

* PALM BRANCH *

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SEPTEMBER 1897.



OW does the close of this missionary year find us? With our faces still set toward the goal? Still striving with heart and will to do our divinely appointed work? If so, the retrospect will not be all shadow and the prospect will be glorious. We are glad to know that the work of our own society through the year, has kept pace with the onward march of missions; though there have been difficulties and discouragements there has also been much to encourage and cheer.

One of our missionaries says, "It would be easier to rejoice if we saw conversions every week, if people were as eager to hear the Gospel as they are indifferent to it at present, and if we could see the harvest which must come some day, but which now seems afar off. Yet we can rejoice over the privilege of sowing the seed, of doing steadily, day by day, the work which we find to do and of waiting and trusting in God for the results."

This is the true secret of success in all kinds of work! Indeed, dear young friends, we believe it is God's own secret of working—little by little; it is true in the world of nature, it is true in the Kingdom of grace—and the results are sure.

We hope to have very encouraging reports from the Board this year. Three new missionaries have gone out, one to Japan and two to China.

We know that new fields are opening up in Japan and that China with her increased staff of workers is likely to show good work for God.

We have only to read the latest monthly Leaflet to get an idea of the workers and their work on the different fields. First, there is a letter from one of our new missionaries to China, Dr. Maud Killam, who gives a fascinating description of her first impressions of that distant country, and a home-like view of her

journey thither. She ascribes the safety of her long, dangerous voyage to the answered prayers of home friends. One sentence is well worthy of remembrance, showing her childlike confidence in God.

"Better than safe runs through dangerous rapids, and a pilot who steers clear of the rocks, and a captain who knows how to manage the sail, is the knowledge that God has the whole disposing of our lot, that our loving, Heavenly Father careth for us."

Again, "Away in far-off West China we find God the same in his care for all, the same wondrous beauties of nature, and I believe we shall find our brother men the same."

Miss Brooks writes of the famine caused by the cultivation of the poppy instead of rice. She says, "If they would only devote all their energies to cultivating rice instead of the poppy, there would be no danger of famine. We could see acres and acres of the latter beautifully cultivated all the way up the sloping sides of the mountains and we go to sleep nearly every night to the smell of opium smoke." A Stone for bread!

Miss Belton of Shizuoka speaks of the mission schools growing in favor with the Japanese, partly in view of the fact that the new treaty with Great Britain will come into force soon, when a knowledge of English will be very desirable. She says much in praise of the new building and wishes we could all see it. The language is a great difficulty—"I'm happy when I understand, or can make myself understood, even in a short conversation." She writes charmingly of Japan as a land of flowers, but is evidently not so much in love with the great spiders which abound. "At a distance they seem as large as a mouse, but the body is not much more than an inch in length and width, but the legs are so numerous that it looks very large."

Miss Clark writes enthusiastically of the progress of the work at Port Simpson. She says, "The work of the missionaries has not been lost, as this community of respectable, law-abiding Indians, clearly demonstrates." Mrs Redner writes hopefully too of the Indian girls—she also tells of Miss Clarke's recent illness, from which she had recovered so far as to be able to attend to her duties again.

"Welcome the coming, speed the parting guest." These words have been lingering in our mind as Miss Veazey, on a well-earned furlough, passed us en route to her own beloved home, and a week later Miss Robertson, the centre of a tearful group of home friends and sympathizing missionary workers, boarded the train, the first in the long journey which was to convey her back to far Japan.

"Now God be with her," and with all who have given themselves to this blessed service, "till we meet again."

Do not forget to pray for the annual and Branch meetings so soon to be held.

We are glad to have stories from two of our young Nova Scotia friends this month. "Go, thou, and do likewise."