

"This is the Victory



Even Our Faith."

# Monthly Letter.

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Subjects for Study and Prayer for the Month :

The extinction of the Liquor, Opium and Slave Trades,  
and all covetous hindrances to Christianity.

## Japan.

*From* MISS BLACKMORE, 31 SANGENYA, AZABU, TOKYO,  
JAPAN, *October 5th, 1899.*

I THINK that the last news you had from Japan was that the frame of our new building had gone down in a typhoon. I was in Karuizawa at the time, and you may be sure I was not a little troubled by the news that came. Naturally enough it was at first thought there must be something wrong either in the material or the work, that it should fall in what was not a very severe typhoon. I was very much relieved, however, to find on coming down that such was not the case. The contractor had been anxious to get the roof on as quickly as possible, so the work could go on even on rainy days. Accordingly he had, after running up the frame, set the men to work on the roof before

putting in the braces or stayings, intending to put these in after the roof was completed. When the wind came of course there was nothing to keep the timbers from falling, and fall they did. I asked the men why they had done so foolish a thing, knowing that we always have a typhoon in September. They said, when the wind does not blow on the 210th day of the year, then it cannot blow for ten days, so there ought to have been a calm this year, as there was no wind on the important day ; that would have given them time to put in the braces. But in some non-understandable way the storm came before the ten days had passed ! There was no very great loss of material, as, not being firmly fastened together, it did not break in falling apart. The chief loss is the workmen's time on what had to be done all over again. However, the contractor with a philosophical "It can't be helped," set to work again. While he has to bear all the loss as far as the building is concerned, yet the delay brings extra expense to us also. We have rented a large Japanese house and opened school. Misses Hart and Veazey live over the Sabbath School rooms, and keep the two junior classes there, while I have the main body of the school here in the Japanese house. We are very crowded. Miss Cartmell will remember that we have always considered two mats for each girl the smallest allowance we could make for the sleeping-rooms ; but here they have only a mat and a half each in rooms that are alternately dining-rooms, class-rooms and sleeping-rooms ; this, after filling the verandahs as far as possible with mats to increase the usable space. I have a nice little six-mat room (9 x 12 feet), which had been newly built on ; it juts out from the south side of the building, just in the centre, so I have command of the whole building. It is bedroom, study, office, class-room, sick-room and breakfast-room, all in one. I go over to the Sabbath School rooms for dinner and tea, except on rainy days, when Miss Veazey brings our lunch over on coming for morning teaching, and we have a little picnic together. One real source of satisfaction growing out of all this is to see how loyal the girls and teachers are in cheerfully making the best of the accommodations we have, and

doing without what we do not have. There is no difference between the rich girls and the poorer ones in this respect; they are all ready to help. It was from the girls themselves the suggestion came, that as the servants would have extra work in serving the meals in two places, they could keep the garden clean (which in these days of falling leaves is no joke), and draw the water for the bath, work usually done by the servants; and they are keeping faithfully to their promise.

We have lost several pupils for various reasons; five are sick and so unable to return; one is taking care of her little brother who is in a hospital; one is nursing her sick mother; another has been claimed by an uncle who needs a "daughter" in his home, and so on. We have some new ones, but not enough to make up our number to what it was before the holidays. However, we have as many as we can accommodate, so have no need to complain.

But enough of Azabu affairs. Kanazawa is occupying our attention at present. You know the house in which our ladies live belongs to the Presbyterian mission. They decided recently to sell as soon as possible all the property that they do not need to use in their work. A German teacher in a government school in Kanazawa, wishes to buy No. 75; in fact has already made arrangements with a tenant at a rental considerably in advance of what we pay. But Mr. Brokaw has kindly given us the first refusal. They value the house and lot at yen 2800 (\$1400). There are 408 tsubo (1 tsubo = 36 square feet). The orphanage could be built at one corner facing the narrow street at the back. The locality is good and healthful, very near to our church, and about midway between the Kawakami and Daijime School. The house cannot be considered of much value; it is fifteen years old, and was not well built in the beginning; still we could doubtless use it, say four years longer, without extensive repair. One objectionable point is that it is situated so near to some of the public buildings that it seems not improbable that some time the city may demand the right to buy it for public use.

It has always been our thought to buy in one of the poorer districts a lot on which the home for the ladies and

the Orphanage could be built; but though a good deal of looking for lots has been done by different ones during the last seven years, a suitable one has never been found.

Miss Washington returned to Kofu last week. She is better, and, if careful, there is every reason to hope she will be all right after a few months.

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### Hospital Report, Chentu.

THE following extract from the annual report of the General Society will be of interest to our W. M. S. workers:

“Religious teaching: This year we have given this department more attention than usual. The dispensary patients hear the story of Christ’s love told them every dispensary day before commencing to treat them. Then a gospel tract is given to each to take home and read. In the waiting-room and consulting-room we have hung up Scripture texts. In the wards we have written in large characters and hung up the Lord’s Prayer and the Ten Commandments. The International Sabbath School plates have been mounted on scrolls, and the English explanation replaced by Chinese characters. We have made it a rule of the hospital that each patient shall memorize the Lord’s Prayer and the Ten Commandments if possible, and also Scripture texts such as John iii. 16. Every morning service is held in the large ward, including singing, reading, and explanation of the Scriptures and prayer. Each Sunday afternoon during service in the ward, we take up the catechism. The class-meeting, formerly held in my study on Monday evenings, this year has been held in the ward, that the testimonies of the Christians might be helpful to the patients. As a result over half of these patients expressed their desire to become Christians. On leaving we give them Gospels, and trust the results will be seen in the future.

W. E. SMITH.

## Extracts from Missionaries' Letters from Japan.

THE King's Daughters' Society numbers over thirty members, for the most of those who have left the school still continue their membership. As many of these girls are in non-Christian homes, in towns and villages wherethere are no Christian services, and where they have nothing to help but much to hinder in their Christian life, and as letters sometimes come to the Society telling of difficulties, and asking for some words of encouragement, the question as to what could be done to help them came up at the March meeting. It was decided that every month, a few days before the meeting, a post card should be sent to each one needing help, that on the postal some comforting Bible verse should be written, also the day and hour of the meeting, and that each girl should be reminded that she would be remembered in prayer when the King's Daughters met together. Two girls are appointed each month to write these messages.

### WHAT THE "BUSY BEES" DID IN SHIZUOKA.

As it is a rule in our school (Shizuoka) that none but baptized Christians can be members of the King's Daughters' Society, and as some of the younger girls were not only willing but eager to do King's Daughters' work, a Circle was formed in February under the name of the "Busy Bees." In the course of her visits, Miss Alcorn had found that a little girl, the daughter of a Christian woman, was about to be sold to be trained for a dancing girl, because on account of the father's long illness and subsequent death, the mother had no means of supporting her. The "Busy Bees" became interested, and promised to raise each month one-third of the money required for her support, the missionaries becoming responsible for the other two-thirds. The child boards in the school and attends the public school, where she will graduate in two years. She is a pretty, bright child. In the last examination she came out second in a class of sixty-two, and is already quite a favorite in the school. Should she continue satisfactory, it is our hope that some Mission Band at home will

undertake her support at the end of two years, when she will be far enough advanced to become a pupil of this school]

One of our missionaries writes: "We have stood with the bereaved beside the still form of a loved one death has claimed, and by God's help brought comfort by pointing to the great Comforter, and repeating His precious promises. In one case we had the joy of telling a father the glorious hope of the resurrection in Christ. The daughter, a young woman from the country, who had attended our meetings for some time, and had begun to understand a little of the way of salvation, had died very suddenly, and the father, who came to Tokyo for the funeral, never heard of the Christian consolation.

"The reading of a few verses of God's Holy Word, a school prayer, words of sympathy have brought comfort and help to the heart of many, especially to those who, struggling with poverty or poor health, had become disheartened.

"Many whose husbands or mothers-in-law do not allow them to attend a meeting, are glad of a visit; others again who would have permission but cannot go because there is no one to keep house while they are out, welcome the opportunity of Christian fellowship in this way.

"Not long ago a blind woman, who has a very hard time earning daily food for herself and aged mother, told the Bible-woman something of her history, and then said: 'I have no comforts or joy in life, if what you teach has any comfort in it I will be glad to listen to you.'

Miss Hart continues: "We have here as elsewhere to battle with that curse intemperance. One of the Bible-women in visiting the home of a woman who had attended the meeting in that district a few times, found the husband sitting alone in his house deliberately drinking 'sake' (Japanese liquor). As soon as he knew her to be a Bible-woman he invited her in, said he knew he was doing wrong, that drink was bad for him, but he could not give it up. He asked the Bible-woman to pray for him, and to request the foreign teachers to pray also. The next time I went to that district for a meeting the man came too, but so

drunk he could hardly walk. I invited him in, and sitting down next to me he listened to all I said as well as a man could under the influence of drink. At the close he asked a few questions, invited me to visit his home, and left. Not long after I held a meeting in his house by invitation. In the meantime the wife had asked me for a Bible, and I had sent temperance papers to her husband, who ere long began taking the Bible to his office to read at odd times. One day another man asked him what book that was he read so often. 'The Bible,' was the answer. Further conversation brought out the fact that no less than three men in that office were Christians—or had been—and had not had the courage to make it known. In answer to their questions the man said he did not know what they meant by 'pastor' or 'church'; all he knew was what the foreigner from whom he got the Bible had told him. Some time ago he sent word that he had overcome his appetite, but had waited until he had been a month without touching drink before telling me, and I believe he is still standing firm. The wife has been a regular attendant, and whenever possible brings other women to the meeting, and has lately been taking their little boy to Sunday School."

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### Suggested Programme—January.

ARRANGED BY S. D. MCKAY.

- I. Hymn 18 ("Canadian Hymnal").
- II. Responsive Scripture Reading. (John xv. 1-15.)
- III. Prayer—For the conscious presence of the indwelling Christ, for a sense of our entire dependence on Him.
- IV. Hymn 439 ("Canadian Hymnal").
- V. Regular Business.
- VI. Watch Tower.
- VII. Hymn 431.
- VIII. Announcement of subject for prayer and study for the month—That increased spiritual power may come upon the Church at home and abroad, and that secret believers may be taught of the Spirit.

To be read by the President: "Nothing can compensate the Church or the individual Christian for the lack of the Holy Spirit. What the full stream is to the mill-wheel, that is the Holy Spirit to the Church. What the principle of life is to the body, that is the Holy Spirit to the individual. We shall stand powerless and abashed in the presence of our foes until we learn what He can be as a mighty tide of love-power in the heart of His saints."—*F. B. Meyer.*

"Only a holy Church can ever be a conquering Church. There is no other force that can subdue the world."—*Mark Guy Pearse.*

IX. Bible Reading\*—"The Ministry of Intercession."

"The evangelization of the world depends first of all upon a revival of prayer. Deeper than the need for men, aye, deep down at the bottom of our spiritless life, is the need for the forgotten secret of prevailing, world-wide prayer." For

(a) The Church at home. God calls us as he did Moses, "Behold, there is a place by me" (Ex. xxxiii. 21); Acts i. 8; 1 Cor. ii. 12; Luke xi. 11, 13; Eph. i. 17-23; John xvi. 24.

(b) The Church abroad. 2 Cor. i. 11; Acts xiii. 2, 3; Col. iv. 3.

(c) The converts from heathenism. John vi. 44, 45; John xiv. 26; Eph. iii. 16-20.

X. Reading†—"Helping together with prayer."

XI. Hymn 116—Repeated in concert. Benediction.

\* See "Pray Without Ceasing," price 3 cents.

† Price 1 cent.

These readings may be ordered from Room 20 and the Depots (for addresses see foot of last page). Postage and wrapping, 2 cents extra.

DR. ANNA HENRY and Miss Brimstin, who sailed from Vancouver early in September, arrived in Shanghai, October 1st. After remaining in Shanghai a short time they started on the long and tedious journey up the Yangtse River. They expect to make a short visit at Nan-King, and will arrive at Chentu early in the new year.

## NOTES FROM THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE.

THE Board of Managers, at its recent meeting in Hamilton, authorized the President, Mrs. Ross, to prepare a leaflet concerning the relation of the Woman's Missionary Society to the Twentieth Century Thanksgiving Fund. This leaflet will be sent to the Auxiliaries, Mission Circles and Bands in sufficient quantities for each member to receive a copy. Will Corresponding Secretaries kindly attend to its distribution, that the intention of the Board may be carried out, that each member may have an opportunity of contributing to the Woman's Missionary Society through the Twentieth Century Thanksgiving Fund.

Signed, *The Literature Committee.*

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## BINDERS AT ROOM 20.

How suggestive of harvest fields and sheaves of golden grain! Nor is the suggestion at all misleading, but tells exactly what we have at Room 20. A durable, stiff cloth cover, which will hold securely two years' numbers of the MISSIONARY OUTLOOK. Any number may be taken out and replaced quite easily in this self-binding cover. All wishing to preserve this valuable history of the missionary work of the Church will find these binders just what is needed to make the OUTLOOK a neat and handsome addition to a library. The price is 75 cents postpaid.

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## NEW LEAFLETS AT ROOM 20, AND THE DEPOTS.

The Literature Committee has recently added about twenty publications to the Catalogue, with a few more to follow. The additions are indicated by an asterisk.

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THE Literature Committee at Room 20, and the Branch Depots in Sackville, N.B., and Winnipeg, Man. (for addresses see foot of last page), are prepared to 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 Pro-

gramme 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.

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 January, 80 cents. *Message and Deaconess World*, 50 cents.

MISS FORESI, Dundas, and Miss Anderson, Belleville, are at the Methodist Deaconess' Home and Training School, Toronto, taking the course of instruction required by the Board for all missionary candidates.

## Leaflets and Other Publications For Sale.

Please Send Remittance With Order.

Those Leaflets marked thus \* have just been added to the list.

(A, signifies adult; J, Juvenile.)

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A Thirsty Land (Mexico).....	.01	.10
China. By Dr. J. T. Gracey.....	.15	
Foot Binding in China.....	.01	.08
How the Teacher Came for Tatchnee .....	.01	.10
*Home Life in Lands Not Christian. China.....	.02	.15
" " " " India.....	.02	.15
India. By Rev. E. Storrow. " In two parts .....	.35	
*Missionary Poster (Japan) .....	.05	
*Map of Japan, small size, on paper.....	.05	
*My People Israel .....	.02	.24
*Our Neighbors in Quebec .....	.01	.12
Our Work Series—No. 2, Our Chinese Rescue Home; No. 3, Our Work in Japan; No. 4, Medical Work Among the Indians in B.C.; No. 5, Manners and Customs of the Indians of Simpson District, B.C.; No. 6, Manners, Customs and Religion of the French-Canadians; No. 7, Trials and Triumphs of Methodism in the North-West; No. 8, A Beacon-Light in Japan; No. 9, Present State of the Work Among the French-Canadians; No. 10, Some Facts About Our French-Canadian Mission; No. 11, How the Gospel Came to Port Simpson; *No. 12, A Sunday at 14 Torii Zaka; per 100, 75 cents .....	.01	.10
(A J) Question Book Series—Japan and Korea, China, Chinese in America, Mexico, India, Siam and Laos, Africa, Persia, South America, and Syria, 10 in set, 50c.....	.05	
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<b>Supply—</b> Beginnings at Muddy Creek .....	.02	.15
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Happy Hints for Mission Bands—music and programmes .....	.05	.50
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The Auxiliary Member Between Meetings. 65 cents hundred .....	.01	.10
W.M.S. Books—Rec. Sec. and Treas., 60c. each; the set, \$1.00.		
<b>Appeal—</b> A Call to Young Women .....	25c. per hundred	.01 .04
Christian Missions and the Temperance Reform.....	.02	.15
(A J) Cicero's Call.....	.02	.20
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Proportionate Giving (an exercise). By M. B. Willmott. 35 cents per hundred .....	.01	.05
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Missionary Standard of Living and What It Means to be a Foreign Missionary .....	free	
Organization and Work of the W.M.S. (new edition) .....	free	
*Pray Without Ceasing (from The "Ministry of Intercession," by Andrew Murray) .....	.03	.35
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