

GUIDED BY A STAR.

From the eastern mountains,
Pressing on they come,
Wise men in their wisdom,
To His humble home,
Stirred by deep devotion,
Hastening from afar,
Ever journeying onward,
Guided by a star.

Thou who in a manger,
Once hast lowly lain,
Who dost now in glory,
O'er all kingdoms reign,
Gather in the heathen,
Who in lands afar
Ne'er have seen the brightness,
Of Thy guiding star.

Onward through the darkness,
Of the lonely night,
Shining still before them,
With Thy kindly light,
Guide them, Jew and Gentile,
Homeward from afar,
Young and old together,
By Thy guiding star.

FIELD STUDY FOR FEBRUARY.

Subject:--Kanazawa and Nagano.

Three of our mission stations in Japan have already been considered in the Field Study—Tokyo, the city of enormous population; Shizuoka, near the sea; and Kofu, far inland, begirt with its mountain walls. This month's study gives us the remaining two stations, Kanazawa and Nagano. Almost opposite Tokyo, a little farther north, on the western coast of the Island is Kanazawa, with a population of nearly 100,000. Between it and Tokyo great mountains uprear themselves, so that the railway takes a round-about route, going south-westerly, past Shizuoka; keeping close to the coast until reaching a point where the troublesome mountains have dwindled; it crosses the Island, then turns, running northerly, thus reaching Kanazawa. Here, in this stronghold of Buddhism, which is said to contain no less than 250 Buddhist temples, our missionaries have been working since 1890. Heavy snow-storms fall on this coast, and the winters are quite severe, owing to the icy winds and currents, which come down from the northern seas, and force themselves between the western side of the island and the mainland. The work in Kanazawa is of a different character from that of our other missions, being almost wholly limited to the very poor. On coming to Kanazawa in 1890, it was found that, while a boarding-school was not urgently required (a good one having been already established under the Presbyterian Board), there was great need for many workers in the poor districts. So industrial and night classes were opened. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the work is the Orphanage, where homeless little ones are cared for, and taught the story of the Christ-child,—and the Match School, where very poor and very little children have an opportunity to earn money, and know the

comforting of kindness and gentle ways. Miss Crombie and Miss Sifton are now in Kanazawa.

During the last few years appeals had come for workers to be sent to two towns north-west of Tokyo, and not far distant from Kanazawa. Only one could be responded to, and Nagano was finally decided upon. It is a prettily situated town, having a famous temple to the goddess of mercy, which attracts many pilgrims. This is our new station of only two years standing. Here Miss Hargave and Miss Wigle are working bravely though much hampered by the opposition of the Buddhist priests, and the restrictions of certain new school regulations that the Japanese government is making. Still much good work has already been accomplished. A school has been started, also a kindergarten. While through English classes and in visiting and receiving visits our missionaries are gradually finding access into the lives of many of the people of Nagano.

QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

1. Name all our mission stations in Japan, stating those which are our study for this month.
2. Tell what you know of Kanazawa.
3. Name our missionaries there.
4. What is our newest mission station?
5. Where is it situated?
6. When was it established?
7. Say all you know of the work and the workers in Nagano.

CHRISTMAS HYMN.

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,
Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine,
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,
Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright!

Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,
Christmas where old men are patient and gray,
Christmas where peace like a dove in his flight
Brood's o'er brave men in the thick of the fight;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight.

For the Christ-child who comes is the Master of all;
No palace too great and no cottage too small.
The angels who welcome him sing from the height,
In the "city of David" a King in his might;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight.

Then let every heart keep its Christmas within,
Christ's pity for sorrow, Christ's hatred of sin,
Christ's care for the weakest, Christ's courage for right,
Christ's dread of the darkness, Christ's love of the light;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight.

—PHILLIPS BROOKS.

A SUGGESTION.

A Map of Japan.

By drawing the general outline of each of the four main islands of Japan on stiff paper, and afterward cutting them out, one can obtain a map of Japan that answers the ordinary purposes of a Mission Band or Circle very nicely. The paper islands thus obtained may either be pinned to the blackboard or sewn on cotton. To locate our mission stations see map of Japan in Report of '94-'95.