

"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. XIII. No. 2] TORONTO, FEB., 1896. [Price 5c. a year.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

The Indians of our Dominion; the Methodist Orphanage, St. John's, Newfoundland.

FRENCH WORK.

The West End Mission School, under the management of Miss Jackson, opened in September, with fifty pupils, and, although the Roman Catholic priests have been preaching to the people against sending their children to Protestant schools, the number has been gradually increasing, and the average attendance for the past month has been fifty-six. Four of the most advanced scholars have entered the Institute, and a few others have been obliged to go to work, but new ones have come in and taken their places.

Miss Anderson continues to visit all the families to whom she can gain access, and is endeavoring, through the distribution of literature and personal contact with the people, to bring the Gospel to their homes and hearts. There is much destitution amongst the families connected with our schools, children being unable to attend in some cases for lack of warm clothing. It is hoped that the early commencement of

our usually severe winter may lead many more fortunately situated to provide for these needy ones.

The East End School opened on September 2nd, under favorable circumstances. Thirty-six pupils were present, ten of whom had been in attendance last year. It is encouraging to know that of this number eighteen are from Roman Catholic homes. The class-room, which is not large, is now pretty well filled with energetic little workers from four to sixteen years of age.

Miss Matthieu writes: "After school hours I have visited on an average four families daily, and thus gained their favor and the promise of a few new pupils. An aged man expressed a wish for a Bible, saying he had seen but one Bible in his life, and that was years ago, when he met the late Rev. Mr. Beaudry, who invited him to his church. The man told his priest of this fact, and asked him for a Bible, but the priest refused. The old man told me he had felt disappointed ever since, and that now he was so happy in the possession of this book. As he held it between his hands he promised to read it very carefully and pay me its value. I wish you could have looked at his happy face, beaming with joy because of his newly-gotten treasure. May our hearts yearn within us for the salvation of this man's soul. I praised God for this gleam of sunshine at the close of a day's work for Jesus in and outside of the school-room."

JAPAN.

Extracts of a letter from Miss Wigle, our latest missionary to Japan.

AZABU, TOKYO, December 3rd, 1895.

I arrived in good condition physically. I have not felt at all tired since getting here; in fact the ocean voyage seemed very restful to me, except the first day or two. We had a rough sea nearly all the way; the guards were on the dining tables all the time but the last two days.

There were eighteen missionaries on board, including two Japanese who had been studying in America, so we had some very congenial company. One of the Japanese became a Christian nine years ago, and has been in the United States since. He does not know whether his family will receive him

even now because he is a Christian. He talked with us several times so beautifully, showing what a simple yet firm trust he has in God's goodness and love, and how determined he is to keep on trusting even if his family still oppose him.

When I thought of the two dear sisters at home and the numerous other friends who had helped in so many ways, and are still helping me with their prayers, it seemed to me that I had given up nothing, or rather that the giving up had been made very easy for me.

The ladies here are very kind and I like them very much. It would be hard to be lonely with such kind friends around one, and then there are so many fine girls in the school, and they always greet me with such pleasant faces. If some of the home friends knew what true women are trained in this school I think they would appreciate very highly the privilege of helping support it. I hope, by my letters, to be able to interest more of my own friends in different places. Lack of information is often the cause of the great want of interest. The work here among these girls, who are so anxious for a true education, is just what suits me. I feel that this is my place, and that the Father was fitting me for it all these years while I was preparing for work in Ontario.

We have just been in to prayers with the girls. The singing, reading and praying were all in Japanese, but I like to watch their earnest faces, even if I cannot understand the words. The girls are so sweet and womanly. When I am among them I feel as if I have a host of the warmest friends around me.

I am sure I shall be very happy here. I have already met several missionaries from different Churches. Dr. and Mrs. Kilborn were here on the 25th, when I came, and the next day. Their baby is the pride of the Japanese, Chinese and Canadians. I think they are the kind of people who make successful workers anywhere. I hope we may all devote ourselves more entirely to the Master's work.

From Miss Cartmell.

KOFU, November 5th, 1895.

Since writing to you last a painful revelation of the present condition of things in Japan has occurred. During

October I called upon one member whose husband was away in Kyoto. The wife came to the woman's meeting at least twice lately. A week or so after, I called again, wishing the husband to regulate my watch. I found he had returned one day, and the wife had left the next for Kyoto. It seemed strange, yet family business might have necessitated it; so I thought nothing more about it. In one of our walks, about a week later, Kato san (my interpreter) asked if I had heard anything about Mrs. Y. I had not. Then the following story was unfolded: Both Mr. and Mrs. Y. had lived in Kyoto. Both had been married before. Mrs. Y.'s first husband lost his property and got into trouble. Mrs. Y., out of compassion, and because he had spent so much upon her, "sold her body," as the Japanese say, for 100 yen, and went into the service of her purchaser to take care of geisha girls, or those who dance and sing for the entertainment of guests. They are not considered immoral, need not necessarily be so, but they live an exposed life that takes the bloom of virtue and honor from their name even among Japanese.

Soon after entering upon her service Mrs. Y. ran away from her master, and came to Kofu to hide herself. Whether or not Mr. Y. saw her in Kyoto I do not know, but there is a probability—anyway they met here. Subsequently they became interested in Christianity, and must have given satisfactory assurances before being received by baptism. I have visited them regularly, always considering them intelligent beyond the average, especially the husband, but of him I saw very little. I took him to be an educated gentleman.

The story is, that the former master's wife ran away, and he placed the matter in the hands of the police. The police in Kofu were communicated with, and in their search for the missing wife they found Mrs. Y. This information being given in Kyoto, the former master sent two men, who, guided by the police, went to her home and took her away publicly. She was seen riding to the river in a jinrikisha, preceded by one and followed by the other.

Everybody seems perfectly helpless in the matter. The Japanese think it a pitiful, disgraceful thing, but that there is no means of help. The first husband is living in Yoko-

hama, in blissful ignorance or indifference, I suppose. How can we understand such a condition of society or know what would be a safe step to take. At first I thought of ransom by the Christians, but remembered that there may be such a thing as "blackmailing" even in Japan. Therefore, if the Japanese themselves do not propose it, we must be careful. Nobody knows what is the line of service Mrs. Y. may be required to render—possibly the care of these geisha girls. She is thought, by Mrs. Wadda, to be a sincere Christian, and has the truth in her heart. I wonder whether her conscience is sufficiently instructed to discern the line between right and wrong. Since she must live so close to the other side it will be a most difficult thing not to grow familiar with sin.

One of the most alarming things to me in this work is to see the content many Christians have with the name Christian and appreciating everything good, without the hunger to know more of "the Word of Life." It keeps one constantly questioning, Is there real faith and life in this one and that? It is a comfort to remember the Lord knew of many thousands who were true to Him, of whom Elijah was ignorant.

November 29th.

I wish I could give you a good report of Mrs. Y.'s circumstances. She escaped from her old master by paying the utmost farthing, no doubt. Her husband sent her seventy yen, her sister helped a little, and she made up the balance by selling some of her things; then took refuge in her mother's house. She then wrote to her husband again and again to send her money for her journey home, but no answer; then she telegraphed, no answer; then she wrote a long, long letter, to which he replied that she might return if she wished, but that he did not want her and that he would not send her money, not even a rin (one-tenth of a cent). But she came back, walking about twenty miles of the distance. Her husband was at home when she arrived, but gave her no welcome. He went away afterwards, whether to return or not I do not know. A geisha girl was seen in his house while his wife was away; he may have gone away with her. A person might understand his conduct if he had not known all about his wife's difficulties,

and until the last professed to be a Christian. How terribly sad these things are!

Four new homes have been opened to us, and one young married lady seems to be deeply interested in the study of the Bible, and has introduced us to two of her friends.

Miss Robertson writes from Shidzuoka, under date of December 4th, 1895:

"Our new building is progressing slowly. We will not be in it before March. It will be strong and well built, and quite pretty also, a credit to the mission. The carpenter says there is not such another for strength in Shidzuoka, and we have several fine public buildings. It will take nearly all the money granted to put up the building and pay the architect. The contract is yen 5,600, and the architect's fee is 10 per cent. on the whole. The carpenter will make little besides his experience, as wood is very high since the war, and workmen's wages are much higher than formerly. Everything, in fact, is much higher; all kinds of food as well as manufactures.

"We will be very glad to have our ladies back again—the work needs them. I am so glad everything has terminated so happily I felt sure that nothing would dispel prejudice against Mrs. Large like her own presence. It must have been a trying time, but the result is cause for great thankfulness."

CHINESE WORK.

Report of Chinese Girls' Home for September, October and November, 1895.

I can scarcely realize that three months have elapsed since I assumed responsibility. There is a peculiar excitement in this "home" work that tends to the forgetfulness of time and self.

I would express gratitude to my Heavenly Father for His grace, help and presence during the quarter.

There are seven girls in the home, all of whom felt Mrs. Morrow's farewell very keenly; so much so that I did not suppose they would honor me by the affectionate appellation of "mamma," but they have from the first day I assumed

the duties of "home" mother. During Miss Wickett's missionary visit to Vancouver and New Westminster we seized the opportunity, when the girls were out of school, to do house-cleaning. All worked cheerfully and well.

Miss Wickett gives full attention to the school during the morning hours. Before Christmas there will be an examination, when prizes will be given according to merit. Four ladies who are interested in the progress of the girls have promised prizes for specialties.

I have a Bible-class every evening for half an hour, and am very well pleased with the interest manifested and progress made. The Friday meeting is sustained weekly. Some of the married girls attend, also outside ladies more or less, Mrs. Pendray and Mrs. Burkholder being the most regular. On Sunday morning the girls are taken (in turn by Miss Wickett and myself) to the mission church, and to the Pandora Avenue Church in the evening. We give them a Scripture lesson in the morning and hold Sabbath School in the afternoon.

Miss Wickett is very faithful in visiting the homes in Chinatown in the early afternoon. Surely the constant presentation of "the old, old story of Jesus and His love," will result in home uplifting and winning to the fold of Christ many who are now strangers to the "Good Shepherd."

I allow Sarah to go to Miss Daniels two days in the week to learn dress-making, which I consider will be very advantageous, as it will equip her for self-maintenance.

Edith has a special gift for music, which, if encouraged by cultivation will be a power at her command for self-support and usefulness.

The spare hours of the girls from the school and house-work are spent filling orders for knitting of different kinds, which furnishes pocket money for the purchase of their little essentials.

I find a great difference in the disposition of the girls. Some are gentle, docile and quiet, others restless, wayward, boisterous and self-willed; but even in the case of the least docile and tractable we are hopeful that the seed sown daily by example as well as precept, may be as "bread cast upon the waters," seen after many days.

S. BOWES, *Home Mother.*

Suggested Programme for March Meeting.

I. Opening Exercises. Khama, a converted South African chief, when addressing an audience at City Temple, London, said, "Work for earthly things tires men, and it passes away, but work for God has no ending and goes on before us."

II. Regular Business.

III. Hymn.

IV. Subjects for Prayer for the month: Japan, Korea, and the Isles of the Sea.

The first Protestant missionary visited Korea in 1832. Regular work was begun in 1884.

November, 1888, James Gale, B.A., went to Korea as representative of University of Toronto Y.M.C.A.

August, 1890, Dr. R. A. Hardie and family went to Korea as representatives of Medical Students' Y.M.C.A.

Dr. O. R. Avison, a successful practitioner and one of the most popular lecturers in the Medical Faculty of the University of Toronto, is now medical missionary in charge of the Government Hospital, Seoul, Korea.

V. Prayer: For the messengers who preach the Gospel of Peace to the Koreans and other unevangelized nations.

VI. Sketch of Korea.*

VII. Paper: †

Subjects Suggested	{	(1) "The Home Life and Position of Women in Heathen Lands."
		(2) "Need of Special Effort to Instruct Women Converts."
		(3) "The Necessity for Girls' Boarding-schools in the Mission-field."

VIII. "The Isles shall wait for Me."—Isa. li. 5. (R. V.)

(Items for this number will appear in the *Christian Guardian*, January 29th and February 5th; in the *Wesleyan*, February 12th and 19th. We urge that a map of the world be used, and as each incident is read, let the island or group of islands referred to be pointed out.)

IX. The Watch Tower.

X. Hymn. Prayer.

*"Japan and Korea" (Question Series), price 5 cents, and "The Canadian College Missionary," January, 1894, price 5 cents, are suggested for the preparation of this sketch.

† (1) "Woman Under the Ethnic Religions." Price, 2 cents.

(2), (3) Room 20 cannot supply literature bearing specially upon these.

HOME READINGS.

JAPAN.

- Outlook for 1895 *Miss. Rev.*, Jan., '95, p. 18.
 Signal Trophies at the Feet of }
 Jesus } " " July, '95, p. 516.

KOREA.

- Outlook for 1895 *Miss. Rev.*, Jan., '95, p. 15.

ISLES OF THE SEA.

- Missions in Isles of the Sea - *Miss. Rev.*, July, '95, p. 533.
 What John Williams saw in }
 the South Seas } " " Nov., '95, p. 801.

INCREASE.

HAMILTON BRANCH.

- Georgetown "Rosebuds" Mission Band.
 Burford "Glad-Workers" " "
 Fergus "Olive Branch" " "

TORONTO BRANCH.

- Bethesda Auxiliary.

BAY OF QUINTE BRANCH.

- Demorestville "Ready Workers" Mission Circle.

NOTICES TO AUXILIARIES AND MISSION BANDS.

PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE.—All subscription orders for *Palm Branch* with the money must be sent to the Editor, Miss S. E. Smith, 282 Princess Street, St. John, N.B. *Palm Branch*—single copies, 15 cents; ten copies to one address, \$1.00.

The Fourteenth Annual Report, price 10 cents, is ready, and all orders received at Room 20 have been filled. Any Auxiliary that has not received its Reports will please write to Room 20.

We regret that when inserting the review of "The Bishop's Conversion" last month, we failed to give the writer's name. Mr. A. W. Beall, of the Japan Christian Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y., is the author of the article.

THANK-OFFERING PROGRAMME, EASTER-TIDE.—According to instructions given by the Board of Managers in October last, a Thank-offering Programme has been arranged and will be printed in the March number of the MONTHLY LETTER. Additional copies may be had for half a cent apiece. Please send orders early.

All communications regarding Supply Committee work should be addressed to Mrs. Wm. Briggs, 21 Grenville Street, Toronto, Ont.

Letters concerning the organization of Auxiliaries and Mission Bands should be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary of the Branch in which the work is situated. If there is no branch, write to Mrs. E. S. Strachan, 163 Huron Street North, Hamilton, Ont. For Corresponding Secretaries' addresses see Annual Report.

Maps of China, Japan and British Columbia, painted on cotton, about thirty-six inches square, may be rented from Room 20 for 25 cents each, the Literature Committee paying the postage one way. The map is to be carefully enclosed in paper and returned the day after it is used.

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*, per year, 80 cents (subscriptions to this periodical may begin at any time during the year, but must continue till December and then end); *African News*, per year, 75 cents; *Message and Deaconess World*, per year, 50 cents; *Heathen Woman's Friend*, per year, 50 cents; *The Double Cross and Medical Missionary Record*, per year, \$1.00—to missionaries and student volunteers, 50 cents per year.

Back numbers of these periodicals not furnished by Room 20 unless specially announced.

LEAFLETS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

	Each	Per doz.
A Basket Secretary .....	.02	.15
A Talk on Mite-Boxes .....	.02	.20
A Tithe for the Lord.....50c. per hundred	.01	.10
A World of Gratitude .....	.02	.20
China. By Dr. J. T. Gracey .....	.15	
Christmas Selections, No. 3 .....	.20	
Christmas Treasury, No. 5 .....	.15	
Cycle of Prayer	\$2.00 per hundred	.30
Easter Obligation .....	.40 cents per hundred	.05
Ezra and Me and the Boards .....	.02	.20
Gist. By Miss L. R. Gracey.....	.60	
Gloria in Excelsis. Christmas Cantata .....	.10	1.00
God's Tenth. A True Story .....	.03	.30
Helping Together with Prayer .....	.01	.08
How to Manage a Missionary Society .....	.02	.20
How Much do I Owe .....	.01	.08
How to Plead for Missions .....	.01	.12
India. By Dr. J. T. Gracey.....	.35	
Light Out of Darkness.....50c. per hundred	.01	.10
Mei-Mei, Your Forgotten Sister..... 40c. per hundred	.01	.10
Metlakatla .....	.05	.25
Missionary Songs, by E. Lorenz, words and music.....	.25	
Mrs. Pickett's Missionary Box.....75c. per hundred	.01	.10
Mrs. Bartlett's Thank-Offering .....	.01	.10
Murdered Millions .....	.17	
Not for the Heathen Merely, but for Christ .....	.01	.08
One Woman's Experience in Tithing .....	.01	.10
Our Work Series—No. 1 is out of print until further notice; No. 2, Our Chinese Rescue Home; No. 3, Our Work in Japan; No. 4 is out of print until further notice; 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-West01	.10
Pitchers and Lamps01	.10
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Why Our Society Did Not Disband02	.15
Woman in China.....	.01	.10
Woman's Rights in India01	.10
Women of the Lower Congo.....	.01	.10
Who Will Open the Door for Ling Te?02	.15
Why Are We Protestants?05	.50
What We Owe and How to Pay It.....	.01	.15
What Thomas Henry and I Learned at the Board Meeting in London.....	75c. per hundred	.01

For Circles and Bands.

A Band Leader's Suggestions .....	.02	.15
A Call to Young Women .....	.01	.05
A Partnership. A Penny a Week and a Prayer .....	.02	.15
Exercises and Programmes—		
Japan, China, (for Circles), 2 in set .....	.03	
Gems for Missionary Meetings—Poems (for Bands) ..	.10	
How Some Little Dollies came to go as Missionaries (for four little girls).....	.04	
The Light of the World is Jesus ... (for 15 children)..	.02	.20
America for Christ. With music.....	.03	.20
Light of the World. With music05	
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Fuel for Missionary Fires.....	.55	
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Question Book Series—Japan, China, Chinese in America, Mexico, India, Siam and Laos, Africa, North America Indians, Persia, South America & Syria. 11 in set, 50c. }	.05	
The Society at Springtown.....	.02	.10
The Young Man and the Chinese Baby Doctor (for Bands) .....	.01	.05
Ways of Working Mission Bands for Boys .....	.02	.10

Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.

For the above. Address

MISS ANNIE L. OGDEN,

ROOM 20, WESLEY BUILDINGS, RICHMOND ST. WEST, TORONTO, ONT.

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