

"THIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

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SUBJECT FOR PRAYER—MAY.

Work among the Chinese. Isaiah xlix. 12.

CHINA.

Chinese New Year Day.

FROM MISS JENNIE FORD.

SHANGHAI, January 26th, 1895.

Could anything have been more fitting than to step on the shores of a new home-land on the first day of the year and begin the year with new people? and then, could anything have been pleasanter than to have the first hand clasp and the first "Welcome to China!" come from the one through whom the call in the first place had come to one?

The years here, they tell me, are regulated by the moon, much as our Easter Sunday, and so this year it fell on the above date, and the greeting referred to came from Dr. Hart, who is down to see his wife and daughter safely started for home. He himself has not been well for some time, but says

the journey down has done him good, and he is returning soon. Dr. Hare is also down with him. Mr. Cady and party are looked for in a few days. There are several others here waiting to go up with him, too, so there will be quite a company to start off. This home of Mr. Evan's is really a treat. It seems so good, after steamer-life, to find oneself in a Christian home, where morning and evening worship is held, and all are in sympathy with the Master's work.

A long letter from Mrs. Kilbourne, with greetings and instructions re purchases, etc., awaited me here. She states that she and her husband have donned the native dress. The lady from Winnipeg, whom I wrote you of some time ago as expecting to come on the December steamer, did not leave until January, so when I started on from Yokohama it was good to find a familiar face on board and have a congenial fellow-traveller; it was also pleasant to receive a box and letter brought by her from Winnipeg for me. When I left home, the home-circle felt as if, in view of the war and the starting for Japan alone, I was going to certain death; and so it is pleasant to recount to them all His lovingkindness by the way. Apparently crooked places were found, on reaching them, to be made straight; friends found all along the way, and "no word has failed of all His good promise."

All business is suspended for a few days to celebrate the New Year. People in gala dress are around the streets, bunting is flying, and Chinese lanterns without number make a pretty sight in the evenings, while fireworks of all grades of noise make the nights hideous with their racket.

When I left Tokyo, Miss Munro and nineteen of the Japanese girls in the school were ill with what the doctor pronounced influenza, so the place had assumed quite a hospital air, and Mrs. Large and the others had their hands full in caring for the sick. Mrs. Large and Miss Alexander came to Yokohama to see me safely off, but did not stay till we started, as the sick ones needed attention. The few hours' stop in Kobe was made pleasant by a friend to whom Mrs. Large had written, who came on board for me and with whom I went to see the beautiful Kobe waterfall and some of the shops. At Nagasaki the steamers take on coal, and it was interesting to watch the crowd of men, women and

children, in all grades of dress and undress, as they, amid much chatter and laughter, loaded coal on board. In the eight hours there fourteen hundred tons were loaded, and all with little baskets that held about a peck each. They formed a ladder by means of boards, and then one stood on each step, from the barge to the steamer, and so the baskets were passed quickly from hand to hand, and when at last emptied were dropped to the barge below to be picked up quickly and refilled and again passed up the living elevator. 'Tis the fastest coaling station in the world. One rough day on the water between Nagasaki and Shanghai reminded me again that I'm a poor sailor, and made it no hard task to say good-bye to the white steamer that had been the bridge between two continents. We hope to get started up the river soon after Mr. Cady's arrival.

INDIAN WORK.

Medical Missions.

PORT SIMPSON, B.C., March 13th.

From the hospital Dr. Bolton writes :

Miss Spence's strength has been quite restored by her rest, and Miss Lawrence is doing nicely.

We have had in from seven to nine patients since our return, and have admitted altogether during that time twenty-four, one white man and twenty-three Indians. Of the latter, fourteen came from this town, and nine from places at a distance, Bella Bella, China Hat, Hartly Bay, etc.; none from any heathen village this winter. I am sure each inmate receives some spiritual good from his residence with us. Services are frequently held in the wards by ourselves, and by Mr. Crosby and other visitors. Those that can read a little are supplied with Bibles and good books in simple language; the nurses instruct them in reading, etc.; Bible scenes and religious pictures are used as well as other means to enlighten and instruct, and to deepen spiritual impressions.

We are enlarging the building now so as to have one more room for our own family and two more for patients. I also intend (D.V.) to erect a summer building at Port Essington, where we can care for about eight patients. The funds for this

latter building are not to hand yet; but I am taking all financial responsibility myself, and trust to be helped out by local business men and friends of the cause. The need has been so greatly felt every session that I cannot think of going on for another year without the building.

COQUALEETZA INSTITUTE.

Review of Year's Work.

CHILLIWACK, B. C., February 12th, 1895.

DEAR MRS. STRACHAN,—Three days ago we completed the first year of our stay in the Institute, and an eventful, busy year it has been. There has been coming and going, failure and success, sorrow and joy; and sometimes we have felt discouraged because of evil influences at work, but afterwards have been able to rejoice in seeing sins truly repented of, and as truly forgiven. In many respects it has been a year of experiment, and some beneficial lessons have been learned.

With forty-nine boys, ranging in age from 5 to 25, and thirty-seven girls, from 5 to 20, it is no trifling matter to keep a well-ordered house and administer discipline firmly and justly. For my own part, I feel in this respect that I have been handicapped because of insufficient help on the staff. For the past three weeks I have been relieved of the cooking, Miss Anderson having been employed to take charge of that department; so, for the first time during the year, I have been really free to perform the duties laid down for the Matron in the printed regulations. Miss Smith, also, is at liberty to devote her time almost entirely to the educational work, and consequently much better work is possible in the school.

We have been cheered, helped and encouraged by the kindness of our many friends, who have sent such quantities of valuable gifts. We feel quite proud of our dormitories, now that the new beds have arrived. They came last week, and some twenty odd pupils were made happy in the possession of a bedstead each, in lieu of a place on the floor. The first ones were put on the floor last August, and the number had been gradually increasing until the beds came. However, everyone hasn't a *real* pillow yet, and our friends,

perhaps, would like to know that we could make good use of an additional two dozen. Towels, also, are in demand, as well as every variety of goods and clothing. Where it can be done, we would like to have the boys remembered. The overcoats sent have proved very useful; they are held in reserve for cold days, and have afforded much comfort to those who have had to face cold winds.

I try and acknowledge all gifts personally, but fail sometimes to ascertain where the articles come from. If each society would remember to place inside every bale, box or parcel, whether sent direct or to Mrs. Briggs, the name and address of the President, or Corresponding Secretary, as well as the name of the society, there would be no chance of any being overlooked, and it would be a pleasure to us always to know from whence gifts come. I would like to make each one who has in any way worked for the Institute feel how sincere is our gratitude, and what grand helpful missionary work they have accomplished in giving of their work and substance. Our eyes often rest gratefully and lovingly upon the quilts, especially, as they are more continually before us, and we try to imagine all the workers who have helped fashion them. Our hearts realize that devotion to God and humanity has been the motive of their service, and that there is much love stitched in with the bright patches, wool and cotton.

We are trying to show these boys and girls, young men and young women, what a true Christian home should be, and teach them some of the refinements of life from which they are so very far removed in their own homes. There, as a rule, squalor and filth unutterable, reign supreme, and there can be but little advancement where such homes exist. We hope those who have the advantages of education and training here will go out to make respectable homes for themselves; and shall be disappointed if, in each heart, the desire to please God does not take the first place.

Friends, with all your work, forget not to pray for us earnestly and definitely. There has been a number of hopeful conversions, still there are many yet unsaved. You are as near God as we are, so let us use our privilege of meeting round "one common mercy-seat." We may not be able to

hear each other's voices as they mingle before the throne, but the Lord can, and that should be sufficient for our faith.

On the second of February, Johnnie Smith, aged ten years, passed away, after a lingering illness of several months. His patience through weary days and nights was a lesson to us all. He suffered greatly at the last, and we were glad when we knew his happy spirit was freed from the poor, emaciated, pain racked body. He was one of the nine who came the day the Institute was opened, and we are glad to have been allowed the privilege of showing one of these little ones the way to Jesus.

JAPAN.

Shizuoka.

HAPPY DEATH OF A CONVERT.

(Continued from last month.)

School.—We opened school in September with twenty-three pupils. A month ago—one pupil having gone to attend the Azabu school—we closed this term with twenty-two pupils, of whom only four have not been baptized. It has been a time of healthy growth, made manifest in kind acts, earnestness in Christian work among children, and thoughtfulness for the welfare of others. These are signs of a harvest to be reaped in the future, when those whose characters are now forming shall take responsible positions in the work.

Evangelistic.—Twice a month meetings for women have been held at six towns outside of Shizuoka, and at a seventh a meeting for children, with an average attendance of 156.

A meeting for women was opened in October at one of the preaching places in Shizuoka. The average attendance at the three Sunday Schools has been 109

The Shizuoka Bible woman, Mrs. Nshioka, has made 307 visits and held thirty six meetings.

Mrs. Kakuda, an old lady in Omiya, has been working among the women of that town and an adjoining one since June. She has started a woman's meeting at Omiya, and has held two or three meetings for non Christians, which have been well attended. During the months of November and December she made seventy-nine visits.

In October three women received baptism ; in December, two.

One old woman, after a short illness, died, and was buried on the day she was to have been baptized. She had been a drunkard, and had made the home very unhappy by her constant scolding. After the Bible-woman had visited her for a few months she gave up liquor-drinking, and after she had accepted Christ as her Saviour the home-life became very happy. Two weeks after her death her son and daughter-in-law were baptized.

Last winter a number of old women were invited to the Girls' School to tea. Among them were two who were induced to come to the school because it was a curious place. On the first Sunday in December these two old women received baptism. The daughter-in-law of one has asked for baptism, and the daughter-in-law of the other has begun to attend the women's meetings. The grandchildren of both attend Sunday School regularly.

Kofu.

School.—One of our students died during the holidays, one supported student was dropped at the beginning of the term, and one withdrew on account of sickness. Two new pupils entered, but one of them withdrew the last day of the term, leaving us thirty-five names enrolled. Of these, twenty-seven are boarders. There have been several changes in the school staff, no less than three of our teachers and our matron having left us. The matron was especially a help to us, strong in character and a Christian woman, her influence among the girls being decidedly for good.

The girls have grown in Christian character. The members of one of the class-meetings in charge of our most advanced student, according to promise, read their Bibles and prayed every morning all through the busy examination time. Some seven or eight of the girls agreed together to ask their parents for permission to be baptized. Special prayer was offered up and they made their requests. The parents of one gave permission, and she has been received on trial. One or two of the others are hopeful. Some said it was too soon for their daughters to be baptized. Two of the daily students also asked for permission, but their father

wanted to be sure that they were established in the faith before giving it.

Evangelistic.—Our Sunday School work continues most encouraging. We have now seven schools in operation, with an average attendance of thirty, or a total of 210 under our religious instruction every Sabbath. On December 22nd we had a Christmas gathering of all the schools, when a good programme was furnished by the children. A bag of cake and a Christmas card were given to each child. Five of our students help in these schools.

We report seventy-four meetings held, with an average attendance of between seven and eight, and 525 visits made. This report includes the summer holiday work. Haito san, our Bible woman, has gone to Tckyo to work for a time, and we have a new Bible woman, Mrs. Dada, a plain, humble woman, but earnest and faithful in her work. We report one baptism and one request for baptism among our Kofu women.

Kanazawa.

We find at the close of this quarter but little change from last year, in the numbers attending our meetings or in the interest manifested. We have, during the past summer lost several of our regular attendants by removal, and one by death:—the latter a young girl from our Nagamachi meeting, who, in spite of much persecution in her home, was a most faithful attendant, and, I believe, a sincere Christian, though she was not permitted by her parents to make a public profession of her faith. The number of women belonging to our two weekly meetings in connection with the Church is thirteen and fourteen, respectively; but we seldom have more than nine at any one meeting, and the average has been seven for each. The children's meeting has an average attendance of nine, while the Daijeine women's meetings, held early on Wednesday evenings, brings in more children than women, the average being: Women, nine; children, twenty three, though we have sometimes had as many as seventeen women present.

The work in this Daijeine district has been somewhat broken up since the summer, owing to the export trade in matches being stopped, making it difficult for us to give the

children work. The Sunday School and preaching service, however, continue to be well attended, the Sunday School now having an enrolment of seventy-four, with an average attendance of thirty-three, while the night school averages six or seven out of the fourteen who attend at times.

In the Kawakami district our work is very encouraging. The much-needed addition to our school building has been completed and the school was formally reopened on November 6th. We had a very successful meeting, many of the representative men of the district being present, as well as the parents of the pupils, and we find on all sides a much more friendly feeling toward the school, and Christianity in general. We have had more applicants for admission to our embroidery class than we could accept, and the twenty girls who now compose it have been very regular in their attendance, both at church and Sunday School, and show marked improvement in many ways. We feel that the good seed is working, though in such soil the growth cannot but be slow, if it is to be sure. We have been gladdened since our return in September by the embroidery teacher's decision for Christ, and it seems now as if the young man who teaches the envelope work would soon make a similar profession, as he is very deeply interested.

On the completion of the new building, we opened a mothers' meeting, to be held monthly. The first meeting brought out twenty-five women besides seventeen of the girls, an attendance beyond our hopes, and the Bible-woman has heard from several of the mothers that they are looking forward to the next meeting as a bright spot in the month.

Our Orphanage now numbers thirteen, and continues to be a source of much satisfaction to us.

Including all four districts in which we have work, sixty-four homes have been visited this quarter, nine of them for the first time. Only about a half dozen of these sixty-four can be classed as Christian homes. Two hundred and twenty-two visits have been paid. There have been two baptisms, one a young woman from our Nagamachi meeting, the other her mother, who is bed-ridden, and has learned of Christ through her daughter and the visits of the Bible-workers.

E. S. LARGE,

Cor. Sec. of Japan Council of the W.M.S.

SUPPLY COMMITTEE.

Extract of letter from Miss Clarke, Chilliwack :

"I believe all the things sent us, with the exception of your latest shipments, are in. I sent you a card saying a barrel and box from Harlem arrived December 5th; also the one from Gorrie, on December 14th. A box from a place near Belleville came in company with the Gorrie box. It contained eight pillows, fourteen quilts, two blankets, a piece of white flannel and a pair of socks. You can hardly tell what a great help to us all these gifts have been.

"We spent a very happy Christmas season, though, of course, we found it very busy, with such a large number to provide for. Those lovely dolls that came too late for last year, as well as the nice pictures and scrap-books, helped out wonderfully. I trust you may remember us in this respect during the year, as *we have nothing left over for next holiday season.*"

REVIEW OF NEW LEAFLET.

"Our Work," No. 5, by Rev. D. Jennings, on Manners and Customs of Indians of Port Simpson District, B.C., is an interesting and instructive paper, taking in the following points: Description of the tribes; table of tribes (number of people in each tribe); their disposition, crests and their significance; what their food consists of; the two principal methods of gambling; how the boys and babies were treated to enable them to bear great hardship; dreams, and what is believed about them; tattooing and the piercing of ears and lips; medicine men; explanation of the word "potlatch", the kind of work the Indians were most skilled in; objects worshipped; their belief in transmigration of souls. The little leaflet closes by showing the difference between the past and present; how through the light of the Gospel great numbers of the Simpson District people have given up their heathen rites, aiming at a pure life in Jesus Christ. Price 1c.

Suggested Programme for June Meeting.

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I. Opening exercises :

" If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain, if thou sayest, behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works: (PROV. XXIV. 11, 12.)

II. Regular Business.

III. Hymn.

IV. Subject for prayer for the month: India. Jeremiah xxxiii. 3. There are 500,000 lepers in India.

V. Reading: " Burning of the Dead. " *

VI. Prayer.

VII. Caste in India. †

VIII. Missionary Camp Fire. ‡

IX. The Watch-Tower. §

X. Hymn. Prayer.

* See *Christian Guardian*, Jan. 2nd, 1895.

† See the *Outlook*, Aug., 1891, cannot be supplied from Room 20.

‡ Ask several members to tell an incident bearing upon missionary work in India.

§ Watchmen will please bear in mind that three (3) minutes is the time allotted for each Report, and present only what has been done during the month on their fields of labor. We urge that Presidents of Auxiliaries insist upon the time-limit.

HOME READINGS.

INDIA.

Zenana Work,	-	-	-	<i>Miss. Rev.</i> , Aug., '94, p. 632.
"	"	-	-	<i>Miss. Rev.</i> , Sept., '94, p. 712.
Have Christian Missions failed in India?	-	-	-	<i>Miss. Rev.</i> , Sept., '94, p. 663.
Homes of Carey,	-	-	-	<i>Miss. Rev.</i> , Oct., '94, p. 735.
"	"	"	-	<i>Miss. Rev.</i> , Nov., '94, p. 801.
Family Life in India	-	-	-	<i>Miss. Rev.</i> , Oct., '94, p. 760.
India	-	-	-	<i>Miss. Rev.</i> , Nov., '94, p. 876.

INCREASE SINCE LAST MONTH.

HAMILTON CONFERENCE.

Caledonia Mission Band.

Varney " "

TORONTO CONFERENCE.

St. Alban's (Toronto) Auxiliary.

Holland Centre "

BAY OF QUINTE CONFERENCE.

Castleton Mission Band.

Tweed " "

NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE.

Halifax, Oxford Street Church Mission Circle.

" Charles " " " "

Maccan "Willing Workers'" Mission Band.

Room No. 20, Wesley Buildings, will be closed during month of August, by order of General Board.

Origin and Work will be out of print until after Board meeting.