

Circle meets once every two weeks, the fee being two cents each per month. We have now over fifty members and expect many more to join us.

LUELLA MORROW, *Cor. Sec.*

A MISSION BAND was organized in Pickering and returns fourteen members, with hopes of gaining many more at their next meeting. President, Mrs. Seldon; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Mable Mowbray.

MITCHELL.—Nearly thirty of our members gathered at the beautiful home of Mrs. T. S. Ford for our November meeting. A very full and interesting report of the Branch meeting at Ingersoll was given by Mrs. Phinnamore, followed by an attractive musical and literary programme, after expressing regret, by a standing vote, at the removal of Mrs. Hornibrook, an old and valued member, to Brandon. Five o'clock tea was served, and all separated feeling grateful to Mrs. Ford, and certain that fresh impetus had been given to our Auxiliary.

M. B. FRANCIS, *Cor. Sec.*

LONDON.—The regular monthly meeting of the Young Ladies' Mission Circle of Queen's Avenue Church was held on Tuesday evening, January 5th, in Wesley Hall. The attendance was good. The President, Miss Chapman, occupied the chair. After disposing of the usual business a good programme was carried out, which consisted of instrumental selections, readings, and an interesting paper on Japan, by Miss Fowler, which awakened a deeper interest in Missionary work in the minds of those who heard it. The Circle is in a flourishing condition; twelve new members were enrolled. We have adopted the plan of systematic giving this year. We gave a missionary "At Home" in December, at which we realized fifty dollars.

MARY NELLES, *Cor. Sec.*

JAPAN.

Extract of Letter from MISS PRESTON, KOFU, January 7th 1892.

AGAIN I take up my pen to write you concerning our Yamanashi work. Circumstances, for the present, have closed the way to Fukui, though not until lately with sufficient definiteness to make it a certainty. So I am still in Kofu.

We have had a very happy term of work. It makes a great difference if the atmosphere of work is a familiar one or not, and I have been here long enough now to get well acquainted with the women. For one reason and another, I find I can reach out after non-Christian women, through the medium of Christian women, in a way I could not do at first.

Sunday evenings, after church, we have held a little meeting for the benefit of those who desired to study Christianity. We have had an average attendance of four or five non-Christians. We feel it a great point gained if a woman attends church. She herself then is probably honest and earnest in her purpose, and, moreover, if her friends allow her to attend church, there is not likely to be any objection to her becoming a Christian.

Mrs. E., a Christian woman, has brought two women to church. One of these, Mrs. F., has received every encouragement from her husband to make her become a Christian. This man, it is said, was converted, when living in the Sandwich Islands, and became a baptized Christian, but he is now a backslider, and does not attend church at all. Nevertheless, he wishes his wife to become a Christian and incites her to it, perhaps, as a sop to his own conscience. Another woman, Mrs. A., has been reached through Mrs.

H., and her husband, too, is encouraging her to become a Christian. I called one day on Mrs. U., one of the women of the church, and during my call she brought in one of her neighbors for me to talk to her as she was desirous of learning about Christianity. I had a talk with her, and as owing to a sick child, Mrs. U., could not attend church, I arranged for Mrs. H. to call for her and take her. Since then the mother and daughter have attended church quite regularly, and the daughter is very much in earnest, reading her Bible diligently. They are very poor, however, and the necessity of keeping the Sabbath will perhaps be to them as it is to many, a stumbling-block in the way of their becoming Christians. The daughter of another neighbor came with Mrs. U. to Sabbath School, and this furnished an entrance to another home, and now the mother and daughter in that home are interested in the truth, and have bought a Bible.

These few instances will give you an idea of how the heaven of truth works, and how some of the seed in new ground is sown. But there is shadow as well as light, and we have to be very careful in our dealings with new people, as to the ground whereon we tread. Another neighbor of Mrs. U. very suddenly expressed her desire to learn Christianity as quickly as possible. It seems she had friends who were Christians, and was acquainted, either personally or by name, with a Kofu girl who had become a Bible woman. The circumstances were unusual, and I questioned very closely to find out if there were any ulterior motive, and at last came the conclusion, she was after the loaves and fishes and not the truth, and that it was in the hope of getting an education, or earning her living as a Bible woman that she was so anxious to learn. Her after conduct has only served to strengthen me in this conclusion.

Fu San, who used to attend our afternoon women's meeting, comes no longer. Arrangements were on the tapis for her marriage, and as it is very improper for a girl to go out much under such circumstances, her parents would not permit her to come.

H. San has done well in their afternoon meeting. She speaks nicely and with ease. Before her conversion she had so much sorrow that she reached a point where she felt she might better die than live. But to become a Christian was to fill her own heart with joy. This reacted on others, and made her better able to please her husband; and so, with the difference in her home environments and her pleasant church associations, her life has completely changed for the better, and now she offers the earnest service of a loving and grateful heart in work for her Master.

Our training class for Bible women numbers six members, of whom four attend all the classes. They receive from the Japanese pastor and myself nearly four hours of teaching a week.

The Christian Woman's Society has a working membership of fifteen. It gives one-third of what it makes to the church. It has collected all-told, yen 4.89, that is, about \$4 of our money, since the beginning. Of this amount, yen 2.00 was given to the earthquake sufferers. A good-sized bundle of clothing was sent by the women of the church for the same purpose.

The country work moves on much as usual. Semi-monthly meetings have been started in Futagawa, a village where there are no Christian women and only two Christian men.

The Ichikawa meeting has improved in attendance since our general meeting there in October. Since then, one or two women have come, apparently, for the sake only of the truth, as they do not take fancy-work.

The Katsunuma meeting sent yen 1.20 to the relief of the earthquake sufferers.

From the Kanoiwa meeting, one woman, Mayeda San,