

Some time ago I was watching a man at worship in the temple. He had a book, and was reading and offering the prayers of some of his neighbors. He seemed in earnest. Every little while he would play a bit with the cymbals which he carried. Leaning over from the gallery above I almost breathed a prayer that he might be in earnest in his devotion. I seemed unconscious that he prayed before idols. Then I started, and asked myself what I prayed—did I, or did I not, want him to be in earnest? Then it seemed to me right that I should pray that he might be in earnest while true to his highest idea of right, until more light was given him. Human beings everywhere have so many traits in common. The Chinese express themselves in many ways just as we do.

We pray that God may pour rich blessing upon the members of our Board who labor so faithfully at home. Would that I were more worthy of you all.

Japan.

From MISS BLACKMORE, 31 SANGENYA, AZABU, CHINA,
November 2nd, 1899.

I THINK I have not spoken of Miss Green beyond saying that we hoped to be able to secure her services. She comes to us for ten hours of English teaching per week. She takes all the heaviest work—except the Bible lessons—I mean the subjects which require the most time outside of class for preparation and correcting exercises. She is a very painstaking teacher. It is a great help to have so much of the English teaching provided for. Then Mrs. Borden has come to our help in teaching the English Bible lesson three times a week, and in the evangelistic work she takes the weekly woman's meeting in Azabu. This is a very real help, for every Bible lesson demands uninterrupted time for preparation.

Miss Veazey and I do not pretend to study the language at present. And so we hope to be able to "hold the fort" until you can send us help.