

✻ PALM BRANCH ✻

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MARCH, 1897.

We are looking forward with intense interest to Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop's book on Korea. We consider Mrs. Bishop one of the greatest Missionaries of the age!

"KOREA.—It is stated that hundreds throughout Korea are seeking Christ. Twelve years only have passed since Korea was opened to missionary work, yet now parents and children may be seen kneeling together at family worship, asking blessings upon their meals, and attending divine service together, even though a paper wall separates man and wife. Christianity is breaking down customs that reform measures could not touch, such as women being seen by men, and those of the better classes going out in the daytime. Ancestral tablets and objects of superstition are being destroyed, children are taught to pray to God instead of worshipping ancestors, while many quietly and bravely bear ridicule and abuse for Christ's sake.

We have had a great trial this month—no greater trial ever came to the heart of an Editor!

We were announced, without our knowledge, in the Letter Leaflet, as being able to supply the Feb. PALM BRANCH of 1896, at two cents a copy; when, in reality, we had only a half dozen copies on hand, the rest having been distributed among the Branches. If we had only known in time we could have had the article—"Methodist Orphanage in Newfoundland"—reprinted in Feb., 1897, which would have made it all right. As it was we were deluged with requests, some of which we could not meet in any way, after exhausting all our resources. If any of our friends, who sent stamps, feel aggrieved, we shall be most happy to cancel our indebtedness to them in any way they may point out.

We have just received, but too late for this month we regret to say, an interesting letter from Miss Cunningham, on the new school in Shidzuoka. We appreciate Miss Cunningham's kindness in taking for us these precious moments of her busy life.

"Evelyn's Bank," an interesting story from Ontario, will appear next month.

We again thank our Nova Scotia friends for their invaluable help this month. Nova Scotia Branch is to be congratulated on sending out a young lady so well fitted for medical work among the Chinese, as Miss Maud Killam. She and Miss Brooks, a teacher of Hastings, Ontario, sailed for China, via San Francisco, on the 13th February. We know that they will be followed by the prayers and best wishes of hosts of friends. We would ask also prayers for the mothers of these devoted ones, who give their best and bravest. Are they less missionary?

Among our returned missionaries we can speak of Miss Cartmell and Miss Robertson, who are doing good work at home, stirring up the hearts of many, and enlisting the sympathy and interest of our young people. We trust that they will not be wearied, but refreshed and strengthened by their visit to the home land.

Centenary Auxiliary, St. John, has to acknowledge the gift of \$10, in memory of Mrs. Frank White, the charm of whose lovely presence still lingers with us, and whose early death has left a blank in many hearts.

Also, the usual gift of \$20, in memory of Harry Bertram Hatchings, and \$1 in memory of little Willie Tait. By these tokens we know that our beloved dead are still with us, living on in the lives of others, and doing, perhaps more effectively, by their invisible presence, the work they were not permitted to do here.

As we go to press we are pained to notice the removal, by death, of one of our most devoted home workers—Mrs. J. Farrer Stewart, of West Cape, P. E. I. Mrs. Stewart was for some time our efficient Branch Rec. Sec., and later, Auditor. We quote from the P. E. I. *Guardian*, Feb. 16:

Mrs. Stewart was an active member and worker of the Methodist church, being especially zealous in the cause of missions. Her delight was in church, Sunday school and W. C. T. U. work, where she will be sincerely mourned, especially in Prince County, where her modest, womanly counsel was ever sought by her co-workers.

We shall miss her sweet presence and her gentle words in the Branch meetings to come, but we shall think of her as one who, amid the higher ministries of Heaven, still watches with unabated interest the growth and progress of God's work on earth.

"Seldom can the heart be lonely
 If it seek a loneliness still,
 Self-forgetting, seeking only
 Emptier cups of love to fill."