



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

PUBLISHED BY

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, Canada.

ROOM 20, WESLEY BUILDINGS.

VOL. XVII:
No. 10.

TORONTO,
JULY,
1901.

PRICE 5 CENTS
A YEAR.

Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month:

"Domestic Missions." "India."

Japan.

From Miss Blackmore, Azabu, Tokyo, April 11th, 1901.

WE always think when a new worker arrives or an old one returns that we are just as glad as we can possibly be, but I wonder if ever before we were really quite so glad as we are now at Miss Preston's coming. It has been most opportune, being here in time for the re-arrangement of the work for the new term. I have laid the evangelistic department on her willing, capable shoulders, and, with a satisfied heart, gone back to the class-room. School has opened with a number of new pupils; the enrolment this term will be the largest we have had for years.

Miss Wigle has decided to go by C.P.R. steamship of May 3rd, and will attend Manitoba Branch annual meeting. Miss Alcorn and I sail July 5th.

A few words from Miss Preston will be welcome, written April 1st:

"Where shall I begin to tell you of all that has befallen me since last I wrote? I am deeply grateful to Him by whose mercy I have reached my destination safely without any mishap, and after one of the most pleasant voyages I have ever had. We had a day at Honolulu. How much we did enjoy landing and looking at the tropical vegetation, banana groves, coconut, date and royal palms, and what not. Not least in point of interest was the Bishop Museum, in which are exhibited products of the Pacific Islands and many curios therefrom.

"The ladies had not received word of my coming and were not looking for me till the next steamer. I found Miss Hargrave here from Nagano, just for a few days' Easter visit. Altogether the earlier arrival has proved of great advantage. School began on the 8th, and I went to my first meeting on the 7th. I am now in full work. I have a little teaching in the school, not much, but it gives me a source of contact with the girls. I am enjoying the work very much. It seems so natural to be here, almost as if I had never been away from Japan.

From Miss Veazey, Azabu, Tokyo, March 31st, 1901.

DURING the past quarter ninety-eight pupils have been enrolled, twelve of whom entered during the term. Quite a number have been obliged to withdraw through sickness or removal, leaving ninety-one in actual attendance at the end of March. We have no baptism to report, but ten of the younger girls have joined the class-meetings since January, and will, we trust, receive permission to be baptized when ready for it. In addition to this quite a number of the new pupils have united with our "Y" Society, and considerable interest in temperance work has been manifest in the school.

Our commencement exercises were held on the 29th of March, and were well attended. Our three graduates acquitted themselves creditably, and it is a great satisfaction to have them all remain with us as workers. One of them is Rev. Mr. Hiraiwa's second daughter, and the others are two of our most satisfactory supported students, one of them the daughter of an evangelist of our Church. These two remain in Tokyo to help us for the present, while the third

one goes to Shidzuoka, where she has been promised since last year.

We could place twice the number of graduates in our five stations this year did we but have them. In Tokyo we are able to secure helpers from other mission schools, and this spring have engaged two, one from the Methodist Episcopal school and one from the Presbyterian, but the outside stations find it very difficult to get helpers, so we were very glad to have a number of applications this spring from girls who wished to come in as supported students, and have selected four of the most promising for a trial, giving them work to do in caring for the school room before and after school hours in order to see what manner of girls they may be. Quite a number of students have already been registered for the new term, and the prospect is good for a full school when we re-open after our week's vacation. Our hope and prayer is that the success of the year may not be in numbers alone, but that there may be a corresponding growth in soul culture, and in the lives of the pupils.

Miss Alcorn writes from Shidzuoka. "The week preceding the Sabbath appointed as the day of prayer for schools and colleges all over the world, we held special meetings for prayer. On Sunday five of the girls spoke of their decision for Christ. A class-meeting was formed of these younger pupils, to each of whom we gave a copy of Clarke's 'Scripture Promises.' They read one every morning, and tell at their meeting which helped them most and why. It is beautiful to hear their testimonies of daily struggles, daily defeats and daily victories.

"Two of our teachers have taken a firm stand for Christ. One went from us March 30th. Before going she received baptism. It strengthened our belief in the power of the 'grand old Gospel' to hear her tell of her decision before entering this Christian school—to listen without heeding to the Bible teaching, how gradually she was convicted of sin, then of her resistance and unhappiness until she sought and found peace."

From Kofu Miss Robertson writes. "The third term of the school year is always a time of falling off in the attendance. This term we have registered but ninety-four. The reduction is due to many causes, some have removed to distant places, others have had ill health, one or two have withdrawn to be married, again others have been graduated and returned to their homes. The graduating exercises were unusually well attended by many of the former students and graduates. The visitors were pleased to say the exercises were the best we have yet had. The graduating class numbered ten in Japanese, a few of whom hope to return for English and sewing; and one in English, Ueno Tomoe San, who graduated in Japanese last year. She has been a very satisfactory pupil, both in English and music, showing unusual aptitude. After spending three months in a Kindergarten school she will go to Nagano to help Miss Hargrave in the work there. We hope she will give satisfaction.

"One girl has received baptism and three others have asked for it, but we thought it better for them to wait a little longer that they might test their own hearts."

From Miss Foster, North Kingston, N.S., April 1st, 1901

I WAS delighted to see Mrs. Ross's letter in the Outlook for March; also the reference in the April number concerning our advance work in West China. We ought to have an evangelist and a teacher in each of the eight walled cities to work among the women.