



EVEN OUR FAITH."

# Monthly Letter.

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## Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month :

"Deaconess Work."—"The Summer Missionary Campaign."

### China.

*From Miss Brackbill, Shanghai, Dec. 31, 1900.*

YES, I am in China yet, and since you have said all the time that we on the field knew best, I have seen it my duty to stay here. At first, having just got back from home, and not having really grasped the situation, I scarcely knew what to do, but it did not seem right for me to leave. The more I have talked with other missionaries and have seen and heard what was being done by other and older societies, and realized how impossible it was to understand the situation while in any other country, the more have I had the assurance that I was in the place where I could be of most use to our Woman's Missionary Society for the future work in China. Our contingent in Japan concur in this opinion.

You probably have seen the peace conditions ere this (that is the preliminary conditions) and they seem very good when we remember that eleven powers had to agree to the terms. It is said the Chinese were willing to comply with them, and if this is true, it certainly will be safe to return to the interior very soon.

From some Canadian letters the impression has been given me that the people at home think the work is entirely broken up in China. Now, though this may be true to a certain extent in the north, it is not so in the west; it is only interrupted for a time.

Our buildings are still standing from latest accounts; our orphans are there to be provided for; we hope that many, if not all, of our pupils will return to us; the sick are still there to be ministered to, and the multitudes are there to have the Gospel preached to them.

Where the work is old enough, and they have trained helpers, the preaching, and in many cases other departments of the work are being attended to by the natives. How we do wish the trouble could be satisfactorily settled and we could get back to our stations, but there is no use of patching it up. There must be thorough settlement at this time so there will never be a repetition of these horrible deeds.

*Later—From Miss Brackbill, Shanghai, Jan. 17th, 1901.*

IN a previous letter I wrote you about ladies starting for Chungking, and more were to follow soon. The consul is perfectly willing for ladies to go that far at any time, and I expect in a very short time he will give his consent for them to go farther. For some time I have been hoping and expecting we could start after the Chinese new year, probably in March. Day before yesterday Mrs. Kilborn came in to ask what we were thinking of doing, and said if they could rent a house in Chungking they would go up after the Chinese new year. The American W.M.S. ladies have a very large deaconess home there, and not nearly enough ladies to fill it, so many being at home, I am sure it will be open to us if the way is not clear for us to go on to Chentu by that time.

I had a letter from the teacher in Chentu a couple of days ago. He says everything is perfectly quiet, and they are wanting to know when we are coming back. Our places are all as they were left.

Even if we can get no farther than Chungking, it will be a great advantage to the ladies, as there will be no difficulty in securing teachers there, and they can devote all their time to study, which is the most any of them should do for some time yet. Then, too, they will understand what is said around them, as the difference between the dialect there and at Chentu is very slight. Of course the expense of living will be no more there than at our own station.

I have written the above to the ladies in Japan, and have asked them to talk it over and decide what they are to do.

## Indian Work.

*From Miss Clarke, Port Simpson, B.C., Feb. 7th, 1901.*

I ALWAYS seem to have something of a trying character to relate, and now it is to tell you that two more of our girls have passed away, within two weeks of each other. The first, Anna Lawson, was a little girl of ten, and died of consumption, after having been cared for in the hospital when it was no longer safe for her to be in the home. She faded very rapidly, but always, during her stay with us, would greet our coming with a smile, and was very gentle and patient. She began to work a necktie to exhibit at the school examination, and was very anxious to have it done, but the poor little fingers failed, and the work had to be laid aside unfinished.

Edith Nelson, a girl of fifteen, was taken suddenly ill with acute dysentery, and, after a week's illness in the home, removed to the hospital, where for two weeks the doctor and nurses fought for her life, but constitutional weakness, no doubt, proved the real cause that their efforts availed only to keep her alive a little longer than otherwise would have been possible.

It is very hard to see our girls fade and die, and to feel that their parents grieve so; they had hoped much for their daughter's good from coming to the home. Edith's father and mother are spending the winter up the Skeena, where they are frozen in, and no word of their daughter's illness and death can reach them for some time, however, Edith's grandmother and uncle were here and visited her daily. As far as I know they expressed no unkindness toward us, and Edith's sister and cousin were allowed to remain in the home without question. The sister we will send home when the parents arrive in the Spring, as I feel I can not be responsible for her, Edith being the second of the same family to die in the home.

We have not had a single case of illness among the girls for more than a week, which is very unusual.

One of the Skagway boats brought word of the Queen's death in time to unite in the memorial service on the day of her funeral. Impressive services were held, both in the Episcopal and Methodist churches, and in the afternoon our girls joined a parade, headed by the brass band, and in which all classes and colors participated. I am sure the girls will long remember the solemn occasion and, I trust, take into their hearts the lessons taught from our beloved Queen's noble life.

Miss Carroll is improving, though not yet able to be about or to care for herself. She regrets greatly having to give up her work, and we are very sorry to lose her. Miss Paul plans to leave on the first boat, a March, so I trust all possible haste will be made in sending reinforcements. The girls have been very good, but at best such a houseful must be a great care. Miss Alton has been a wonderful help, still no one can take my greatest care.

Miss Paul has kept up bravely, and has been very cheerful in face of repeated disappointments and under heavy pressure of work. She has shown a most unselfish spirit and, I think, we all appreciate what she has done for us and for the home.

Miss Elliott is better than when last I wrote, but still far from strong. Miss Alton thinks there are not very many people quite so strong as she and I are, and, perhaps, she is right. I have not been out of the house for an hour a week for months together, and still I have a good appetite and can sleep when ever I have an opportunity, or stay awake, if needs be. I am very truly thankful for strength to fulfil my daily duties, and am very happy and contented withal. Indeed, I cannot help being glad and thankful when I think of the goodness of my many friends and their kind sympathy, and above all of the divine goodness that surrounds me and bears with my weakness and waywardness, all the time remembering me in love and comforting as no other can do.

THE Literature Committee at Room 20, and the Branch Depots in Sackville, N.B., and Winnipeg, Man. (for addresses see foot of last page), will receive deposits of \$1.00 for the literature to be used in connection with the Suggested Programme for Auxiliaries, and will send the necessary literature whenever called for by the Programme as long as the money lasts, and without it being necessary for the Auxiliary to write for it. The usual charge of two cents, for wrapping and postage, will be deducted for each parcel. Subscribers will be notified when their deposit is expended.