

## FIELD STUDY FOR OCTOBER.

## "Japan, Corea and the Isles of the Sea."

Away west of us, across the rolling Pacific, four large islands and several smaller ones, so group themselves as to form a country in the shape of a new moon. This country we call "Japan," or "Land of the Rising Sun," but in their own language it is "Nippon" which means "Source of Light."

Although it is only since 1854 that we have known anything definite about this Empire, we must not suppose that it is a new country. Its history stretches in uninterrupted tale over 2,550 years, and the first ruler of the still reigning family was contemporary with Nebuchadnezzar. Since then there have been 123 rulers or Mikados in Japan, nine of whom have been women, and the present ruler can claim direct descent from the first Mikado. In olden times the Japanese were very long-lived and one Mikado is said to have lived 350 years. For six hundred years the gates of the Island were closed to all foreigners and it was only in 1854 that Commodore Perry forced an entrance into Japan. But when this people became convinced that they would be gainers by forming a treaty with the outside world, they threw open their doors to commerce and trade. Since then the advance of the country has been marvellous, and now there are few modern inventions which have not been introduced into this Island Empire.

With these came also the introduction of Christian Missions, and at the present time the outlook for Japan is more favorable than ever before. Still, in spite of the wave of Christianity which seems to have swept over this Empire, three-fourths of her people, 30,000,000, have never yet learned the Gospel story, and constantly the call comes to us for more workers.

It has been said that the civilization of a country can be easily judged by the condition of its women. The condition of a Japanese woman, viewed from the position of a Hindu or Chinese, has always been an elevated one, but from our stand-point, she is by no means to be envied. According to the Japanese, to obey one's father before marriage, one's husband after, and, if left a widow, one's eldest son, is to be a virtuous woman. Still, a little girl is nurtured and cared for as carefully as a little boy, and although her literary education may not extend as far, yet a Japanese woman of middle or high class is often well advanced in all useful and ornamental accomplishments. As the women have more influence in their homes, we can see that the evangelization of Japan can be soonest accomplished through the women and children.

In this respect our W. M. S. is doing a noble work. We have fifteen missionaries there, with boarding schools at Tokyo, Shidzuoka and Kofu, Orphanages in Tokyo and Kanazawa, and Industrial schools in the Kawakami and Daijime districts. The three boarding schools have 138 boarding and 93 day pupils, of whom 87 are attending class, five having been baptised this last year. Studies are carried on in both English and Japanese. Evangelistic teaching from house to house forms an important part of the work done in Japan, many being reached in this way that would not in any other. The King's Daughter school reaches out to sixty-four poor children who otherwise would receive no spiritual training. The two orphanages at Tokyo and Kanazawa shelter and train children until they are old enough to be apprenticed. There are now 29 being cared

for, whose tiny fingers work those dainty stitches in the Japanese embroidery we so much admire. Let us pray that their young hearts may receive the King of Kings as their Saviour and Redeemer.

Corea, "The Hermit Nation," one of the last to open its doors to civilization, remained secluded until 1882, when a treaty was made between it and the United States, opening its ports to Americans, and later, Great Britain and Germany formed like treaties. In size it is about twice as large as Ohio, with a population of 10,000,000. It pays tribute to Japan and China, but beyond that is not controlled by them. Most of the people are poor and ignorant, and the position of women is an inferior one, although they are not treated with such harshness as in some countries. Medical Missionaries have proved the most successful, the difficulty of mastering the language having proved a serious barrier in evangelistic work. However many missionaries can now preach in the Korean language and many conversions have been reported. Let us pray that this little country may soon be won for Christ.

In viewing the wonderful change that has been wrought in "The Isles of the Sea," we cannot but believe that prophecy has been fulfilled and that "Surely the Isles wait for me"—Is. 60. 9. Marvellous have been the results of the introduction of evangelizing power and today all the principal islands and groups of the Pacific, both North and South of the Equator, are under the direction of the Protestant Church. More than 300 islands of Eastern and Southern Polynesia have thrown away idolatry and its cruelties, and degraded cannibals have been transformed into men and women who are striving to follow the example of the pure and holy One. Surely what hath God wrought? Let us pray that all the inhabitants of these Isles may accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Master.

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A. C. M.

## QUESTIONS FOR OCTOBER.

- Will you describe Japan?
- What is the history of Japan? How old is it?
- What is said of its rulers or Mikados?
- In what year were its gates opened to foreigners? Who forced an entrance?
- What did the Japanese then see, what did they do, and what was the consequence?
- What is the outlook for Japan now, and why?
- What proportion of the people have never heard the Gospel story, and what call comes to us?
- What has been said of the civilization of a country?
- What is the condition of a Japanese woman from a Chinese or Hindu standpoint? From ours?
- Give reasons for seeing that the country may become Christian through the women and children?
- Will you tell about the work of our W. M. S. there? How many missionaries?
- Are there any Christians among the scholars?
- What languages do the scholars study? Any Evangelistic work done there in Japan?
- What is said of the King's Daughters' school?
- What of the Orphanages in Tokyo and Kanazawa?
- What is said of Corea? What treaties were formed, and when?
- What is the size of Corea? What its population, and to what does it pay tribute?
- What is the condition of the people? Of the women?
- Which form of Missionary work is most successful, and why?
- Have there been any spiritual results?
- What change in the Isles of the Sea?
- What islands have thrown away idolatry and cannibalism?
- For what must we pray?