen, 9 rin.

The work by which most money is earned is filling match frames from a factory near by, as even the smallest children can do this, and when work is plenty, the combined earnings amount to two yen or more a month. This does not sound like a very great sum, but it is sufficient to pay the expenses of one child's food and clothing for the month, and when the low rate of

wages is considered, and the fact that the children are either in school from eight to two o'clock, or else engaged in preparing the food, or in other household duties, it will be seen that the two yen represent a good many hours of faithful labor on the part of the children. The price paid for filling one frame, ready for the sulphur to be put on when sent back to the factory, is only 2½ rin, so that 4 frames must be filled in order to earn one sen, and several hundred of the little match sticks must be picked up and laid in even rows in the grooves prepared for them, to fill even one frame.

We have this same kind of work at our Daifime Poor School, where the children can, by working industriously at it from dawn till dark, earn from 2 to 5 sen, which they consider a good day's wages. As we consider the education of our Orphanage children more important than the amount of money earned just now, we have them work at this only out of school hours, and on holidays. With the exception of two or three, our children are all eager and ambitious students, and there is considerable good natured rivalry among them, to see who can stand at the head of their respective classes in the monthly examinations. We trust that by the education of their heads, hands, and hearts, which is being carried on together, they will grow up to be good and useful men and women, and fitted for something more profitable to themselves and the world, than filling match frames, though that makes them a good employment now.

We are glad to notice every now and then, little things which show that the spirit of thoughtfulness and kindness is growing among our family of little folks. Hurrying home one day not long ago from a sudden shower, I came upon a group of them on their way home from school. They had stopped in the shelter of a gateway, to solve the problem of making two umbrellas cover a company of six. The two older girls were tying two of the little ones safely on their backs and, with the other two to carry the books of the older ones and the wooden shoes of the two who were riding, they were ready to start out, with three smiling faces, but only two pairs of feet to be seen under each of the big paper umbrellas, and all would reach home dry and happy.

One of the smallest girls, who last winter received some paper dolls and soldiers from the little boy in America who is supporting her in school here, wished very much to send him a present, to show her thanks to him; so one day she brought me her Kindergarten book of paper-folding, drawing, etc., which she had completed last year, the one precious thing which she possessed, and asked me to take it home with me to the little boy who is saving his pennies to educate her. She looked very happy over her sacrifice, as though she had tested the truth that "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and we hope that all these children, who are now receiving so much through the kindness of the Mission Bands at home, will carry this spirit of appreciation with them through life, and, by "passing on" the kindness of others as they grow to manhood and womanhood, more than repay all that is being expended on them now.

M. A. VEZEY.

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