

"THIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH.'

Monthly Letter.

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SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER:

“India and all Mohammedan Countries.”

Japan.

From MISS ALCORN, JO GAKKO, SHIZUOKA,
MAY 3rd, 1899.

OUR prayers for a Bible-woman for Shizuoka city were not answered last year, God having another plan for our work. In April of 1898, Niwa San, a graduate of Ferris, Jo Gakko (a mission school of the Dutch Reform Church in Yokahama), came to help in the school and in outside evangelistic work. Four afternoons were set apart for her visiting days. Being too inexperienced to guide the women, a plan of lessons was made out for her to follow. These she teaches regularly. In the evening she gives a verbal report of her talks, of the questions asked by the women, of their spiritual condition; and thus one is kept in touch with each life.

Hearing from our pastor of a home where the husband frequently came to church, we went to visit the wife and

invite the children to come to Sunday School. Not being received very graciously we felt it would be wiser for Niwa San to win her way alone than for a foreigner to call again. In an unobtrusive way she went, taking papers to the mother and leaflets for the children. After a time the children came to Sunday School; now the mother receives and listens to Niwa San's lesson. We were not a little surprised last week to have the father ask to have his little daughter enter the school as a boarder. Their home is only twenty minutes walk from the school, and we wondered she did not come as a day pupil; but the father wants her wholly under Christian influence. Before long we hope to claim the mother for one of our meetings.

The following incident occurred at a time when some of the school girls were doubting the possibility of living true Christian lives, when separated from the influence of the school. Mrs. Kawashima had been sick and Niwa San carried a special message to her. Reporting her visit she said: "Mrs. Kawashima helped me more than I helped her. She told me how hard it was when first married to be true to God; but by taking a firm stand and keeping it, her friends now understood her and respected her Christianity." This strengthened Niwa San's faith, and she added: "If Mrs. Kawashima, in her position as the wife of a judge, can be a true Christian, we can also, when we leave the school." And as we learn more and more of the strong opposition to Christianity, we do not wonder at the girls' fear to stem the current.

Soon after this a message came from Mrs. Kawashima, asking us to teach a Bible lesson in her home twice a month. This she thought would give her friends an opportunity to hear of Christ. We commenced the meetings but had to discontinue them as the family moved away. Before going, Mr. Kawashima told Miss Cunningham that as soon as his daughter was old enough to go from home he would send her to this school.

In February, Niwa San reported that one of our women, who had suddenly lost her husband, was very much discouraged—so discouraged that she proposed selling her daughter (only eight years old) to be trained as a dancing

girl. The relatives, who are such an important factor here in advising about family matters, had consulted together and decided it was the only thing to do. O Hama San was one of our Sunday School girls; her bright, clever little face and neat dress had attracted our attention, and our hearts ached to think of such a future for her.

The next day we visited the mother and were very glad to know she herself felt it very keenly. O Hama San had only two years more before graduating from the lower common school; "but," added the mother, "I cannot support her." Returning home, Miss Cunningham and I talked the matter over and decided it would be a good plan to bring her into the school to live, and from here let her attend the public school. When she graduates from there in two years, if promising, she can enter this school, or, if thought better, receive an industrial education elsewhere. To this the mother and relatives agreed, and O Hama San came to live with us. At eight o'clock in the morning she goes to school, and returning at two is under the regular discipline of the school here. In March the yearly examinations took place, and we were glad to have our little pupil come out second in a class of sixty.

O Hama San's entering the school led to the organization of the "Busy Bees." They stand in relation to the King's Daughters as associate members. At first Miss Cunningham and I intended paying her board, but as the little girls in the school do no missionary work, we thought it well to let them take the responsibility of one-third of her expenses. They are banded together under Niwa San's care. Plenty of work has come to their busy fingers, and for three months they have promptly brought their share of the expenses.

These instances show how one can work through a helper. Yet it is hard for the home friends to realize what a barrier the language is to us in our work. There are times when we feel we must speak but cannot. We take great pleasure in the gradual growth of our knowledge: first recognizing a few familiar words; then understanding a little of the conversation around us; and, last of all, our own attempts at speaking. This last stage is oftentimes very

perplexing. When we can speak a few words the people think we understand all they say, and talk freely to us. We are helpless, and any little pride which may have followed our first attempt is banished at once. Will the home friends—whose faithful prayers daily ascend on our behalf—add this petition: "That they may be helped in the study of the language." The promise to acquire it is a gift promised to the messengers of Christ—not without effort on our part—but none the less to be prayed for in a very special manner.

Chinese Work in British Columbia.

From MISS CHURCHILL.

IT affords us a good deal of gratification to be able to report that during the quarter our day school has not only maintained its past standing but that very considerable progress has been made.

We have registered 101 pupils, our daily attendance ranging from 20 to 35. Though Chinese New Year has intervened, during which season our school is always much thinner, we have to report an increased average attendance of 25 per cent. over any previous quarter of the school. Indeed, we feel assured now that we have the nucleus of a first-class day school in Chinatown.

This month ends the second year of our connection with this school, and we have watched with a good deal of interest and with some anxiety the attitude of the parents of our children since its organization up to the present. As we remember the difficulties in keeping this school together in its early days, its many fluctuations, the multitudinous visits to the children's homes, and interviewing of parents to try and awaken their interest, we are glad indeed for the change which has taken place, for the prejudice and indifference which we have seen changed to real interest.

Nowhere has the appreciation of the Chinese people been more apparent than in the ready response to our appeal for two hundred and fifteen dollars, which the General Society asked us to raise this year, to supplement the small amount granted for the maintenance of a missionary and his family, teacher and assistants, and all the expenses

connected with the mission. Heathen, as well as Christian, came to our help nobly. From the parents of our children we received over \$30, one man, whose consent to his children attending our school we had a good deal of difficulty in obtaining, gave us the sum of \$15. Our school boys have done nobly, in that towards this amount they gave us \$64 besides raising \$20 for exchange of organ for the church, and this, too, notwithstanding the fact that last summer's fisheries turned out so badly that many of them barely earned enough to give themselves the scantiest living.

I am especially glad to be able to report this of our school boys, as an impression has prevailed that the Chinese want to get all they can and give nothing in return. As far as my experience has gone nothing can be more misleading than this, and our financial report this year must forever silence such representation. In fact, I know personally some cases of giving on the part of our Chinese people, which would put to shame the giving of many of our English-speaking Christians. Of the amount we have raised nearly one hundred dollars was received from non-Christian Chinese. We desire to give God all the glory for inclining the hearts of the people to help in this way.

The blessing of God has rested upon our work this past quarter. A number of our pupils are earnest students of the Word of God. We expect to have some baptisms shortly, as several have expressed their desire to unite with us.

With grateful hearts we acknowledge the goodness of God to us, and praise Him that by His blessing and guidance the work goes on; and though the enemy has hurled a few darts at us, from which the flesh has recoiled, we feel that the keynote of this record should be victory by the grace of God.

Indian Work in British Columbia.

MISS LONG writes from KITAMAAT, B.C.

AS Mrs. Raley wrote to you some time ago, before we had recovered from our various sicknesses, I am sure you will be glad to hear that all are well and strong again, with the exception of a few coughs; but the weather is cold

and damp, and with so many girls we are sure to have some coughing.

Before Christmas I was often in the school practising with the children. I could not help noticing the difference, how much better and more healthy the "Home" girls looked than those from the village; the regular food and attention soon tell on the outward appearance.

I was sick at the Mission House for two weeks and believe that prompt and proper treatment saved me from a serious illness. Mr. Raley is a splendid doctor. I had every attention from both him and Mrs. Raley, who did everything they could for me. I am feeling quite myself again, and ready, to start regular work, some of which, principally sewing, has had to be neglected.

We have two great difficulties to contend against in the way of house-keeping. One is that the water has all to be carried from a stream which is at the foot of a steep hill. In the summer this stream runs dry and the girls have to go quite a distance to a small spring. We are hoping that the day may soon come when we shall be able to get water laid on both in the Home and Mission House.

Our other difficulty is wet wood, which is very hard to burn and ruins the stove. When we can get a large shed and have the wood cut and packed one year before we need to use it, that difficulty will be remedied.

We are very thankful for the grant that was allowed for building. Already we are much more comfortable; the girls' work-room has been lined and the dormitory is nearly finished.

We have several new little girls this year who are bright and getting on nicely. At prayers in the morning the girls are learning the books of the Bible; they all repeat them together first, then the little ones by themselves. They know all the Old Testament books and most of the New. They also learn a text every week in English and Kitamaat, and can remember them for a number of weeks back. Miss Walker, the new school-teacher, takes a great interest in the "Home."

The old year closed and the new year started with a terrific wind-storm. On Saturday a number of the people had to vacate their houses, they shook so much and were

unsafe ; the men of the village propped them up with poles. Moses, the Home watchman, came several times to ask if the house shook. Each time I told him "No." However, in the evening the wind increased, so he came up again to say the people were anxious and would like to send a watchman up to stay all night. Of course we accepted the offer, though I was not anxious because I knew the house was strongly built. Mr. Raley was very particular and watched every part when it was being done. In the morning the wind went down a little but it has been very cold ever since.

Notices to Auxiliaries.

"OUTLOOK" SUBSCRIPTIONS.

WILL subscribers kindly remember that *Outlook* subscriptions are not to be sent to Room 20. Address REV. A. SUTHERLAND, Methodist Mission Rooms, Wesley Buildings, Toronto.

THE following leaflets have been dropped from the Catalogue : Experiences of Some Mite-Boxes, Have You a Mite-Box? The Voices of the Women, The Grace of Liberality, Inasmuch, Metlakahtla, A Basket Secretary, The Great Harvest Field of Missions, The Mission of Failures, and the music, Ho ! Reapers !

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY writing paper, letter size, 100 sheets in a pad, 45 cents ; note size, 30 cents ; post cards, per dozen, 15 cents.

ROOM 20 and the Depots at Sackville, N.B., and Winnipeg, Man., will be closed during the month of August, as usual. Please send all orders before the 26th of July.

TREASURERS' QUARTERLY REPORT BOOKS.

THE Treasurers' Books for Quarterly Reports from Auxiliaries and Bands are now ready. They may be ordered from Room 20 or either of the Branch depots. (For

addresses see foot of last page.) Please enclose 2 cents for postage and wrapping.

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, six months, 40 cents. Subscriptions to this Magazine may begin at any time, but must continue till December and then end. Message and Deaconess World, 50 cents ; The Double Cross and Medical Missionary Record, \$1.00—to missionaries and student volunteers, 50 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), are prepared to 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.

THE MONTHLY LETTER.

THE Executive Committee has directed the Literature Committee to *receive no subscriptions for the MONTHLY LETTER for next year*, as it is expected to be discontinued after the August-September number, and the publication of the letters in the *Outlook* continued.

Increase.

HAMILTON CONFERENCE BRANCH.—Rockwood, Mission Band ; Hamilton, Simcoe Street Mission Circle.

TORONTO CONFERENCE BRANCH.—Uxbridge, Star Mission Band.

LONDON BRANCH.—Wyoming Auxiliary.

Suggested Programme—August.

Subjects for Study and Prayer for the month :

“African and Jewish Missions.”

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|---|---|---|
| I. Opening Exercises | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Doxology. 2. Read Subjects for Study and Prayer for the month. 3. Scripture Lesson. Zec. 8 : 1-15. 4. Hymn. 5. Prayer. |
| II. Regular Business (as indicated in Annual Report, page 165, No. 3 to No. 9 inclusive). | | |
| III. Hymn. | | |
| IV. The Watch Tower. | | |
| V. Reading—“My People, Israel.”* | | |
| VI. Solo—Purim Hymn. | | |
| VII. Reading—“The New Palestine” (Leaflet). | | |
| VIII. Prayer Service. | | |

“More important than any work of planning, more important than any work of speaking, more important than any opportunity to influence men directly, is the ministry of intercession to which all Christians are called by example, teaching, and command of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.”

Literature and Music for this programme at Room 20 and the Depots (for addresses see foot of last page). Readings, 2 cents; Leaflet 1 cent; Purim Hymn, 2 cents. Postage and wrapping, 2 cents extra.

*Two copies of the leaflet “My People, Israel,” will be sent to subscribers for Programme Literature, so that the readings may be cut apart and given to the members, who will read them.

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☛ Those Leaflets marked thus * have just been added to the list.

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Open every morning.

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