

Palm Branch.

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APRIL, 1894.

As we have before said our little paper differs from other missionary papers in being devoted to our own fields and workers.

This month we have a character sketch of our beloved pioneer missionary, Miss Cartmell, which cannot fail to be helpful and interesting to every young reader. We are also pleased to be able to tell them about the small house where the first representative of the W. M. S. lived when she first went to Japan, and where good work was done for the Master.

Surely we will be more interested in the work when we know something of the worker, of her character and the motives which led her to consecrate her all to such service. It will also help largely to an acquaintance with her to know of her surroundings and be able to put ourselves in her place. We hear but little of the inconveniences and difficulties which must of necessity meet the missionary in a foreign land; they are left to the imagination. One thing we have always noticed in those who have come back to our shores after years of faithful service and also in the letters which we receive from time to time from the busy workers: they do not draw upon our sympathy, they dwell less on the difficulties and dangers of the way than on the compensation which God gives in a clearer manifestation of Himself to His devoted servants.

We are to pray, this month, for Christian Governments,—that they may recognize their responsibility in regard to the liquor traffic, opium, the African slave trade, reform of the social evils in India, and the traffic in Chinese girls in our own continent.

Surely Satan himself is the author of such a combination as this! Surely if these governments were truly Christian such evils could not exist. These are the obstacles which meet the foreign missionary

at every step. We have to blush at the thought that our own English government first forced the opium trade upon China; that the ships which carried missionaries to their shores with the Bread of Life, carried also the seeds of decay and death. We do not wonder that the Viceroy of Northern India sarcastically said in a recent interview with missionaries that, "as we were sending out missionaries to convert the Chinese, we might try to convert our own government."

The African slave trade, the social evils in India and the traffic in Chinese girls on our own continent are gigantic blots on the record of the nineteenth century. And what shall we say of the liquor traffic, whose evils are so wide-spread in our own land? We have found two little stanzas so exactly to the point that we must give them. They show that the Japanese understand very clearly the dangerously progressive character of the drink habit.

"At the punch-bowl's brink,
Let us pause and think
What they say in Japan:

"First the man takes a drink,
Then the drink takes a drink,
Then the drink takes the man!"

"Blessings shared are blessings doubled." Will each one of you who reads our present number of PALM BRANCH pass it on to some one who has not yet seen it, and so increase the circulation.

SUBSCRIBERS, PLEASE TAKE NOTICE!

The PALM BRANCH year begins in January and ends in December. Subscriptions cannot be carried on from one year to another. Those who subscribe now and at a later date will receive back numbers. Please read again the notices over the editorial.

Our Pioneer Missionary, Miss M. J. Cartmell.

"He means me!" "He does mean me!" "How can he know of my heart-prayers for those poor women, my, yes, my sisters through Christ."

This was the heart language of a dark-eyed, sweet-faced young lady in the public meeting held in Centenary Church, Hamilton, Nov. 8th, 1881, to organize the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church in Canada.

The late Senator John Macdonald was picturing, in thrilling language, the condition of women and children in Japan, and then made an appeal to the women present for some one to go over and help them; some consecrated woman who would leave home and friends to carry to these Japanese sisters the news of a better life here and hereafter.