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Missionary Leaflet.

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

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No. 12.

FRENCH WORK.

Extracts from Report on French Work.

During the past year your Committee has endeavored to carry out the wishes of the Woman's Missionary Society as to the school at Actonvale, Que. We have had as many as twenty-six pupils, the full number which the house can accommodate, and others were refused on that account. The work of the school was very encouraging, for, judging by the closing exercises, the time had been improved to the utmost, and some of the young women really had a very creditable standing in the higher branches of study.

Their spiritual interests were well cared for by the pastor, Rev. Joseph Pinel, and by the teachers, Mrs. Roy and Miss Hall, whose faithful work cannot be too highly estimated, and through whose labors and prayers every soul in the house was converted during the year. Oh, that they all may stand fast in the Lord!

As the completion of the Institute drew nigh, it became necessary to consider what should be the best method of continuing the school work of the Woman's Missionary Society. The new scheme would naturally require very much larger outlay, especially at first, while the attendance might not be so great at first as subsequently. Should we, therefore, advise the Society to continue the Actonvale school as well as the Institute, while a limited number only might be expected in each, and while a full staff of teachers must be maintained in each, thus doubling the cost of maintenance? This was a most difficult question, and needed much prayer and serious thought. Your Committee naturally felt a warm affection for Actonvale School, as it had been the place of such marked success in saving souls; and being situated in the midst of a comparatively Protestant French population, we were loth to recede from the foothold obtained there. But, on the other hand, if we continued there another year, we would be obliged to incur still further expense in refitting the building, which is the property of the Missionary Society, and occupied by us free of rent, on condition of keeping it in repair. Our previous expenses averaged more than \$100 per annum for alterations and repairs, and as new floors were now needed, we hesitated before the additional expense, especially as, after all, the building is not well planned for continued use as a school, and at best would contain but a limited number.

On consideration of this serious question, it was reluctantly, yet unanimously decided by your Committee to advise the executive of the Woman's Missionary Society to consolidate the work and bend all our energies to make the Girls' Department of the new Institute a success, with the earnest

hope that it may not be long before circumstances will warrant us in opening similar schools to that of Actonvale in other places.

Your Committee has also taken up the work of establishing day schools wherever a good opening is found, and we take pleasure in reporting three such schools. The first, in connection with the West End French Mission, is now held in the Salle Evangelique, on Delisle Street.

Our second school is found in the basement of the French Methodist Church.

At the St. Théodore Mission is a Dissident school, which is aided financially by our Society.

It is hoped that a system of scholarships in the Institute may be arranged for competition in the day-schools as a further means of binding them together.

We enter upon the new year with brighter prospects and stronger hopes than ever. Our object is not to assail Romanism or yet to proselytize, but simply to educate our fellow-countrywomen on the basis of an open Bible for all, in the furtherance of which we earnestly desire the prayers of each member of the Woman's Missionary Society.

JAPAN WORK.

Extracts from Mrs. Large's Report and Letters.

TOKYO, Sept. 10th, 1889.

It seems as the years pass by that the work increases, and there is less time for it to be done in proportion as our ladies increase in number. Last year my annual work was written with only the last words to be added after the meeting of our Council; this year I am just *beginning* where I should be ending.

The past year has been one full of encouragement in our work; all the way has not been clear sunshine, but the clouds that came but made the sunshine all the brighter.

We cannot report as many conversions as last year, because of the great ingathering then and the comparatively little change in the students in attendance; but we can truly say the Master has been in our midst, and strong, earnest Christian characters have been growing—characters that must and will tell on the Lord's side when these girls go out from our school and take their places in the world.

The little girls resolved to save some of their pocket-money every week, and devote their savings to the Azabu church. Between Easter and July they gathered eleven yen, which they gave to Mr. Hiraiwa; this collection was made at their own prayer-meeting each Sunday afternoon.

Our King's Daughters' Circle have done, and are still doing, a good work; they give fifteen minutes a day to work for charitable purposes; it is not much time, but a good deal in the school-life of a Japanese girl.

I must not forget to speak of our Ontario Readers, which

we use in all our schools; they have been and are a help to our students in many ways. They are full of idiomatic English; the literature is such that our girls are realizing what is really meant by that word, and are being stimulated to greater efforts in the attainment of English, that they may open wide for themselves the doors through which they are now but taking a peep. I seldom attend a class-meeting without hearing some one refer to encouragement received or some lesson learned from her English Reader; and what I hear there I also hear from them in social conversation. We know these books are a *help* in our Christian work.

Our ladies have returned to their different fields of labor, rested after their summer vacation, and full of hope for the coming year. We thank you for the reinforcements sent, they bring to us many new ideas for our work; we feel that their coming is a strength and an encouragement. We are glad to have them in our Tokyo work, where we feel that at the present time we need every help to build up and strengthen, if we are to keep our standing as a school.

From Miss Cunningham.

SHIDZUOKA, JAPAN, Sept. 10th, 1889.

People complain that such a strong religious influence is thrown round the *g.r.s.*, that those who enter the school as boarders are almost certain to become Christians. At first there was little or no objection to Christianity; it was something Western, and there was such a craze for anything from the West.

Our Japanese minister was telling me of the experiences of some ladies in a Tokyo school. Girls were brought to the

school, and it was requested that they should be taught every thing Western, but especially English, dancing, and Christianity. The teachers could not make the parents understand why they would teach their daughters Christianity and not dancing; both were from the West, and they had heard as much of the one as of the other.

I have written frequently about the good work which has been going on quietly during the past year. Miss Morgan and I went into the class-meeting every other Wednesday. For a few weeks before the holidays the meetings were very interesting; one after another the girls would speak or pray. It is impossible to tell of the joy we felt when listening to them telling of their love for Christ, their faith in Him, and of how He helped them in their struggles.

While the past year has had quite as many troubles and discouragements as the year before, although of a different kind, yet it has been a year with a great deal of brightness in it. The Master has been nearer to me than ever before, and I have proved Him to be "a very present help in trouble." Miss Morgan, too, has been wonderfully sustained in her affliction; she has borne her loss so bravely (the sudden death of her only brother). Her patience has been a lesson to me. God has been with her in her trouble, no one could doubt that.

Our five Japanese teachers are now all Christians, so there is no one in the school working against Christianity. For some weeks before the holidays the girls had a prayer-meeting every day to ask God's blessing upon our school, and that the numbers might be increased. Ought we not to be encouraged when we remember that our God is a God who *hears and answers prayer*?

INDIAN WORK.

From Miss Elderkin.

COQUALEETZA HOME AND SCHOOL,
CHILLIWACK, B.C., September 28th, 1889.

When I came here on the 23rd of March, I found five girls and two boys under the care of Rev. and Mrs. Tate. Immediately after the annual camp-meeting we had three more added to the number, and a day or two later, on the 10th of June, three other arrivals compelled us to move into the new building, although it was not quite ready. Two little girls, whose mother died during the time the camp-meetings were in session, came to me now. About the 1st of July Miss Lawrence brought two more children from Nanaimo, and a little girl, whose mother is ill, came to us; also a lad named Alfred Stephen, whose mother is dead, was sent here by his father, making our present number eighteen. Six were converted before I came, and were members of the class. Since we moved into the Home I have had reason to believe three have decided to live for Jesus and are daily trying to be like Him.

Little Annie and Mary sing most triumphantly, "I've been redeemed," but we think they are too tender in years to comprehend the meaning of that song. I hope they may always sing thus, and my daily effort is to teach all these dear children that Jesus loves the little children.

The boys as well as the girls are being instructed in the use of the needle, broom, scrub-brush and iron. Two of the eldest boys made up the sitting-room carpet, and then put it

down quite as nicely as a professional carpet-layer could have done. They are planning what occupation they would like to have when they are men. Sam thinks a shoemaker would be the best trade, as he is not very strong, being deformed. Joseph wants to be a blacksmith, Richard and Alfred carpenters. In watching them from day to day I think they show aptitude for these occupations. We are delighted with the desks, they are so very neat and pretty.

NOTE.—Fuller information concerning all our fields will be furnished in the annual report, and it is hoped all our members will procure a copy as soon as printed.

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