

THE LITTLE BROWN PENNY.

A little brown penny, worn and old,
Dropped into the box by a dimpled hand;
A little brown penny, a childish prayer,
Sent far away to a heathen land.

A little brown penny, a generous thought,
A little less candy, just for a day,
A young heart awakened for life mayhap,
To the needs of the heathen far away.

The penny flew off with the prayer's swift wing,
It carried the message by Jesus sent;
And the gloom was pierced by a radiant light
Wherever the prayer and message went.

And who can tell of the joy it brought
To the souls of the heathen far away,
When darkness fled, like wavering mists,
From the beautiful dawn of Gospel day.

And who can tell of the blessings that came
To the little child when Christ looked down?
Or how the brown penny so worn and old
In Heaven will change to a golden crown?—*Selected.*

SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND.

BY THE REV. HENRY LOOMIS.

AMEGUCHI OKURA was a Japanese widow in very destitute circumstances, and in order to get the clothing and food necessary for her daily sustenance she obtained employment as assistant gate keeper at the school for Bible Women, connected with the Methodist Mission in Yokohama. The compensation was small, yet afforded her enough to supply her with what was simply necessary, but nothing more.

As she watched by the gate day by day the time passed very slowly, and her lonely and destitute condition made her exceedingly sad. She thought of the gods which her people worshipped, and tried to get comfort from them, but these gave her no hope.

And so, one day, in order to occupy her mind, and to help to relieve the monotony of her situation, she borrowed a New Testament from a Christian friend, and began to read it.

When she came to the words of our Saviour, "Seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you," she was deeply impressed with them, and said at once, "What a wonderful and kind God this must be. No other god tells us such good news as this. I will try and see if He will not help and bless me."

And so, without any teacher except the Holy Spirit, she concluded that "Knock, and it shall be opened" must mean that we ought to pray, and God would surely answer prayer. Then she began to ask God to be gracious to her and help her, as she was in great need.

The Lord heard this prayer of faith and gave her peace and comfort; she then desired to learn more of His ways. So when there was a meeting of the women she would find a spot where she could keep watch on

the gate, and yet be near enough to the open windows to hear what was said and done within. In this way she got much help and comfort.

At length some one noticed her earnest attention and inquired why she came in this way to hear. She then confessed her faith in Christ and her desire to serve Him.

Further inquiries revealed the fact that she had evidently been able to discern, in the words of our Lord, the way of salvation, and had thus entered into the peace of a true believer. So great was the change in her life, and so manifest the happiness that had come to her in her new experience, it was decided that perhaps she could be very useful in trying to help others. She was then received as a student in the school for Bible Women, and has become one of the most efficient and practical workers among the class to which she belongs, and who, she fully realizes, have great need of the comforts that come from the knowledge of Christ as the sinner's friend.

MEDICAL MISSIONS.—Deaconess Work

(Concluded.)

In China we have four medical missionaries, Drs. Hare, Kilborn, Smith and Ewing, who, together with their noble wives are doing a good work for the Master. Besides these our W. M. S. has one missionary, Dr. Killam, who, together with Mrs. Dr. Kilborn, is toiling, not in vain, to obey the command of Jesus Christ and "Heal the sick, preach the Gospel." Dr. Henry is ready to sail at any time.

But nearer home than British Columbia or China we have a noble band of consecrated women, who are spending their lives literally fulfilling our Saviour's command, and doing as He did. The Deaconess Home was established in the City of Toronto in 1894, and is doing a grand work in caring for the sick, helping the needy and encouraging the despondent. During the last year the Home has been moved to a well equipped building, 257 Jarvis Street, where the work can be carried on more successfully than was possible in crowded quarters. This little band of women are instant "in season, out of season, with all long-suffering." During last year the Deaconesses made 2070 canvass calls, 5059 missionary calls, and 1362 visits to the sick. They have spent 2,598 hours nursing the sick; have given away 2,119 half worn garments and 371 new ones. In many other ways they have relieved the needy of the city.

Surely we should pray God to bless and strengthen them in their noble work and labor of love.

We have a share in this good work, for our W. M. S. has furnished a room called the "Rebecca Williams" Room for the use of our missionary candidates, who are required to spend three months in the Home, as part of their training for missionary work. How nice it is to know that we have a share, no matter how small, in this Christ-like work!

Ontario.

A. C. W.