

PALM * BRANCH.

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- St. JOHN, N. B.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER, 1899.

HIS month begins another missionary year and, of course, we start on our journey with fresh hope and courage, remembering these words: "I am with you, saith the Lord of Hosts." Power, power not our own, shall be given us. The encouragement is great. Let us take it to heart and work on.

With the beginning of a new year there is always an opportunity for improved plans and methods. God has spoken to us as He did to the children of Israel, that we "move forward." We have thought much of what we could do for the young people of our Circles and Bands this year in order to make them better acquainted with our society—its origin, object and aims; its fields, and the work done there.

During the year we asked for an expression of opinion from our Band secretaries as to whether it were preferable to follow the prayer subjects given to our Auxiliaries, and so have a different field each month, or have a study of our own and continue in one field long enough to become fairly well acquainted with it. After some discussion in Palm Branch our secretaries and other Band workers, well qualified to speak, unanimously concluded that the latter would be of much greater advantage to the Bands. So now, in accordance with this idea, and really following the lead of the Auxiliaries, we are taking up Japan, our largest field.

We shall continue in Japan at least three months, probably four, until we work up a real interest in that country, and give our young readers a good idea of the work which has been done and is still being done in our mission stations there—both school work and evangelistic.

This month we have dealt mostly with our society, from a strong wish to make the young people realize that they are indeed a part of the society; and so have only been able to touch upon Japan.

Next month, as already suggested, we will take up Tokio and the various departments of work carried on there. All the help that can be given, both from home and abroad, on the subject of Japan will be gratefully received.

Korea has had three woman rulers.

Korea's recent history has freed her from the domination of China and largely from Japan. She is at present greatly under the influence of Russia.

Korea has had five religious periods. Of the first, little is known; the second was Buddhism; the third, Confucianism; the fourth, Roman Catholicism; the fifth, Protestantism. Of these, Confucianism has the strongest hold on the people.

The first tidings of the existence of Christianity that went to Korea was through books sent from Peking in 1777.

W. B. F.

Signification of Korea, "morning calm."

Size, a little smaller than Great Britain.

Number of inhabitants about 12,000,000 to 15,000,000.

The capital of Korea is Seoul, which has 250,000 inhabitants.

Korea is two days' sail from Japan and twenty-four hours from hina.

Koreans are great travellers in their own land.

The Korean dress is universal and of white cotton cloth.

The language of the Koreans is similar to that of the Chinese.

We are indebted to Korea for the first metal type.

Most Koreans can read and write.

Government, imperial.

An isolated country until 1876, but now has treaties with Japan, China, United States, Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Italy and Austria.

WOMEN NAMELESS IN COREA.

The Korean woman has not even a name. In her childhood she receives a nickname by which she is known in the family and by her near friends; but which when she arrives at maturity is employed only by her parents. To all other persons she is "the sister" or "the daughter" of such and such an one. After her marriage her name is buried—she is absolutely nameless. Her own parents refer to her by mentioning the district into which she has married. Should her marriage be blessed with children she is "the mother" of so and so. If it happens that a woman has to appear in a law court, the judge gives her a special name for use while the case lasts in order to save time and to simplify matters.—[National Zeitung.]

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