

## PALM ❖ BRANCH.

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER, 1899

Again we wish our readers all the compliments of this season—so eagerly looked forward to by young hearts just waking up to a sense of life in all its freshness and beauty, with no thought, as yet, of its great responsibilities. May they have, indeed, a "Merry Christmas."

To those who look out of somewhat darker windows comes the wonder how the Angel's song can be made to blend with the noise and tumult of the battlefield—the groans of the wounded and the dying—no matter how righteous the cause. God save the Queen and save her Empire from further war and bloodshed. May He comfort also the hearts already desolate.

And now comes the news that Florence Nightingale, whose shadow the sick soldiers kissed in their weary wards in Crimean hospitals, so long ago, has gone from her couch of suffering on earth to her reward in Heaven—a reward that even angels might covet.

From Japan comes news of 6,000 visits made during the year, thirty baptisms and 100 pledges signed. The schools for the poor and industrial Orphanages have done encouraging and gratifying work during the year.—[Board Report.]

We have to thank the ladies of the Board for the kind words spoken and written during the session. Cousin Joy appreciates it all. A copy of a Resolution then passed will be found on 8th page.

## QUESTIONS FOR DECEMBER.

- (1) When did our W. M. S. begin work in Tokyo?
- (2) Who was our first missionary there?
- (3) What kind of work did she do there at first?
- (4) What great need did she see?
- (5) What was the result?
- (6) Tell something of the growth of the Tokyo school.
- (7) Tell all you know about our missionaries, our property and the work being done there at the present time.

## FIELD STUDY FOR DECEMBER.

Subject: Tokyo.

Our Woman's Missionary Society opened work in Tokyo in 1882; Miss Cartmell, our first missionary, left her home in Hamilton, Ont., Nov. 25th, and arrived in Tokyo on the afternoon of Dec. 27th. Evangelistic work was the first work that she did there. She soon saw the great need that there was for Woman's work for women, and her first thoughts and plans were how to reach them. So she sent out invitations to them, and the first gathering was around Dr. Eby's dining room table, the doctor acting as interpreter. When Miss Cartmell moved to her own little home she had a chapel there, so the work came to her. Here she held meetings with the women twice a week and Sunday-school with the children. She had also a class of young men to whom she taught English—some of them embraced Christianity. The work among the women was slow at first, and she was obliged to hold out inducements in the way of offering to teach them English and crochet work, which opened the way to tell them of Jesus. Property was purchased by the General Society, and two schools built in the district there in September, 1884. The Girls' school opened with two pupils, who were not long left alone, for these schools were opened just at the time when the Japanese had awakened to the importance of educating their daughters; when they had a strong desire to learn English and adopt foreign customs. The applicants were so numerous that in the summer of 1885 an addition was built, providing for 100 pupils. Then Miss Spencer, afterwards Mrs. Large, was sent out from Ontario to take charge of this school, and under her excellent, careful management, and with her assistant missionaries it grew and flourished. In 1886 another building was erected for 250 pupils, and it was soon full, while many outside waited for admission; this building was enlarged in 1888. Then it was whispered that foreign schools were making the Japanese girls disloyal to their own religion and their country. A large school was built under the patronage of the Empress, which took away the high class girls from our schools, but the work then had been so thorough that impressions had been made never to be forgotten, and some of the native girls had become assistant teachers, evangelists and Bible women. The work spread from Azabu to other districts of Tokyo. Last year a grant was given to purchase a new site for a new building; or the one built in 1886 had been really rendered unsafe by earthquakes and typhoons—it was hoped that it will be ready for occupation in October. There are now in Tokyo Miss Blackmore, Miss Hart, evangelist, and Miss Veazey, who has charge of the school. They are sadly in need of more helpers to aid them in the good work which has gone steadily on in spite of all discouragements. We are glad to know that two more will soon be hastening to their relief.