

"This is the Victory



Even Our Faith."



# Monthly Letter.

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## Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month :

Thank-Offering—Eastertide.

"I gave My life for thee,  
What hast thou done for Me?"

Owing to the abundance of material received, it has been found necessary to somewhat condense the letters and reports. LITERATURE COMMITTEE.

## Chinese Work in British Columbia.

MORE ABOUT AH YUIE.

*From Miss Snyder.*

THE Home has had many experiences during the past four months, and the workers have been in the depths and on the heights accordingly. My first impression was that it was a waste of time and teachers, but the past week has been busy enough to satisfy even me, as we now have a family of six girls and hope for more.

On September 25th, O Aki, a Japanese woman, was brought here by her husband, who wished her to learn English and

prepare for service, as he had been told the Japanese boarding-houses were bad places for women to be left in. She is a very gentle, obedient girl, and has been a great comfort and help when Bessie has been naughty.

Mrs. Lee Sing (Martha), came for a visit in November, and was in very poor health. Though she did not improve much physically, we hope her trust in God was strengthened while here. November 28th, Miss Morgan returned from visiting Chinatown, bringing with her Ah Yute. It was really ludicrous to see the procession—two Chinese men leading the way carrying her basket and trunk, and what clothes were not put in were piled on top. Ah Yute had been using tobacco and opium for some time, and we were besieged by Chinese people, who said she would die if we kept them from her. I gave her what she wished for a day or two, then gradually lessened her allowance. until at the end of two weeks the opium was stopped. The tobacco is now reduced from fourteen to one cigarette a day. But can you imagine the matron of the Home dealing out the tobacco? I hope she will soon give it up altogether, as she has quit coaxing for it, because the other girls tease her about it. She tells me: "Girls too much foolen; you heap good." One evening I was not feeling well, and Miss Morgan, through a misunderstanding, dealt the tobacco out too generously, and she had four cigarettes (of course, she smoked them all), and since then she says I am too stingy with it.

During the holidays we had another rescue, Ah You and Ah Kin, and we have had the usual number of visitors from Chinatown, who profess to be good friends of the girls. It is amusing to see the look of perplexity on their faces when they are refused admittance. But the girls themselves do not wish to see men at all, and only good women. On December 27th, the same day the Chinese girls were rescued, we received a Japanese woman, O Yuki, whose husband is without money and work, and is already \$40 in debt at the boarding-house.

We have a sewing class on Wednesday afternoons, and the married girls come and bring their work. Thursdays I visit the girls in their homes, and have made seventy-six visits. Friday afternoon I take charge of a prayer-meeting. The average attendance has been eleven. I have undertaken the little Sunday-School, as Miss Morgan has so many meetings. We have twenty-four names enrolled; average attendance, ten. Bessie interprets for me.

This year we are going to have the Sunday School in the Home, as it will be better not to take the new girls into Chinatown twice in one day. Now I will tell you some of the bright spots. First, Miss Morgan invited the ladies of the Advisory

Committee to tea, and it was so nice to meet them in that way and feel that they were friends as well as co-workers. While Miss Morgan was in Vancouver, Miss Bowes spent three or four days in Victoria, making this her home. It was such a pleasure to have her, as one could not help loving her. Then, too, we had a visit from Miss Brimstin, and together we visited some Chinese, who received us kindly. Jessie entertained us nicely, giving us both lunch and flowers before leaving. Mrs. Chan offered to exchange lessons, so we have made a beginning. They all compliment me on my excellent pronunciation. I find even the little I know very helpful in talking to the girls, and hope, when we get settled again, to have more time for real study. One thing has pleased us, the husbands have called to see their wives just at our time of evening prayers, and we hope they will carry away some thought of God. It is our endeavor at all times to hold up Him who said, "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." Pray for us that our lives as well as our words may show forth Christ.

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#### HELPING TOGETHER BY PRAYER.

*From Miss Morgan.*

"PRAISE God from whom all blessings flow" is the language of my heart as I review the work of the past term. Truly the prayers of years are being answered. Many of our women in Chinatown have heard the Gospel in their own mother-tongue, from their own country-women.

The Home school has registered six—three being inmates, and three day-pupils. One of the latter attended but a few days. The pupils have all made fair progress, and, weekly, are committing to memory precious Bible verses, which we hope will bear fruit in future years; and, indeed, already their influence is being felt as we see our girls trying, for Christ's sake, to overcome bad tempers, and bearing, with a degree of patience, what a while ago would have caused a turmoil. Although the school has been small we have been kept busy, as we have been teaching Chinese and Japanese to those who cannot read in their own language.

Dr. Chung, who acted as Bible-woman during the summer months, has been a wonderful help, not only among the women of Chinatown, but she has also stimulated our own girls to greater interest in our work. Several of them have accompanied us on Sunday and taken part in the services.

We have had three regular Sabbath afternoon services. Five

homes have been open to us. At one place about a dozen outside women have attended, some coming quite often. One Sabbath seven women were present, besides three young girls and several children. These women give the strictest attention to what is said, and reprove the children if they speak or interrupt us. We begin with a service of song. This is followed by Scripture reading and a talk from Dr. Chung. Then one of our girls interprets while I say a few words. The meetings always close with prayer. Christmas Sunday we had especially good meetings. After service at On Hing's the women came up with their gifts, asking us to come the next week, as they loved to listen to us. But before the week had gone one of their number died suddenly. As I stood beside this bereaved husband and heard him cry out, "Oh! what shall I do?" I realized how helpless I was to comfort him. I believe his wife was one of God's little ones, and, so far as she knew, lived up to her light. She was the mother of the bright little girl whose death I spoke of in my last report. Since the child's death the mother has never ceased to mourn. Perhaps what has gladdened our hearts most of all is that during the past five weeks we have rescued three women from the dark life in Chinatown. They are now in the Home, and are bright and happy. Dr. Chung has been very brave on these occasions, and never faltered when asked to go with the policeman and myself to help these girls. Indeed, without her help we might not have been able to get them.

So far as we can ascertain, there are in Victoria, heathen and Christian Chinese women, little girls and slave girls, about 140. Three have died during the year, and twelve have returned to China or removed from Victoria. Two new homes have been opened to us, and the promise of a third, where I believe three women live. One trip was made to the mainland, Jessie (Mrs. Yong Lai) going with me as interpreter. She proved very helpful, and we had some interesting meetings in both Vancouver and New Westminster. I greatly missed Mrs. Thom—during my previous visit in May she showed great interest in the women. I could see she had made progress in her spiritual life, surely God was preparing her for the change. She offered to keep up the work between my visits, and also to go to Vancouver, which she did in June, when she sent me a card saying she would have her report ready the end of July, but, before that time, her earthly work was over. Our Mission Band of Chinese girls held a bazaar, December 13th, and raised \$21.00. We have had regular meetings, and the members have shown great interest in this work. Since September I have come in contact with about a dozen Japanese women. Two evenings a

week have been given to the Japanese Mission, as well as a half-hour service of song on Sunday. The boys are so self-helpful and keep such perfect order, even when no English teacher is there, that it is a pleasure to be with them. If Christmas gifts from both Chinese and Japanese are an indication of successful work we have reason to be satisfied, for we both received a lavish supply. The work was never so dear to me as at present. The past term has not been free from trials, nor has our path been strewn with roses, but mercies and blessings abundant have been ours. To God be all the glory'

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JESUS ONLY.

*From Miss E. Churchill.*

**D**URING the past quarter seventy-three have been enrolled, but the daily attendance has not increased. An entertainment, managed entirely by the members and pupils of the mission, was given on Tuesday evening last. Although the weather was exceedingly inclement, and the night dark and dismal, the mission church was crowded, and a very enthusiastic meeting followed. It would have done our Eastern friends good to hear those boys singing so heartily in their own language, "Tell me the old, old story," and "Oh, 'twas love, 'twas wondrous love." Addresses were given by our own ministers, and missionaries from the Presbyterian and Episcopalian Chinese Missions here. One of the speakers expressed surprise at seeing such a large gathering on such a night at a religious entertainment, when we took occasion to remark that all entertainments held in our mission were altogether of a religious character. Life is too short, and the time expended in teaching these boys too great to teach them anything but what shall benefit them morally and spiritually, as no day or night passes in our mission without Jesus being lifted up as the great Light which has come into the world to illumine and quicken the heart darkened and dead in trespasses and sin.

At the meeting I referred to, my boys presented me with a handsome dressing case and half a dozen silk handkerchiefs, and Christmas gifts to all assisting in our school work, which I am sure must have meant sacrifice and self denial, as the great bulk of the boys are very poor, and the burden of raising all the local expenses of the mission, which last year amounted to over \$200, rests upon them.

We ask the continued prayers of all interested in our work that God may be glorified and that the kingdom of Christ may be built up in this mission.

## Indian Work.

BRIGHT MINDS AND NIMBLE FINGERS.

*From Miss Clarke, Port Simpson, B.C.*

AT the annual school examination the girls acquitted themselves creditably and elicited much commendation from the visitors, among whom we had the honor to welcome, Mr. Todd, the Indian agent. Written examinations were also held, and prizes awarded. The girls were delighted with their books, and I was pleased to notice the self-restraint and cheerfulness of the disappointed ones, from whom I have not heard one word of dissatisfaction.

The exhibition of work was much praised. Except a few of the smaller girls, each pupil exhibited a piece of work, and some of them two or three. Dresses, capes, coats, aprons, pinafores, pillow-slips, handkerchiefs, tray-cloths, centrepieces, and doilies, in ideal honiton, drawnwork, outline and crochet, knitted bedroom slippers, worked neckties, cross-stitch on canvas, toilet sets, pincushions and fancy articles in ribbon-silk and *crochet*—most of which were sold for the benefit of the hospital.

The programme of the Christmas entertainment consisted of choruses, motion songs, exercises and club-swinging. Everything was committed to memory, and the whole programme gone through without a book or paper in sight. When I tell you that only once was prompting necessary and that but for a single word, you can judge how perfectly the girls did their part.

On Christmas night, the friends of the girls were present at the distribution of gifts from the Christmas tree, and were served with refreshments.

New Year's Day brought a steamboat, and a very agreeable surprise in the shape of six large packages from friends in Ontario. The books, dolls and toys were too late for Christmas, but will be on hand for next year, and at the same time give us a comfortable feeling of having a great many very nice things in store for an occasion that must be considered a long time in advance. I need hardly say that all the gifts were most acceptable—the quilts, blankets and pillows especially so, as a number of new girls could not otherwise have been made comfortable.

Our little Lydia, aged five, who had been getting somewhat shabby, was transformed into a veritable Red Riding Hood by a little red jacket and hood from one of the boxes. A white

boa from the same source, completed the costume and made a very happy and comfortable little girl.

There are forty-one girls in the Home and one at service with Mrs. Bolton. The general health of pupils is good. Nearly all are able to take their regular duties. I trust the sisters who so nobly support our work, may remember to pray for the success of our efforts to train these girls for lives of useful Christian service.

#### LATER.

The Home is filling up. Our forty-second girl arrived recently. The schoolroom and sewing-room capacities are taxed, and three dormitories are about full. The fourth is needed for a lumber room. From forty to forty-five girls are really as many as we can comfortably accommodate, and perhaps as many as one can command, though there is a decided turning toward the Home for education and training. A good fishing season enabled the parents and friends of the girls to do better in providing clothing for them.

The Home girls subscribed \$14.50 to the Twentieth Century Fund and \$6.00 to missions, which was an increase of \$2 00 this, out of their small earnings, represents genuine liberality

## Tokyo Branch, Japan.—Quarter Ending December 31st, 1899.

### VICTORY OVER DEATH.

*From Miss Blackmore.*

**S**CHOOL.—Our school work has necessarily been somewhat hindered this term. The regular class work, the Sunday School and the class meetings have been kept up as usual, but the Wednesday meeting has been held only on alternate weeks, while the Literary Society, the English-speaking Society, the Normal class for Sunday School workers, the Friday morning Bible lesson for the Japanese teachers, etc., had to be discontinued. I do not know who look forward most eagerly to the comfort and convenience of the new building the foreign teachers, the Japanese teachers, the pupils or the servants.

Since our last report, two of our supported girls have been called to enter "that school where they no longer need our poor protection." Both were girls of more than usual

promise, and very reluctantly we gave up the hope of seeing them fully fitted for Christian work. But each did her work in her own home by patient endurance of pain, and cheerful readiness to obey the call "Come up higher." The infant church in the mountain village of Komora has been aroused and strengthened by Masu Makino's triumphant death, and her father and grandmother are studying the Bible with the view of being baptized. Her mother has been a Christian for some years. In Katsu Nagashima's home, her grandmother, after long and bitter opposition to the Christian faith, in which father, mother and daughter were united, was constrained to believe that their faith rested upon more solid foundation than hers, when she saw how cheerfully O Katsu San, as her strength failed, relinquished her cherished hope of returning to the school, and turned to the prospect of death as the fulfilment of a brighter, better hope. When asked before her death if she had any wish which they could gratify, O Katsu San replied that the only thing which could add to her happiness would be her grandmother's conversion. The old lady then and there promised to give up all her prejudices, study Christianity, which she now believes to be the true religion.

One pupil has received baptism—a married woman whose husband became a Christian in America. When home for a few weeks last spring he placed his wife under our care, with the hope that she would learn the Way of Life, as well as reading and writing.

There is no change to report in the Orphanage. All are well and happy.

#### EAGER FOR BIBLES AND HYMN BOOKS.

*King's Daughters' School.* - The attendance has been smaller than usual. There is always a number who do not return after the long summer vacation. The older ones have begun to be bread-winners, and removals (the lower classes move very frequently) take many beyond reach of the school. About sixty have been in attendance.

As usual, at the "closing" exercises, Bibles were given to those who had memorized the Commandments during the year. At the beginning of the year those who had already earned Bibles asked if there was some way in which they might win hymn books. The fourteenth chapter of St. John was assigned, and nine little girls became the proud possessors of our Church Hymnal.

## Tokyo—Evangelistic.

GRAIFYING PROGRESS.

*From Miss Hart.*

WE were later than usual getting into regular working order, because of difficulty in finding a place in which to hold classes until we could use the new building. Kubo San is unable to take full work owing to failing health, but is in good spirits, and does all in her power, in fact, often goes beyond her strength.

For some years Mrs. Hayashi and family have lived in and cared for the Kakigara preaching place. This summer the landlord wanted the building, so Mrs. Hayashi has had to spend weeks house hunting in order to find a suitable location.

However, in spite of all difficulties and a smaller number of Bible-women than usual, we have held seventy-six women's and thirty-five children's meetings. Mrs. Borden has kindly taken charge of the Azabu meetings, excepting the first of each month, which Rev. Mr. Hatano, the pastor, has taken.

The personnel of our meetings has not changed as much this year as last, and because of that they have been more satisfactory, sometimes taking the form of a "good old-fashioned class meeting," which does us all good.

## Shizuoka School Report.

A PLEA FOR INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

*From Miss Cunningham, January, 1900.*

TWO pupils entered since September and a few have withdrawn—three on account of ill-health, one daily pupil to prepare for the entrance examination to the music school in Tokyo, and another whose family moved from Shizuoka. It was thought wise for one of our supported pupils to take up another line of work. We regretted that there was no industrial school connected with our mission to which she could be sent. Such a school is much needed. As a rule, pupils are not admitted until they have finished the government lower common school course. If we get the right kind of girls we can prepare them for teachers or Bible-women, but not unfrequently girls are admitted who do well for a time, when they seem to come to a standstill mentally. If we press them the result is nervous-

ness or a "bad head." "Make Bible-women of them?" If we only could! But experience teaches us that Bible-women cannot be "made." They must as truly be called to the work as the deaconess. What to do with these girls is a difficult problem only to be solved by the establishment of one central industrial school. We bear with this class of girls year after year, because it seems kinder than to send them back to their homes.

Our "King's Daughters" and "Busy Bees" have worked as enthusiastically as ever. O Hama San was sick in October, and there was enough money in the treasury of the "Busy Bees" to pay her doctor's bill.

The Christmas season was a happy time to our girls, and more than ever they realized that it is indeed "more blessed to give than to receive."

Looking back over the whole year we can say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." The new year is before us. We enter upon it with faith that He who has never failed us in the past will be with us "all the days."

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## Shizuoka - Evangelistic Report.

### SONG OF THE CHILDREN.

*From Miss Alcorn.*

**I**N October a children's meeting was opened in Bancho. As the girls from the school are too busy to take up any more Sunday work, this meeting is held on Thursday. Takeuchi San has charge of it, and knows just enough English to call it her "Thursday Sunday School." Between thirty and forty regularly attend.

In Ando Mura—the district in which Takeuchi San distributed the Scripture portions—we intend to begin another children's meeting. During the summer a man in that district died, and his family had the "portion" which he had received and read, cremated with his body. They believed in some way it would benefit him.

During a recent celebration for the soldiers, tracts were distributed freely among the people who came from all parts of the province.

In Numadzu, Ito San has distributed tracts in thirty houses, hoping this would in time open the way for her entrance with the Bible. For two months she has visited in the hospital. Ito San is doing good work.

Our work among the children for the year culminates in Christmas. Then the three children's meetings unite with the Church Sunday School in the Christmas entertainment. How gratified the home friends would be to see the work done by the girls trained in our schools! Sunday after Sunday, in rain and shine, they go out to gather the children in, and teach them so faithfully helpful Bible lessons. Two hundred children were present Christmas evening. They sat in the body of the church. In this number we do not include our new members, as we gave them a separate entertainment. The Christmas tree formed a pretty background for the children as they stood singing or reciting, etc. After the programme they received prizes according to their attendance during the year. Every child received a bag of cake. We invited all our regular Church women, and others whom we visit, to attend the Christmas celebration. One hundred and fifty people were present beside the children. We were so glad to see many there for the first time. Perhaps, through the voices of the children, the song of "Peace on earth, good-will to men," reached some heart for the first time. We do not doubt that to many of our Christians came a better understanding of what Christmas really means to the world.

During the past term two homes have been opened to us because, when children, the women had attended a children's meeting. Now, when cares have come, they want to know more of Christianity. So we are reaping what someone years ago has sown. God grant that there may be some day a great ingathering of precious souls as a result of the work being done now among the "little children."

## Kofu Branch.

REPORT FOR SCHOOL TERM ENDING DECEMBER, 1899

*From Miss Robertson, Principal.*

AT the beginning of the term just closed it seemed improbable that we should have any more baptisms to report for some time to come, the older girls in the school having received baptism already, and the great majority of the remainder having been with us less than two years. That faith was insufficient was proven when, shortly after, four of the younger girls waited upon me in my room one evening, saying that before summer holidays they had consulted together

and concluded that during vacation they would ask their parents to consent to their receiving baptism. Having received the desired permission, they now came to obtain my consent. They were quite young, about fourteen or fifteen years of age, but perfectly sincere in their desire to unite with Christ's Church. Having spoken to Mr. Hiraiwa about them we decided to allow them to be baptized at the close of the term if, upon examination, they proved satisfactory.

In November, Mr. Niyama accompanied Mrs. Large on a temperance evangelistic trip through the Province of Yamanashi. The last Sunday he was with us a real home-like revival service was held in the church, which I allowed the girls to attend. The influence of the Spirit was strongly felt, some who were not Christians responded to the earnest, simple persuasion to come out and serve the Lord, among whom were the four girls just mentioned, and five others, all of whom strongly testified to the resolution formed to live henceforth for Christ. Two out of the five asked and received permission from their parents to be baptized. The last Sunday of the term brought much joy to our hearts as we saw six young girls standing before the altar publicly taking upon themselves the "yoke that is easy." The night before Mr. Hiraiwa took a long time, carefully examining them one by one; and when he was through he expressed perfect satisfaction, saying they were wonderfully mature for their years, that they had answered clearly and comprehensively even difficult questions he had put to them. Wishing to be sure no mistake was being made with regard to the parents' consent, I wrote them about the girls' desires, and one answer was very satisfactory, the father saying he thought it was well, not only for his daughter personally, but that that the whole family would receive a blessing through her baptism. The remaining three were not so fortunate, their parents thinking it better for them to wait a while longer. Two of these girls are very interesting. They entered in the spring as special English students, coming with the determination of getting all the English they could, but having made up their minds to have nothing to do with Christianity. Attend the Bible classes they had to—it being a rule of the school—but listen to the teaching they determined not to. Before very long they were deeply interested, and are now among the most earnest in taking part in all the services of the church or school, one of them being particularly active in persuading her whole family to accompany her.

A former student, one who entered the school when it was first established, is reported under the evangelistic work as

having received baptism. She has waited long and patiently to have this cherished hope fulfilled. We rejoice over any of the former pupils taking this public stand, remembering they were first brought into the light through the teaching received within the walls of the dear old school.

During Mrs. Large's visit we formed a Y.W.C.T.U. in the school, when forty-three girls handed in their pledges. After a clear, comprehensive address, every girl in the school stood up in answer to the invitation given to join the white-ribbon ranks. Knowing that many of them came from homes made wealthy by brewing Japanese liquor, where they would be almost sure to break their pledge, it was thought better to make the occasion as solemn as possible, so when the pledges were taken the result was as mentioned above. Five of these were given back, the parents or guardians objecting to the girls making such a promise. One girl, when she brought it back, said she was very sorry she was obliged to do so, but while she gave back her card she would keep the pledge in her heart.

The alumni meeting held on the 4th of November was a success, a goodly number of the former students attending. Mr. Hiraiwa is always ready to help by his good, earnest, practical talks on such occasions. At such meetings as these Miss Preston is greatly missed. Her personal acquaintance with each girl from the very beginning of the school made them feel they were coming home when they came for the alumni. As it is the only means of grace some of them ever have, we tried as much as possible to give the meeting a religious character.

Desiring that the girls may have an intelligent idea of what is going on in the world, and knowing they were not inclined to read for themselves the newspaper has been read every day at the noon hour, when day students as well as boarders are assembled in the dining-room for luncheon. Four or five of the older girls have charge of the reading, selecting beforehand the best items from the papers for the day. We find this has a beneficial influence upon their conversation, the topics being rather more intelligent than formerly.

Ninety-eight girls have been registered since re-opening in September, but the average has been about ninety, as some have been absent through illness, and others came in toward the close of the term.

We are so thankful for earnest Christian teachers and helpers. By their influence the work is made lighter and easier. Many are the blessings we enjoy, not the least of them being good health and strength sufficient for the duties of each day. The days have sped by rapidly, each one bringing its duties to be performed. We have tried to do what we could, and it has

been a joy to watch these young lives bettering, reaching up to that higher standard, that finds perfection only in Christ Jesus. We are thankful for our share in this great work.

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### More Missionaries Needed.

IF all the Christians but 750 were taken out of London and their places filled by heathens, scarcely any of whom had ever seen the Bible or heard of the Saviour, and among these twenty-five missionaries, including wives, were put to work, together with some sixty native agents, that would be a fair representation of what is being done by Protestant Christendom to win China for Christ.—*Missionary Review*.

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### Go Quickly and Tell.

“AND the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye. for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here. for he is risen, as he said, Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead. . . . And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy, and did run to bring his disciples word.” Matt. xxviii. 5-8.

“Let us tell the glad story to all around us; then with prayers and offerings send the messengers with the joyful tidings of a living Christ to all the women of our world.”

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“MAY the glad dawn  
Of Easter morn  
Bring holy joy to thee.

“May the calm eve  
Of Easter leave  
A peace divine with thee.

“May Easter Day  
To thine heart say:  
‘Christ died and rose for thee.’

“May Easter night  
On thine heart write:  
‘Oh, Christ, I live for thee.’”

## Our China Mission.

By Rev. O. L. Kilborn, M.D.

### SLAVERY.

THERE are no boys or men slaves in China, but in our province alone there are thousands and tens of thousands of girls and women slaves. There seems to be no public conscience against slave-owning, as there undoubtedly is against such a practice as infanticide. Girls are bought and sold every day in Chentu for from three to fifteen or twenty dollars each, and almost every family that can afford it has from one to five or six slave girls. Slavery in China is just as cruel and abusive as in any other country. Slaves are beaten and maltreated—may be beaten to death, even, without question. Parents take to themselves power of life and death over their own children, and we have seen how they exercise it in the case of their daughters; much more do they claim such power over their purchased property, the slaves. Occasionally a case of slave murder of peculiar cruelty comes to light, and punishment may be inflicted, but such exceptions only emphasize the rule.

A slave girl, so weakened and emaciated by disease that she could not work, was cruelly beaten by her inhuman mistress, and then turned upon the street. She crawled to the Woman's Missionary Society hospital, at that time in Dr. Retta Kilborn's charge. The poor girl was taken in and tenderly cared for, until, in a few weeks' time, death came to her release.

Another similar case was witnessed at the Woman's Missionary Society hospital. A slave girl about twelve years of age in some way excited the displeasure of her mistress, who, in a fit of passion, thrust a red-hot poker into the sole of the girl's foot. She was brought for treatment. But in spite of all that medical skill and careful nursing could do, this, together with other cruelties, was sufficient to cause the death of the child.

Chinese coffins are often very lightly covered with earth, or even laid upon the surface. People passing a pauper's burial ground on the outskirts of Chentu heard cries apparently proceeding from one of these. The coffin was opened, and the slave girl, who had been buried alive, revived, and was conscious long enough to give an account of the horrible manner in which she had been tortured by the concubine of a high official. Hot needles had been thrust into her body, and other similar atrocities practised. A few hours later the girl succumbed to her injuries, and was reburied. The story

spread, not through newspapers, for of these they have none, but through the tea-shops. Even Chinese public opinion could not stand this. People of every class were righteously indignant, and ultimately the woman thus accused was arrested, and was, I believe, punished in some way, whether by more than a fine was not known. Her rank and wealth probably saved her from anything more severe.

Another indication of the degraded position of woman in China is the all but universal custom of

### FOOT-BINDING.

The feet of boys and men are never bound, only those of girls and women. There is one redeeming feature about slavery in China, and that is that slave girls do not have their feet bound. It would not be good policy on the part of their masters to bind the slaves' feet, because these girls must do a great deal of hard work, such as girls with bound feet cannot possibly do. But, with the one exception of the slave class, every Chinese girl and woman has her feet bound! That is, she is a cripple, from about five years of age, all through life. There are some parts of China, chiefly in the coast provinces, where a small percentage of the women do not bind their feet, possibly five or even ten per cent. But in West China the custom is practically universal. Women of every class bind their feet, even farmers' wives, who often help to do hard work in the field. I have seen women with little bound feet, hoeing corn on the mountain side; and, on the other hand, women amongst the official classes whose feet were bound so small that they could scarcely walk alone. These usually lean upon one or two slaves when they walk. Chinese women usually sit or kneel before the washtub, they cannot stand long enough to do a washing.

### THE ORIGIN OF FOOT-BINDING.

is involved in obscurity. The Chinese give several accounts, including the one which claims that men first bound their wives' feet to keep them from "gadding about!" But the story which is most generally accepted is to the effect that the favorite wife of an ancient emperor had club feet. In order to hide the deformity, she bound her feet with beautiful silk bandages. The emperor admired the little bound feet; court ladies emulated her example; and so, beginning with the highest in the land, the custom spread until it became national.

## THE PROCESS

is a very simple one. When the child is about five years of age, the mother or grandmother takes strips of ordinary cotton and winds them tightly round each foot. The four smaller toes are turned under, only the great toe being allowed to remain straight. The instep is pressed back, and the heel forward, until, in course of time, they actually meet, forming a great cleft nearly an inch deep, which runs transversely across the sole of the deformed foot. The bound foot varies from three to five inches in length. Silk bandages cover the cotton ones, and a diminutive silk or satin shoe covers all. Except once in two or three days, for purposes of cleanliness, the bandages are not removed, but are worn night and day, as long as the child or woman lives.

Of course, it causes pain, agonizing pain, for weeks and months, to every victim, years of pain to multitudes, and some suffer all their lives. And we must remember that there are away over a hundred million women and girls in China with bound feet.

The question naturally arises, "Why should such a painful and injurious practice be perpetuated?" I have often asked the Chinese the same question. There are two reasons given, about equally important. First, it is the fashion! Everybody does it. "If we did not bind our daughter's feet, people would laugh at her; they might think she was a slave girl." And, secondly, "If our daughter's feet were not bound, we could not make a good match for her." In China betrothals and marriages are arranged, not by the parties most concerned, but between the parents of bride and groom, and the size of the young woman's poor little bound feet, is always taken into consideration.

The custom of foot-binding has a strong hold upon the Chinese people; and yet, wherever there is a missionary, there is, organized or unorganized, an anti-foot-binding society. It is not usually made a test of membership, but all missionaries do their utmost, and with a large measure of success, to get Christian men and women to allow their daughters' feet to grow the natural size and shape.

Ignorance, infanticide, slavery and foot-binding are a few of the characteristics of their degraded condition. Let us pity them, and pray and work for the downtrodden women of China.—*Christian Guardian*.

## Increase.

BAY OF QUINIE CONFERENCE BRANCH. Belleville District, Mount Pleasant Auxiliary.

### Suggested Programme—May.

Subject for Prayer and Study for the Month :

“CHINA AND THE CHINESE.”

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| I. Opening Exercises  | } | Doxology.<br>Read subjects for prayer and study.<br>Responsive Scripture reading.*<br>Hymn.<br>Prayer. |
| II. Regular Business.   |   |  |
| III. Hymn.  |   |  |
| IV. The Watch-Tower.  |   |  |
| V. “Her Tithes”—(To be read by the Watchman of the Department of Systematic Giving.)† |   |  |
| VI. Question Drawer.‡   |   |  |
| VII. Prayer—For Chinese Women and Girls.  |   |  |
| VIII. Hymn.   |   |  |
| IX. The Benediction.  |   |  |

\* Responsive Scripture reading, arranged by Mrs. L. W. Ross. Price 10c. per dozen, at Room 20 and the Depots. (Not sent unless specially ordered.)

† Leaflet, price 1c. Poster, price 5c. At Room 20 and the Depots.

‡ Questions will be found on following page.

## Question Drawer.

Answers will be found in the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

- I. Name the Missionaries now stationed at the Society's Missions in China. (See poster.)
- II. Give the Resolution of the Board with regard to Miss Brackbill's return to China. (Page xii.)
- III. What are the different departments of work carried on at Chentu?
- IV. What is the expense of supporting a child at the Orphanage?
- V. Read the Report of the Hospital for the year 1898-99.
- VI. Itemize the appropriation made by the Board to this Mission.
- VII. What is the appropriation made to the Chinese Girls' Home at Victoria, B.C.?
- VIII. Who are the Missionaries in charge of this Home? (See poster.)
- IX. Read the Report of the Day School. (Page xxvi.)
- X. What is the outlook for the prosperity of our missions to the Chinese?

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It was once my privilege to stand by the shore of the Dead Sea, the morning sunlight was lending a certain sparkling beauty to the unruffled surface. In itself it was fair to look upon, but no fringe of green hedged it about; no living thing found a home within. A Dead Sea, notwithstanding the sunlight and the sweet water which flowed from the Jordan into its bosom.

LET the oft-repeated lesson come once again to you and me. One who seeks to possess the grace of God and remains content with reflecting somewhat of Christian holiness, without adequate bestowal of all that is received, hath not life. Christ's resurrection message is, "Go, tell."—*Woman's Missionary Friend.*

## Notes from Room 20.

THE successful debut of the "Flag Exercise," but recently added to the list of publications issued at Room 20, is most gratifying to the Committee on Literature. Arranged with the hope of interesting the younger portion of the Church in our own missions, and as a substitute for the aimless recitations, dialogues and music of too many entertainments, it cannot fail to find favor with the leaders of Mission Bands, Junior Leagues and Sunday Schools.

Mrs. Deacon, of Stanstead, Que., who had the pleasure of superintending its first representation writes. "The juniors gave the flag exercise on Saturday evening; it was beautiful—everyone was charmed. We wished the juniors only to take part, and, as suggested, the recitations were cut down. The little folks did nobly; I wish you could have seen them. I had no idea that forty children from four to fourteen years

### THE FLAG EXERCISE.

could be trained to do so well. One lady remarked, 'It is not often children have so much religion taught them for a public exhibition.' We are requested to repeat it, and will probably do so soon. If you prepare any more exercises I shall want to try them."

The *Stanstead Journal* says. "Then came the programme, showing such care and patient work on the part of children and teacher. This was an unusually pretty exercise, a combination of missionary hymns and recitations. The music was strikingly pretty and taking. The flags gave a pretty effect, and the children remembered remarkably well." Price 5 cents a copy at Room 20 and the Depots.



MAPS of Japan and China have been prepared in outline, which is to be heavily traced with chalk or crayon, and the points of interest added as required.

### OUTLINE MAPS.

The maps are on manilla paper, 34 x 4 inches, and are 5 cents each. For 5 cents additional, a small printed map of Japan will be sent to assist in locating our mission stations and the natural features of the country. For China, the public school atlas can be used in connection with the Annual Report.

How annoying to the "tidy one" are those loose numbers of the MISSIONARY OUTLOOK which you value so much. You could not part with them, containing as they do so much that is most important in the history of our Church. But the "tidy one" may be made happy, and the annoyance chased away like mist in the sunshine. Just send to Room 20, or one of the Depots, for those self-binding covers, one of which will contain two years' numbers. The price is only 75 cents.



THE Literature Committee at Room 20, and the Branch Depots in Sackville, N.B., and Winnipeg, Man. (for addresses see foot of last page), will receive deposits of \$1.00 for the literature to be used in connection with the Suggested Programme for Auxiliaries, and will send the necessary literature whenever called for by the Programme as long as the money lasts, and without it being necessary for the Auxiliary to write for it. The usual charge of two cents, for wrapping and postage, will be deducted for each parcel. Subscribers will be notified when their deposit is expended.



CORRESPONDING Secretaries of Branches will please report increases of Auxiliaries and Mission Circles or Bands to Mrs. Bascom, 1,339 King Street West, Toronto, Secretary of Literature Committee, for publication in the MONTHLY LETTER.



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*, beginning with April, 60 cents. (Subscriptions to this magazine may begin at any time, but must continue till December and then end.) *Message and Deaconess World*, 50 cents.

## Leaflets and Other Publications For Sale.

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