

THIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH

Monthly Letter.

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Subjects for Prayer.

French-Canadian Missions. Papal Countries.

CHINESE WORK.

From Miss Brackbill.

CHENTU, CHINA, December 15th, 1897.

Instead of letter writing, I have spent my spare moment-ly knitting stockings for the girls, as well as teaching some of the older ones to help.

Of course we are not able to buy anything of the sort here, and having unbound their feet, we would not like anything to happen to them.

We now have nine little girls, and this week they are taking possession of their new quarters, which are very comfortable. We were going to delay the painting until spring, and let them move some time ago, as the painter asked what I thought an exorbitant price, but as he came to terms we have had that done first.

We intend to invite all the little girls from the day-school and their mothers for Christmas dinner here and have a tree in the evening, hoping it may add to our numbers when the mothers see their home and how they live.

We hope the Christmas tree will become an institution among our girls at least, and if any of the people at home wish to assist by mailing any little thing for the girls, such as picture books, handkerchiefs, etc., it will be very acceptable.

In regard to an orphanage there is plenty of room on the place. Of course it will mean additional work, as it may be difficult at times to get suitable women to take care of the children; but we think it is quite a necessity, and one of us will have to take charge as a part of our work.

We could fill it up at once with children that the parents would give us, but we will have to guard against imposition, and take only those who are thrown out to die, and who, it is known, have no parents able to support them.

As to the names of the streets, etc., the city is divided into two parts, Chentu-hsien and Wha-yang-hsien. We are in the latter. The hospital premises are on the corner of two streets, and the gate opens on Fuh-deh-gi (gi or kiai is the Chinese for street). Our gate opens on the other street, Fang-jeng-gi.

A Sunday School was opened over at the chapel a week ago last Sunday, with an attendance of over forty. The services continue well attended.

After Christmas, when the workmen are all off the place, we hope to do some guest-room work and talk to all the women who will come in. It seems to me we can do better work with individuals than with a crowd.

FRENCH WORK.

MONTREAL, *February, 1898.*

Miss Anderson, of the West End Mission, reports 104 visits made in November, and 97 in December. Sickness amongst the children has prevented regular attendance at school. Some French pupils who commenced to attend last

fall are proving satisfactory—one boy in particular showing decided aptitude for drawing.

The school girls take great interest in their weekly sewing class, and most of them are making steady improvement.

The Band of Hope meetings are entered into with spirit by both boys and girls, a few having taken the pledge with the consent of their parents.

Miss Anderson writes: "A boy of fifteen years, who entered our school last week, promises to be a very good pupil. In my visiting amongst French families I find much discontent with the education their children receive at the convents."

During the month of November Miss Matthieu visited fifty-four homes, and two new families were induced to attend our church services. These people had renounced their faith in the Romish Church, and settled down to be non-church goers. The pastor, Rev. E. de Gruchy, has since visited them, and is encouraged by their regular attendance and expression of faith in the Protestant belief. Other families during the past month have told the same story. "We are losing our faith in our Church. It is to us simply a religion of money and privation."

Miss Matthieu writes: "In silence my heart praises the Lord for such a free-hearted expression to one whom they know to be a Protestant. I trust the Lord will continue to give me free access to the homes of those who are in darkness and know the love and joy there is in Christ's service. Again, I would ask our dear Christian women to remember our French work in earnest prayer."

In December four of the pupils, French Romanists, left, as the priest had denied them the rites of their Church should they continue attending a Protestant school. As these children were more advanced in their studies than many of the others, and doing good work, their withdrawal caused regret; but their homes are still visited, with the hope that they may return at some future day.

The Christmas entertainment brought pleasure and satisfaction to both children and parents.

In January but thirty six visits were made, Miss Matthieu being ill almost two weeks. She writes: "I am pleased to

say the children are developing in their minds and morals. We have some who appear to be real little Christians, judging from their deportment and the testimony of their mothers. Their love for the study of the Bible is remarkable. One mother told me her daughters had been attending a convent for two years. They objected to going day after day and were making no progress. The mother became discouraged, and told her children she would put them to work if they objected any longer. They said it would be a pleasant change, as they could not like 'the sisters' nor their instruction. These children were sent to our school last September and are still with us, willing and eager to learn. The mother told me, 'I do not know what the attraction is, but my children love their teachers and their school as never before.'

At the 'last mothers' meeting, the work consisted of darning, patching and re-making garments for our destitute children. Miss Desmarais and myself have given more than one afternoon to remodelling garments. In one case the mother had been in bed sick for weeks, and had lost her eyesight, consequently her children were neglected. In visiting I meet with many cases which call for our sympathy and time in the minutes we would claim for a little rest. However, we rejoice that we have the strength and the privilege of doing something for "the least of these little ones."

"INSTITUT METHODISTE FRANCAIS."

MONTREAL, *March Stn, 1898.*

Our session is rapidly drawing to a close, but seven weeks of our seven months' term remaining, and we feel that we cannot sufficiently express our thankfulness that the work has not been interrupted as last year—by illness.

The health of the students has been remarkably good, considering that we have had over seventy with us all winter, and that diphtheria, scarlet fever and mumps have been epidemic in our vicinity.

We have thus far escaped with a few severe colds, and two cases of mumps, a girl and a boy, who were sent out of

the building to be cared for, so we are in hopes that the disease will not spread.

Our school has been larger than usual this winter, and the average age of the girls is lower, so that we have had a very busy time trying to train and develop a very untrained and ill-disciplined class. Three of the girls who came to us were sent, we were afterwards told, because nothing could be done with them at home or in the day-schools.

The patience required to deal with such cases is very great, sometimes more than one can command. However, one of these girls is, with occasional relapses, perceptibly improving, another is giving us temporary relief by being ill with mumps, and the third, we sent away last week, as her influence was demoralizing several younger girls.

But all our girls are not of this class. Many are as bright and interesting as would be found in any boarding school. One of our city ministers, who has been familiar with the school since its opening, remarked at the Christmas entertainment that he had never seen so many bright, intelligent faces among our students before. Certainly, many of them are doing honest faithful work, and, in a few cases, the progress has been quite remarkable. Mr. Villard, our new French master, has been an inspiration to his classes. His normal training in France and practical experience in High School work there, make him a valuable addition to the staff of the Institute, whilst his strong Christian character is wielding its influence, especially among the boys.

A literary society holding fortnightly meetings was organized in the autumn, and has been a source of much pleasure to the students. There is always a debate, in which both boys and girls take part, followed by a mixed programme of music and recitations, in both of which a great variety of talent is displayed. The Sunday and mid-week services are continued as usual, that is, on Sunday a.m. pupils attend service in the West End Mission Chapel; in the afternoon Sunday School in the Institute, and in the evening a preaching service in our own chapel. Once in four weeks this last service is withdrawn and all attend Douglas Church.

During the past two weeks there has been a marked increase of interest shown in the prayer-meetings, and we

most earnestly hope and pray that this may deepen and strengthen until all are brought to a knowledge of the truth. We have had over ninety students with us during the session, twenty-six of whom are Roman Catholics. Several of these have commenced taking part in the prayer-meetings, and we are sure that light is dawning for them.

May it brighten until all shall "walk in the light, as He is in the light."

ISABEL MASTEN.

Semi-Annual Report of the Dissentient School of St. Theodore near Acton.

Our school opened this year on September 6th, with nine scholars, all boys, from six to ten years of age. Of these three are attending the school for the first time. I am largely engaged teaching beginners, having lost the elder pupils who were in the school last winter, and are this year enjoying the privileges of the French Methodist Institute. During this first term there have been eighty school days with an average attendance of eight per day.

The following is the list of studies :

Reading and spelling in English and French 1st, 2nd and 3rd books. *Writing* in copybooks from No. 1 to 6. There are four classes in *arithmetic*, and two in *geography*. One pupil only studies grammar.

For religious instruction the school is divided into two sections. The more advanced study the second part of the small Catechism, while I teach the first part orally, to the little ones who cannot read. All these subjects are taught every day, and in examining the pupils during the past week I see marked progress, especially in reading, writing and arithmetic.

The religious side, which I have most at heart does not give me so much satisfaction. My scholars, although all children of Protestant parents, are very undisciplined. The first school month was a painful one to me, because of my want of experience in teaching, I was almost discouraged and ready to declare myself conquered, for the rebellious nature of my pupils seemed to have the upper hand. It was only after wrestling in prayer with the Lord that I gained

the victory. I besought Him either to fit me for the task, or to send some one else to take my place. The answer showed itself very promptly in the improved conduct of my scholars, and with this change progress began to be seen in their studies. I had special encouragement from one of my largest pupils who had always been foremost in mischief, and leader in every quarrel, who distinguished himself during the last weeks of the term by being at the head of the school for good conduct. May God care for him. I believe in, and pray for my pupils, not only for that one but for all the rest. I am full of courage and faith for the rest of the school year. May God grant us success!

M. E. LEPAGE, *Teacher.*

Extracts from a Letter from Kit-a-maat to Secretary of
Supply Committee.

The goods from Napanee and Fredericton, N.B., were most welcome. We needed yarn very badly, although the supply never quite fails before a new lot arrives.

We were short of sewing needles, and I was so glad to receive them. I gave each of the big girls one for her own private use. They were quite delighted with them.

Four of them asked if they might work their names on some handkerchiefs which were sent. Permission being given, they wrote their names and arranged them very nicely in the corners, working them in red cotton.

They are very fond of crocheting, but as we have only a little wool we give them only one lesson a week, which is eagerly looked forward to.

A pair of scissors in the barrel from Napanee was very welcome as we had only one pair in the Home.

We have a good supply of underclothes, but we need gingham very badly.

I managed to get two pinafores each for the little girls, but have no aprons for the big ones, and they make their dresses so dirty. Some of the little girls' pinafores are made out of boys' gingham jackets, with a frill of flannelette to make them long enough. I am afraid they will not last

very long, but I was glad to get anything in the shape of a pinafore.

I had made some warm cloth dresses out of travellers' samples, and they could not be worn without pinafores.

The girls had their Xmas dinner in the new Home. It is not finished, but we are able to use the kitchen and sewing room. For nearly two weeks we had been living in the kitchen of the old "Home," all the other part having been pulled down. We could not carry on the regular work, though we were all kept busy getting extra meals and preparing for the Xmas entertainment.

On Christmas Eve the choir went round the village singing. They called themselves the "Angels." Just before they started the watchman went round to say that if anybody went out of their house while the "Angels" were singing they would be put in the "Skoo-Kan" house. The last place they sang at was the mission house, and afterward they came in and had refreshments.

Mr. Raley printed programmes for the Christmas entertainment, which, if you saw, would give you some idea of the work it was to teach the children the pieces; they had to learn all the words. Mr. Raley also prints texts, which the people like to get, and Moses takes them to the church and gives them out. He calls them "newspapers."

The girls are improving in their English, though still very shy; they always speak it at their sewing lesson and at meal times. They are given sentences to learn or else make them up themselves. They are trying hard to be good girls this year, and are more obedient and easier to manage.

INCREASE.

Toronto--Dunn Avenue Church (Parkdale) Mission Band,
Loving Workers.

Bay of Quinte Branch--Hartley Auxiliary, Woodville
Auxiliary.

Suggested Programme—May.

Subjects for Prayer and Study: "China and the Chinese."

(To be read at the opening of the meeting.)

- I. Opening Exercises: Watchmen on the walls of Zion cry, Behold, in the land of Sinim, "Churches are established in all the eighteen provinces, over forty missionary societies are carrying on the work, with about 2,000 missionaries, 3,000 native agents, and 100,000 converts."
- II. Regular Business.
- III. Hymn.
- IV. The Watch-Tower.
- V. Readings, "China and Its Needs."*
 1. Early and modern missions.
 2. Chinese converts.
 3. Genuineness of the work.
 4. Advantages and help.
 5. Obstacles to the heathen becoming Christians.
 6. Peking.
- VI. Hymn. Prayer.

* See *Onward*, February 19th. Price, 2 cents, at Room 20, Wesley Buildings, Toronto. Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping. This will not be sent to subscribers to Suggested Programme Literature, unless specially ordered, as *Onward* is so largely circulated in our Sunday Schools.

Our Easter Thank-Offering Envelope.

The New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Branch has, at the request of the Literature Committee, prepared an envelope and leaflet to be used for gathering our Easter Offering.

The leaflet, containing an appeal for our work, is written by the Editor of *Palm Branch*, and is to be folded and placed within each envelope before distribution.

Price 5 cents per dozen, 15 cents for 50; 25 cents for 100. 2 cents for postage and wrapping.

For Mission Bands the envelope is pink, with the same inscription as that for Auxiliaries, but without the leaflet. Price, 3 cents per dozen; 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.

They can be obtained from MISS A. L. OGDEN, Room 20, Wesley Buildings, Richmond St. West, Toronto, Ont. Also from the Branch Depots, MRS. C. STEWART, Box 121 Sackville, N.B., or MISS ELLA NEILSON, 704 Main St., Winnipeg, Man.

Our New Gold Pin.

The Literature Committee has just completed arrangements for our W. M. S. and Mission Band Pins in gold for life-members. The star is attached by links to a pin which is topped by a small gold ball, and makes a very suitable gift for a life-member. The pins are \$3.50 each, and the order is to be accompanied by a voucher of life-membership from the Recording Secretary of the Auxiliary or Band to which the member belongs.

The Literature Committee regrets that it has been found necessary to increase the price of the silver Mission Band Pin to 15 cents each, \$1.50 per doz. This price will not be asked until the 1st of June; until then it will remain as at present, 10 cents each for any quantity. Please enclose the usual 2 cents for postage and wrapping.

A New Leaflet For Mission Band Leaders.

A leaflet, by Mrs. H. Gayfer, of Hamilton, containing suggestions for leaders of Mission Bands, Circles and Missionary Departments of Epworth Leagues, is in preparation and will be ready about the middle of April. These sugges-

tions cover the ground very thoroughly, and will be found of practical value by leaders, not only of young people's societies, but auxiliaries as well. Price, 5 cents.

The Suggested Programme.

Will Committees who have charge of the Programme for May, on China and the Chinese, preserve a copy of *Onward* bearing date of February 19th, as it is to be used for readings in connection with the May Programme. This paper will not be sent to subscribers to the Suggested Programme unless specially ordered. Price, 2 cents. Postage and wrapping, 2 cents additional.

The Literature Committee at Room 20 and the Branch Depots in Sackville, N.B., and Winnipeg, Man. (at above addresses), are prepared to receive deposits of \$1.00 for the literature to be used in connection with the Suggested Programme, and will send the necessary literature whenever called for by the Programme as long as the money lasts. The usual charge of 2 cents, for wrapping and postage, will be deducted for each parcel. One Dollar usually lasts over a year, and subscribers are notified when their deposit is expended.

The Cycle of Prayer.

The Cycle of Prayer is out of print at present, and the date of reprinting is uncertain as the Committee is waiting to hear from the revisers of the American edition concerning any proposed changes in their forthcoming issue.

So many of the Cycles are used by the Student Volunteers that the Committee feels it desirable to have the subjects for Prayer and Study in the United States and Canada as nearly uniform as possible.

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, 9 months, 60 cents. Subscriptions to this Magazine may begin at any time, but must continue till December and then end. Illustrated Christian World, 75 cents; Message and Deaconess World, 50 cents; The Double Cross and Medical Missionary Record, \$1.00—to missionaries and student volunteers, 50 cents (Please enclose 2 cents for postage and wrapping.)

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.)

| | Each | Per |
|---|------|------|
| *Missionary Standard of Living and What It Means to be a Foreign Missionary..... | free | |
| Origin and Work of the W.M.S. (new edition)..... | free | |
| *The Man that Died for Me..... | .01 | .10 |
| The Mission of Failures..... | .02 | .15 |
| The Measuring Rod..... | .01 | .10 |
| Women Under the Ethnic Religions..... | .02 | .20 |
| Why Are We Protestants?..... | .05 | .50 |
| Recitations and Poems—(J) A Mite-Box Song..... | .03 | .20 |
| * Arguments For and Against Missionary Work. By Mrs. Hardy. An exercise..... | .03 | .30 |
| * Bible Responses to Missionary Questions. .65c. per 100..... | .01 | .10 |
| *(AJ) Behold, the Fields are White (music)..... | .03 | .20 |
| *(A) Ho! Reapers! Duet for Tenor and Alto..... | .30 | |
| How Some Little Dollies came to go as Missionaries (for four little girls)..... | .04 | |
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| Missionary Songs By E. Lorenz, words and music..... | .25 | 2.50 |
| Proportionate Giving. An exercise..35c. per hundred..... | .01 | .05 |
| "So Much to do at home." "Unawares." (J) "A Little Brown Penny." *What is That in Thine Hand. *A Lady. Each poem..... | .01 | .10 |

Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.

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| (Blue Pasteboard Mite-Boxes..... | free |
| (Postage and wrapping, 3 cents each, or per express, carriage paid on delivery. | |
| *W.M.S. Pin, Silver Star..... | .20 |
| *W.M.S. Pin, Silver Star pendant and superior quality..... | .25 |
| Mission Band, Pin, small silver star..... | .10 |
| Life Membership Certificate, Auxiliary..... | .25 |
| Life Membership Certificate, Illuminated..... | 1.00 |
| (Life Membership Certificate, Mission Band..... | free |
| (Postage and wrapping, 3 cents each, 12 cents for 6. | |

For the above, Address MISS A. L. OGDEN,
ROOM 20, WESLEY BUILDINGS, RICHMOND ST. WEST, TORONTO, ONT.
Open every morning.

Also, MRS. C. STEWART, care of Rev. Dr. Stewart, Sackville, N.B.
Or MISS ELLA NEILSON, 704 MAIN ST., WINNIPEG, MAN.

Please note that no Monthly Letters or Reports are to be ordered from Branch Depot. Write to Room 20, Wesley Buildings, Toronto, for them.