



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

PUBLISHED BY

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

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JUNE,
1901.

PRICE 5 CENTS
A YEAR.

Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month:
"Our Homes and Schools."

The Indian Work.

From Miss Long, Kit-a-maat, B.C., February 11th, 1901.

THE first quarter of another year has passed, and we are hoping to have a chance to send mail out soon, so I thought I would write of the progress and plans for the work here.

We were glad to settle down to our regular routine of work after the holidays. The village school closed for two weeks at Christmas, so we had the girls home all the time, but did not find them troublesome, as it was easy to keep them employed, some at housework, others sewing and knitting, and some helping Mr. Raley in the mission room to print *Nanakwa*. With a little play-time between, they spent their holidays pleasantly, but were quite ready to go back to school again.

Some of the people were disappointed because we did not take in the boys this year when they went away to their camps, but we feel we can accomplish so much more for the girls by having them alone; it is still a trial to us that they have to be together in school. At present nearly all the people have gone to their camps and taken the boys with them. It is such a relief to us that it makes us wish for the time when we can keep them entirely separate.

We began the year with nineteen girls, this is all in the village who are of school age but three, and they are rather delicate, so I have not urged them to come this year. Later we had three from Hartley Bay, so our family numbers twenty-two. We are expecting some from Kitlope as soon as they return from the camps; we are hoping from these two places to have the Home filled in the near future.

We have started and are trying to get all the parents to sign an agreement that they will let their girls remain in the Home until they are eighteen, up to the present only five have signed.

One girl from Hartley Bay, who came at the beginning of the year, has been and still is a great anxiety to us. She is not a bad girl, but thoroughly wild, and it is hard to make her obey. Her father was here a week ago and was so pleased with the improvement in her that he signed the paper willingly. I fear it will be hard to get the parents of the older girls to sign, as most of them are promised in marriage already, but we will do our utmost to keep them as long as we can.

You will have noticed in *Nanakwa* that the Home will not close this year on the 15th of June. The girls are all willing to stay, but I am afraid I shall have difficulty with the parents, as all the older girls earn money at the cannery. I do not think there would be much trouble if we could supply them with boots. They buy them dresses, handkerchiefs and shawls, but boots seem hard to get; half the time they do not wear them when they are at home; it is nothing unusual to see the women going about barefoot in the snow in the middle of winter.

When talking about not having holidays, Flora described the Indian character to perfection when she said: "In the morning when we see the people go away to the cannery we shall feel very sorry, in the afternoon we shall feel a little better, by the next morning we shall have forgotten all about it, and be as happy as ever." To one girl who wanted to go, Flora said, "I should not think you would want to go there among all the evil."

The school will be closed during July and August, but I shall try and arrange the work so as to teach the girls half a day myself. I am enclosing a note I received from the Council with regard to the girls learning music. I answered it by saying I would send it on to you. It is rather a difficult problem to solve, as I am afraid there would be jealousy, and it would be impossible to teach even all the big girls. It would be a great help if one or two of the girls could play the organ. I have taken particular pains in teaching them to sing; they are very musical and never happier than when they are singing. I feel it is more benefit to them than playing, but am willing to do anything in my power for their advancement. I talked to the girls about it and had no difficulty in making them understand that other things were much more important than music and that they could grow up to be good and useful women without learning to play.

When I answered the Council's note I took the opportunity of again asking them how much wood they could supply this year; about a week after the men cut wood for two days, getting us seven cords.

Mr. Raley is drawing a plan for the woodshed with a store-room above for native food, which is badly needed.

I sometimes wonder how I got along at all before Miss Jackson came; it is indeed a comfort to have her to talk and plan with as well as to assist; you could not have sent anybody who would have fitted better into every corner. Another thing I find a great help, that is to be able to have one afternoon in the week to rest, and every other night off duty, which gives my nerves a chance to relax.

Since Miss Jackson came we have started a little meeting with the girls every Saturday night, we all enjoy them, and it is an opportunity to give them some very plain talks. I am thankful to be able to tell you the girls have all had good health this year (with the exception of Flora), not one has been in bed for a day. I am also encouraged with the efforts they are making to do right and to improve, though sometimes grieved by their disobedience, but I feel through all that no work done "In His Name can be in vain."

From Miss Jackson, Kit-a-maat, B.C., February 11th.

Miss Long has written of the weightier matters pertaining to the work of the Home; I thought I would have a chat about our family, the sewing-room, which is my particular work, and other little matters which may be of interest.

You are acquainted with some of the older girls who have been here for some time, Flora in particular, who has been in the Home the longest. She is giving us a great deal of anxiety regarding her health; ever since the winter set in she has had such a cough, it is most distressing to hear her. We have done what we could for her, but it still lingers, we fear if she has even a slight hemorrhage (to which they are all subject) she will not live long. She is bright and cheerful, and has not kept her bed a day on account of it. It is sad, as she is engaged to the native teacher at Kitlope, an earnest Christian man. As Flora is striving to live a Christian life they would be such a help to each other and to their people. Flora is good in English, and could help him to interpret the Bible, with which she is familiar, but if her health does not improve her marriage can hardly be sanctioned.

I was rather amused at the short courtship before their engagement. Early one Monday Robert came up to the Home and asked to see Flora. Miss Long showed him into the sitting-room and called Flora (who was deep in the wash tub). She came in and stood by the door at one side of the room, and he sat in the rocking chair on the other side, while Miss Long was present to do the proprieties. They talked in Kit-a-maat about ten minutes, when Flora bounded from the room as though she was glad to escape from such an ordeal. Then Robert had to get Miss Long's consent, which was only granted on the condition that he wait one year to see if Flora's health improved. He was willing to wait, so the engagement was consummated. It is the law here that an engaged couple shall not talk with each other until they are married, and I believe so far Flora and Robert have kept the law.

We have three little ones from six to seven years old, they are such interesting children, and are real good, giving us very little trouble, only to keep them quiet after they go to bed. It is surprising how quickly they have picked up English; already they understand almost everything we say to them, and will repeat messages nicely. I wish we could always have the girls come to the Home as young as these little ones, they do not know so much of the evil of their surroundings and learn much quicker. I have them in the sewing-room about two hours a day, and they

have learned to hem very nicely, keeping the Home supplied with well-hemmed dusters. I am going to start them piecing a quilt when they have learned to knit garters. They have just commenced to knit a pair of doll's stockings each for the 15th of June exhibition; one wanted to knit hers ribbed, and I was surprised to see how well she was doing it. Dora, the youngest, is such a bright and happy little thing, she causes a great deal of merriment by her comical sayings and doings.

The six smallest girls learned and recited the twenty-third psalm in concert at the Christmas entertainment, and did it very well indeed.

The four new girls from Hartley Bay (from eight to fourteen), although so far from their homes and friends, are as happy and contented as we could wish. It is such a comfort that they all get along so happily together, they seldom quarrel at all. I was much pleased the night the last three came. It had been raining all day and they had travelled in an open canoe, so were soaking wet; without being told, some of the older girls took them at once in hand, while one ran for some of their own clothes, another took their wet ones and hung them to dry; another combed their hair, and in a short time they were made warm and comfortable.

We were very busy in the sewing-room before Christmas, thirteen of the girls having new dresses to be made. Their parents bought such nice material, most of them woolen goods which is an advance, as formerly they only bought print. We had some remnants of plaid, which I used for trimming, and when finished all looked so nice. It was a pleasure to see them. I let each one help with her own; there was not time to do all by themselves, so I did the cutting and fitting. We are kept busy in the sewing-room all the time, never waiting for work. At Christmas several bales were sent from different auxiliaries, containing so much that will help in keeping the wardrobes supplied, for which we are very thankful.

Since coming here I have thought of how much of our work is only foundation work; it may never be seen, but if we can lay a strong foundation of better and purer living for the women at Kit-a-maat, on which those who come after us may build a noble structure, our work will not have been in vain. I have often thought of Miss Jost's illustration of work among our heathen sisters as simply bog work, and how much work it takes to fill it, but it must be filled first, and so we try to fill their minds with something good and pure, and in this way there will not be so much room for the impure and evil.

What a comfort to know it is not our work but His, and we are only faithfully to do what comes to us day by day and leave results with Him. I find our Saturday night prayer-meetings with the girls very helpful, as we try to have plain heart-to-heart talks, striving to teach and lead them to Him, we feel His presence, we are encouraged and our own hearts are strengthened. We take the meetings by turns, Miss Long one Saturday and I the following.

Miss Long's influence with the people is very great; they have such confidence in her judgment. We have in the Home a bright, happy girl of about fifteen, one of our best in every way; she is engaged (without her consent) to one of the worst men in the village; he never attends church and his morals are the worst. Nancy's guardian came up to the Home to talk about her marriage and wanted her to be married at once. Miss Long said she could not think of it for two years at least, Nancy was far too young; so he went away quite contented that they should wait, and Nancy is saved for two years at least; and who knows but what something will happen to prevent it altogether? And then Miss Long has such an influence over the girls; they obey her, not through fear, but because they love her. They call her their "Home-mother," and I think that expresses more than anything else could what she is to them.

Chinese Work in British Columbia.

From Miss Morgan, Victoria, B.C., March 31st, 1901.

UNLESS the unusual happens there always seems but little to report for our winter term, as the work is so broken by our own and the Chinese New Year. We have registered but nine in our school, six Chinese and three

Japanese. You may wonder why the close of the day school has not increased our numbers. If we admitted boys our room would soon be over-crowded, but we do not think of doing so, as the public schools meet their need. The four or five little girls who attended the day school are at present studying Chinese, as their parents think that more necessary than English.

Our own girls have made strides in their studies, lately they have attempted letter writing and their efforts in that line were a delight to me, considering they have been studying our language but fifteen months. Indeed I think their work in every department would reflect credit on English girls. It is so gratifying to see their faces brighten with intelligence as the Bible lessons are explained to them. The Japanese woman now in the home looks at me in surprise when I read the Scriptures to her, and repeatedly says, "Is that all true?"

The evangelistic work has been slightly curtailed since the last report was sent, our recent rescue case being the cause.

Soy King's mistress has told other women that I would steal their slave girls if admitted to their houses, so when lately I have called to see these women I have been politely told that they were out.

But we would rather have our little girl in the home where we know she is daily improving than the former state of things.

Then at another house, where for two years I have had a regular meeting, the feelings of the people were hurt because we did not think it wise to give one of our girls in marriage to a man unworthy of her, but again we felt that the protection of the girls under our care was preferable to even holding a meeting.

Otherwise the work has been satisfactory. Besides the New Year calls, 217 visits were made and 20 meetings held.

There are about twelve Japanese women in Victoria. Yesterday I had a very pleasant time among them, they are so grateful for my visits.

One trip was made to the mainland, when Vancouver and New Westminster were visited.

Miss Sugizaki and I spent three days among the Japanese women, meeting between fifty and sixty of them. One afternoon we met at the mission to organize a regular meeting. Six present. It was decided to have the first meeting at Mr. Kaburagi's the following Monday; the women seemed quite interested.

Miss Sugizaki writes me that they have had three meetings a month. She spends five afternoons a week among the women, and has made 108 visits, meeting about forty women each month, three of these are quite interested in the Bible and one has attended church.

As the Royal Commissioners are now investigating the question of oriental immigration, we are following the evidence as published in the daily papers and awaiting the issue with great interest.

April 3rd.—This morning we were again called to the Custom House, a woman whom I know well, and have visited in a "house," having returned to China last year, was trying to re-enter; but thanks to the new law the Collector had power to send her back. She has not even the option of coming to the home.

Suggested Programme—July, 1901.

Subjects for Prayer and Study:

"Domestic Missions." "India."

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| I. Opening Exercises. | } | Doxology. |
| | | Read Subjects for Prayer and Study. |
| | | Scripture Lesson. |
| | | Hymn. |
| | | Prayer. |
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- VI. Five Minutes' Paper on the Life of William Carey, D.D.
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*See Leaflet at Room 20 and the Depot. Price 3 cents.

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