

"This is the Victory



Even Our Faith."

Monthly Letter.

PUBLISHED BY

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, Canada.

ROOM 20, WESLEY BUILDINGS.

Vol. XVII.]
No. 8.

TORONTO, MAY, 1900.

[Price 5c.
a year.

Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month :

"China and the Chinese."

Japan.

KOFU BRANCH—EVANGELISTIC WORK.

From Miss Washington.

THE WHITE RIBBON IN JAPAN.

[N presenting this report we should like to mention the warm love of our people for Miss Preston, and their regret at her absence. All are hoping to welcome her back again some day. Notwithstanding some disappointments we are glad to report progress and increase of interest.

Ounura, where three or four meetings were held last year, is conservative, and the work very difficult. Ogasawara village is more progressive. Mr. Kitamura, an earnest Christian in this place, offered us the use of his parlor, and we opened work there in October. We go to both places in one day.

Miss Robertson takes the meeting in Tamahata. The women feel their privilege and responsibility, and attend regularly themselves, and bring their friends.

Miss Jost takes the meeting in Kato. It has usually been dropped at the busy time at the end of the year, but this year it has been held in the homes of some sick people.

At Ichikawa, where Mrs. Yoshi did good work in July and August, and at Katsunuma the attendance has been steadily increasing. One woman voiced, we hope, the sentiment of others as well as herself, when she said, "Come and visit me as often as you can, but do not call for me to go to the meeting, for I am going anyway."

At Sumiyoshi the women are interested and attending well.

At Matsushima, Kusakabe and Ryno the work is all uphill, and very steep at that. It seems almost impossible to get the poor and the rich to meet together.

In November, Mrs. Large, World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union missionary for Japan, and Rev. Mr. Miyama, Lecturer of the National Temperance League, visited our province. Meetings were held in this city, and in some neighboring towns and villages where we have work. Earnest and eloquent appeals were made for a stand against the dread liquor traffic, which resulted in many men and women heartily promising to fight it. Since then, at Katsunuma meeting alone, nine women have signed the pledge, becoming members of our Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Kofu. Eight from other villages have also united with us. The pledges of those joining in this city are handed to the President, Mrs. Hayashi, and we do not know the exact number, but at one meeting alone twenty-four women promised to sign the pledge.

We have started Loyal Legions among the children who attend our meetings both here and in the country, and the little ones are intensely interested.

Among many interesting cases is the following. Mrs. Nakagawa, a bright young woman, whose husband is a petty official, attended our meeting in Nirazaki last year for some months, and seemed deeply interested. In June she and her husband moved to Kofu, and as soon as possible we called upon her. She was evidently under conviction of sin, and struggling against it. She said, "You say God is good, and loves us. If that is so he ought to kill the devil, who makes us so sin and suffer." We tried to show her that God's plan of giving us each power to resist the devil is much better. We did not know just how she took it until, as we were leaving, she said quietly, "God need not kill the devil." Soon after she asked for baptism, which she, together with her young husband, received in October. They have moved to another place, where we have work, and she evinces an earnest desire to bring others into the peace which she has found.

We report two baptisms this term. We have held 107 woman's meetings with an average attendance of nine, and twenty four special and factory meetings with an average attendance of forty three, also 148 children's meetings with an average attendance of twenty seven. To Christian homes 399 visits have been made, to non-Christian 397, and to new homes nine, making a total of 805 visits.

NAGANO—EVANGELISTIC WORK.

From Miss Wigle.

DURING the past quarter our regular woman's and children's meetings have been continued as last year. Mrs. Large's visit in September and Mr. Miyama's in December did a great deal to stir up our people along Christian temperance lines, and to encourage us and our co-workers. Seventeen women in Tanaka, and seven in Komoro, have lately joined the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

It seemed impossible to get the Nagano women to come to a meeting with an ordinary Bible lesson, so we turned it into a mother's meeting under Miss Hargrave's supervision, and the numbers have considerably increased, though it is still a really Christian meeting.

In Komoro the "mother" in our church there has long been working and suffering and praying that the rest of her family might find her Saviour. One of her daughters was for some time a pupil in our Tokyo school, but during the vacation last summer she died of consumption at her home. This daughter tried by her letters, and in every possible way, to induce her father and her grandmother to accept Christ, but her efforts and her mother's were of no avail. During the long hot days of her illness, O Masu San was a very patient and earnest disciple. Among other things, she persuaded her family to entertain me at their home in future, so I shall not have to stay at the hotel where there are so many disagreeable things. The grandmother was especially fond of this girl, having brought her up as her own child, and each time she returned to Tokyo the grandmother would shut herself up with her grief for two or three days.

At last the prayers of mother and daughter have been answered. In November we rejoiced to hear that the grandmother had of her own accord given up her tobacco, and that she and the father had both asked for baptism. The

death of their dear one had set them thinking. Since then they have been baptized, and the father wishes to give up his position and become an evangelist, beginning by going with the pastor to the homes of his relatives. Meanwhile the faithful, devoted mother is happy beyond expression. The joy that has come to her, she says, more than atones for the loss of her daughter. Oh, for more of such earnest souls!

The woman's class for English and Bible study, begun in May, has been continued. Two of the members are government school teachers, bright intelligent young women that one longs to see in our blessed Master's service, both for their own sakes, and because Japanese school teachers exert such a powerful influence over their pupils, whom we are trying to reach.

Our free kindergarten in Nishi Nagano has had an average attendance of fourteen at its two sessions a week, besides the meeting for larger children three times a week. Our pastor has held an evening service there occasionally. Since October we have had another similar kindergarten in Yashiro twice a week, average attendance seventeen. The Christians there have shown a practical interest in it by trying to induce their friends and neighbors to send their little ones. The little mites of humanity seem almost too small to comprehend what they are taught, especially the one who always answers "red" when asked the color of any object. But gradually they learn that their pretty sashes and collars are of a different color from the snow. They are learning, too, about Abel and his jealous brother, about Noah's boat and Joseph's wonderful coat. And sometimes they or their elder brothers and sisters are heard to exclaim, "Oh, here comes 'Jesus loves me'!" and then off they run to the meeting-house. Some of them are even brave enough to consent to be led by the hand of the foreign "Sensei."

At our several Christmas trees we gave each one a half-cent bag of cake, and a present worth from one-tenth to one-quarter of a cent. Of those present there were several hundred children and grown people who had never seen a Christmas tree before. It was worth all the trouble just to see their happy faces. When the kindergarten pupils took part, their performance seemed to be the most enjoyable feature of the programme. Also an old Santa Claus song, which the sight of a Christmas tree brought back to my mind, was made use of at nearly all our entertainments, and pleased the children greatly, though they understood not a word of it but "Christmas tree."

A little has been done at selling New Testaments and portions of the Scriptures in trains, stations, on the street, or

going from house to house, and many hundreds of tracts, besides temperance and other magazines, have been distributed.

Women's meetings	29	, average attendance,	5.
Children's "	154	;	" " 42.
Special "	4	;	" " 18.
Women's English and Bible Class	28	;	" " 3.
Visits			49.
New homes entered			8.

NAGANO SCHOOL.

*From Miss Hargrave.**

THE average attendance at the school for the past four months has been twenty. Three boarding pupils entered in September, and one withdrew, the latter on account of the death of her younger brother, who was drowned last August in the river while playing, and the consequent prejudice of the grandmother, who said it was the punishment of the gods on them for having sent their daughter to live in a Christian school. The father and mother were anxious to have the daughter continue as a boarder, but to satisfy the grandmother had to send her to board with an aunt who is an earnest Buddhist. So she has come as a day pupil, expecting to enter as a boarder in January.

We had a very pleasant, though simple, Christmas closing for the girls. We invited all the mothers, but were disappointed in having only a few of them. In all we had twenty-five visitors. After the programme we had a Christmas tree for the girls, *the first they had ever seen*. It was a great delight to see their happy faces, and we felt the few cents spent in this way for each one was strengthening the cord which is binding their hearts to a Christian school. The first blind prejudice has gone, and their interest in "the old, old story" is certainly growing.

The kindergarten continues to prove promising. We had the little ones attend the church Christmas tree and take part in the programme there, instead of having a separate closing for them. Most of the parents were present also.

All our helpers were Christians when they came to us, except the senior kindergarten teacher. She had heard something about the Truth, and was not prejudiced. We are glad, indeed, to report that she has decided for Christ, and has asked for baptism.

*Comparing this with the letter from Nagano published last September will add greatly to its interest. Pray for our missionaries in this new and difficult field.

We have continued the English Bible classes with the young men, and the teaching at the post-office. The term has been a very busy one, but the work has all been a great delight, and there are many evidences that the barriers are being broken down and the harvest is not far off.

KANAZAWA.

From Miss Crombie.

"Some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundred (fold)."

TWO women were baptized in October. The husband of one and their little girl of eight received baptism the same time, which makes another Christian family in our communion.

The other woman, Mrs. Kubo, is an elderly lady living with an only son, who is married. As soon as she gave her heart to God she became very anxious for her son's salvation. She did all she could to bring him under Christian influence, and finally succeeded in getting him to study English. She said to us, "I do not care for the English, but I want to get him where he can learn Christianity."

The zeal of this old lady for the conversion of her son has led to our taking up a new branch of work. She asked us to teach her son English and the Bible. And through Mrs. Yokoi, our new Bible-woman, who is the wife of a railway official, several requests of a similar kind came from railway officials and their wives. So Miss Sifton, who has a woman's meeting in that part of the city, opened a class one evening a week, one hour being devoted to English conversation and reading, and one hour to Bible study. Their interest in the Bible has been as great as in their study of English, and some have become regular attendants at the Sunday services. Mrs. Kubo's son has, as she anticipated, become interested in the Bible, and has begun to attend church. His wife comes to the woman's meeting occasionally. The average attendance at this evening class is about twenty.

One teacher and two girls from the government school opposite our house, come for one hour each week for English and Bible study, and warmly welcomed us to their homes.

One girl's father is deeply interested; even the first time we called we had a long conversation with him on Christianity. The conversation opened by his asking what pleasure we had in this country when it was so different from our own, about which we had been talking for a few minutes. This furnished

an opportunity to tell of our work, and the pleasure there is in seeing people come to Christ. He asked many questions, among them, where and when Christianity had its origin, and he seemed quite satisfied when told that it was not the religion of any one country, but of the whole world, and that it dated back to the very beginning of the human race. The short account then given of the creation of man in the likeness of God, and of the advent of sin, and the plan of salvation, seemed to him quite convincing, and he gladly accepted the New Testament that we offered him, and has become very much interested in the study of it.

Lately we have become much interested in the children of our own neighborhood, or, more correctly, they have become interested in us. They come into our garden to play, and are delighted if some one can go out and play with them for a while. When opportunity serves we gather them together and have a meeting. Fourteen of these meetings have been held, and thirty of our little friends have begun to attend the church Sunday School. Four of these little girls sang a hymn at the Christmas entertainment, and this pleased their parents very much. We hope soon to win them, too.

Miss Sifton and I have each a Bible class for students once a week, and some of them seem so near the kingdom that we are just waiting to see them enter.

One weekly, one monthly, and four fortnightly meetings for women have been held. The general lecture meetings at Takaoka continue with good success.

Miss Sifton has a meeting every Friday morning for the teachers in the Sunday Schools and children's meetings to help them with their lessons for the following Sunday. Sixty-nine children's meetings have been held, and, besides this, our helpers teach in the two church Sunday Schools. Five hundred and fifty-nine visits have been made, and sixteen new homes entered. Our night schools and poor schools are being carried on as usual. We trust they may serve as beacon lights. Occasionally we hear of some whose consciences have been enlightened, and whose feet have been turned away from paths of sin and shame through their influence.

There is a marked improvement in the appearance and manners of the girls in the embroidery school, but we long for the crowning joy of seeing them surrender themselves to Christ. I have a weekly Bible lesson with them on Sunday morning, besides the daily lesson by Mr. Inone and two lessons a week by Oto San. Their minds are being stored with Bible truths, and it must bring forth fruit.

The children in the Orphanage are all doing well. O Hatsu

San, who is learning hair dressing, will finish her apprenticeship in March, and from that time we hope she will be able to support herself. Sawada San is very satisfactory as a servant in the Orphanage. O Haru San is helping with the housework in our home. She wants to learn foreign cooking, but is too young yet. The others are going to school, but earn a little towards their support by working during their spare time.

China.

A CHINESE HOUSE-BOAT.

Extracts from a private letter from Miss Brimstin.

I WISH I could give you a good description of a house-boat. I cannot compare it to anything in the homeland. It is about as large as one of the *smali* Island ferries. The front quarter is reserved for the boatmen, of whom there are about twenty. Here they sleep at night. Each has a sort of mattress in which he wraps himself. They put up a light covering, but have no sides to their part of the boat, poor fellows! They are a wretched lot. At night some of them cough violently. The back part is reserved for the captain, and we have the "between part." Our first room is our dining-room. The windows are made of wood and open like a home awning. When it is cold they have to be closed, and we are in darkness. We have a table and five chairs. Mrs. Ririe brought a pretty red table-cover, which makes our dining-room very homelike.

Next comes our room. When in Shanghai we bought camp-beds, which are very comfortable. Our room is just large enough to hold the two beds and leave space between for dressing, but only one can dress at a time, and we have room at the foot of each for a steamer trunk. So you see we are fairly comfortable. The kitchen is just large enough to hold the cook-stove and the cook. He is a large man, who seldom combs his hair; his dress is very untidy, and his feet always bare. I wish you could see him bringing the eggs to the breakfast table in his hands, handing one to each. However, he is improving under good training, and I would not be surprised to hear him ask for an increase in wages before we reach our journey's end.

If you could but see the partitions dividing our rooms—they are one mass of cracks. We had such a time covering the large ones with pieces of cotton or anything we could get. Mr. Squire, missionary at Ichang, very kindly lent us a large

blue cotton curtain. This we hung at one side to make a hall, so we are closed in very nicely. I forgot to tell you we have a wooden chair between our beds; this serves for a washstand, on it we place our enamel basin and pitcher. We arranged some rope on the wall for a towel rack.

SACRIFICING THE ROOSTER.

Now as to our journey. After waiting one day, we were ready, but the boatmen were not. They have certain performances before starting. A rooster was brought to the front of the boat, and his head taken off; his blood was spilt all along the front bars of wood, some of the feathers were plucked and dipped in the blood and stuck to the side of the boat. This was repeated at the stern. A tremendous amount of fire crackers was set off, and a man pounded a large gong until I thought my head would ache. Sticks of burning incense were placed in every available corner, and the captain then declared we were sure of a good voyage and would start. So we started, but we found we were only to cross the river that day; it is unlucky to go farther.

Next morning we were wakened by violent shouting. I never heard human voices making such a noise. It was the boatmen preparing to start. At last it was daylight; I opened my window and looked on shore. There were the poor trackers, pulling on a long rope, and we were really going. Sometimes it is very hard to tell whether we are moving or not, our progress is so slow.

We soon found ourselves in the midst of the most beautiful scenery my eyes ever witnessed. The Yangtse gorges are wonderful in their beauty; they remind me somewhat of the Rocky Mountains, only they seem higher and, in some respects, more beautiful. There is something so grand, so sublime about rocky mountains, they always make me think of the power of God. The river is very winding, and its water very red, reminding one of those lines of Whittier:

"Out and in, the river is winding
The link of its long red chain."

CHENTU.

From Dr. Henry.

ON the evening of January 30th, we reached Chentu—just five and a half months from the time we left home.

It has been a long, tedious, and in many instances, a perilous journey, but conscious of the divine presence, and of the fact

that the prayers of many followed us, we were kept calm in danger, glad to be just where and how we were, knowing it was "His will" for us.

In order to reach Chentu before the Chinese New Year we went overland from Kiating, accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. Hart. We expected it would take three and a half days, but a snow storm coming on, it took us six days. The last night we were on the road the inn keeper at first refused us admittance, as his inn was cleaned (?) for New Year. On Dr. Hart threatening to send to the Yamen we were allowed to enter.

We found the ladies well and delighted at the prospect of more new workers in the near future.

Suggested Programme—June.

Subjects for Prayer and Study :

"MISSIONARIES AND MISSIONARY SHIPS."

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|----------------------|---|---|
| I. Opening Exercises | { | Doxology.
Read Subjects for Prayer and Study.
Scripture Lesson.
Hymn.
Prayer. |
|----------------------|---|---|

II. Business.

III. Hymn.

IV. The Watch-Tower.

V. "Missionary Ships."*

"You can lend a hand to help them
As they launch their boats away."

VI. Prayer Service.

(* See *Outward*, May 26th, 1900.) Price two cents at Room 20 and the depots. Two cents additional for postage and wrapping.

Notes from Room 20.

THE successful debut of the "Flag Exercise," but recently added to the list of publications issued at Room 20, is most gratifying to the Committee on Literature. Arranged with the hope of interesting the younger portion of the Church in our own missions, and as a substitute for the aimless recitations, dialogues and music of too many entertainments, it cannot fail to find favor with the leaders of Mission Bands, Junior Leagues and Sunday Schools.

Mrs. Deacon, of Stanstead, Que., who had the pleasure of superintending its first presentation writes. "The juniors gave the flag exercise on Saturday evening; it was beautiful—everyone was charmed. We wished the juniors only to take part, and, as suggested, the recitations were cut down. The little folks did nobly; I wish you could have seen them. I had no idea that forty children from four to fourteen years could be trained to do so well. One lady remarked, 'It is not often children have so much religion taught them for a public exhibition.' We are requested to repeat it, and will probably do so soon. If you prepare any more exercises I shall want to try them."

**THE FLAG
EXERCISE.**

The *Stanstead Journal* says: "Then came the programme, showing much care and patient work on the part of children and teacher. This was an unusually pretty exercise, a combination of missionary hymns and recitations. The music was strikingly pretty and taking. The flags gave a pretty effect, and the children remembered remarkably well." Price 5 cents a copy at Room 20 and the Depots.



MAPS of Japan and China have been prepared in outline, which is to be heavily traced with chalk or crayon, and the points of interest added as required. The maps are on manilla paper, 34 x 46 inches, and are 5 cents each. For 5 cents additional, a small printed map of Japan will be sent to assist in locating our mission stations and the natural features of the country. For China, the public school atlas can be used in connection with the Annual Report.

**OUTLINE
MAPS.**

How annoying to the "tidy one" are those loose numbers of the *MISSIONARY OUTLOOK* which you value so much. You could not part with them, containing as they do so much that is most important in the history of our Church. But the "tidy one" may be made happy, and the annoyance chased away like mist in the sunshine. Just send to Room 20, or one of the Depots, for those self-binding covers, one of which will contain two years' numbers. The price is only 75 cents.



THE Literature Committee at Room 20, and the Branch Depots in Sackville, N.B., and Winnipeg, Man. (for addresses see foot of last page), will receive deposits of \$1.00 for the literature to be used in connection with the Suggested Programme for Auxiliaries, and will send the necessary literature whenever called for by the Programme as long as the money lasts, and without it being necessary for the Auxiliary to write for it. The usual charge of two cents, for wrapping and postage, will be deducted for each parcel. Subscribers will be notified when their deposit is expended.



CORRESPONDING Secretaries of Branches will please report increases of Auxiliaries and Mission Circles or Bands to Mrs. Bascom, 1,339 King Street West, Toronto, Secretary of Literature Committee, for publication in the *MONTHLY LETTER*.



SUBSCRIPTIONS for the following missionary periodicals will be received and forwarded by MISS OGDEN :

Missionary Review of the World, per year, \$2.25, *Gospel in all Lands*, beginning with April, 60 cents. (Subscriptions to this magazine may begin at any time, but must continue till December and then end.) *Message and Deaconess World*, 50 cents.