

# PALM BRANCH.

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MISS S. E. SMITH,  
 282 Princess Street,  
 St. John, N. B.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER, 1899.

**W**e have now come to the close of the Missionary year, and on looking over the record of the work done by our faithful workers abroad, we cannot but feel that by God's grace much has been wrought.

The Aug.-Sept. leaflet is one which will well repay a careful reading. And it is not only the work done, the results of which can never be really tabulated, that strikes us most forcibly as we rise from a perusal of its pages, but the fine spirit of our brave young missionaries. Hear Dr. Maud Killam as she talks to us from out her far-off Chinese surroundings:

"It is such a privilege to be out here for the Master. For the 'Master' turns the hardest duties into pleasure, because he has done so much for us. And whenever He asks me to be or do He says, 'Lo I am with you.' It is so comforting that the dear members at home remember us in prayer, for we do need it, lest some of this darkness about us should stealthily creep into our own souls. The communion with our Heavenly Father is our safeguard."

And listen to Miss Maud Sifton, who speaks to us from the distant field of Japan:

"Looking back over the few months which I have spent in the work at Kanazawa, I feel that there is great reason for thankfulness and encouragement. Our Heavenly Father's presence has been with us, and, by His guidance and help, service has been made easy, and has been a constant source of delight and blessing."

And this is the spirit of all our dear Missionaries—it is the very spirit of the Master—difficulties and discouragements have been and will continue to be, all along the way, but these workers are in "the secret of the Lord"—they live in a higher atmosphere—they are doing his will.

They are comforted because remembered by the home workers in prayer. Yes, and they shall so be comforted. But in return do they not comfort the home workers? Why here are little bits of heart sunshine in China and Japan reflected all the way back to Canada! Have they not a warming and comforting reflex influence?

This, from Miss Alcorn (in July No.), strikes us as really

pathetic and well worthy of consideration. Can we disregard such an appeal?

It is hard for the home friends to realize what a barrier the language is to us in our work. There are times when we feel we must speak, but cannot. We take great pleasure in the gradual growth of our knowledge: first recognizing a few familiar words; then understanding a little of the conversation around us; and, last of all, our own attempts at speaking. This last stage is oftentimes very perplexing. When we can speak a few words the people think we understand all they say, and talk freely to us. We are helpless, and any little pride which may have followed our first attempt is banished at once. Will the home friends—whose faithful prayers daily ascend on our behalf—add this petition: "That they may be helped in the study of the language." The promise to acquire it is a gift promised to the messengers of Christ—not without effort on our part—but none the less to be prayed for in a very special manner.

Our Missionaries come and go. Some back to the home land for rest and refreshment after years of earnest, patient labor, and others to new scenes and work, or, perhaps harder still, viewed in the light of a second parting from home and friends, to renewed efforts in the mission fields. All these command our interest, our sympathy and our prayers.

Miss Brackbill returned in April from Chen-tu, Western China, "the Riot districts," to recruit her exhausted energies at home, but she hopes to go back again before long to her loved work.

Miss Munro, Principal of our Girl's school in Azabu, Tokyo, Japan, came home in July in "broken health," after a second term of service—perfect rest is enjoined during the year.

Miss Belton just arrived home tired, and worn, believes that perfect rest and quiet for months will restore her wasted energies.

Miss Preston, we trust, will soon be welcomed home by her aged parents, who must long to see her after so many varied experiences in a foreign land.

Mrs. Snider takes Mrs. Bowes' place in the Chinese Home—Miss Crombie leaves for her second term of valued service in Japan and Dr. Henry and Miss Benniston are under appointment for China.

The work is great, the laborers are few—who will join the ranks of this army of the Lord?

One of our Band Cor. Secretaries has kindly called attention to the beginning of the new Missionary year as a good time in which to subscribe for Palm Branch. We heartily endorse this idea. Please make up your minds right away to take the paper. You will be sorry if you do not, as it is going to be a help next year,—our idea is to have a uniform study for Bands.