

THIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

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SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

Japan, Corea and the Isles of the Sea.

INDIAN WORK.

From Miss Alton.

COQUALEETZA INSTITUTE,
CHILLIWACK, B.C., *Jan. 27th, 1897.*

We received your kind and helpful letter enclosing "Greetings" from the Woman's Missionary Society which were an inspiration to us to follow on with greater zeal in the Master's work. Truly "we are workers together" in this grand work of saving souls. The sisters in the "home land" are helping by their prayers, by encouraging and cheering letters, by remembering our needs in sending out warm and comfortable bedding, clothing, and at Christ-

mas-time books, toys, dolls, etc. We are very grateful for so many kindnesses.

It is wonderful how the hearts of the people at home are in touch with the work in the various mission fields. There would not be that bond of sympathy and good-will were it not for "The tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

Christmas has come and gone with its pleasant memories; the children looked forward to it for weeks, and that morning as the girls came trooping into our rooms, with Christmas wishes, our thoughts went back to that morning when the Star of Bethlehem came to gladden and brighten our lives. Then when the early morning's work was done the bell rang for prayers and breakfast, after which Mr. Hall read a letter from Rev. E. and Mrs. Robson, filled with Christmas greetings and remembrances of past happy days spent together.

At 9.30 o'clock all went up to the school-room to unload the Christmas tree; every child was made happy by receiving some present. At half-past ten the larger boys and girls went down with Rev. J. Hall and Miss Burpee to the Indian church and arrived home in time for dinner. About two o'clock the children's dining-room was all cleared ready for games, in which teachers and children joined until tea-time. In the evening the children held a concert. We invited the Indian fathers and mothers in to hear them. It was very creditable considering the little time there was spent in preparation (on account of teachers and children having la grippe). Miss Scroggie had taught the younger children several kindergarten songs, which were very good, and much enjoyed by the Indians. Thus ended a pleasant day.

Miss Scroggie is making the kindergarten school a success. The children are delighted and often ask to stay in during recess to go on with their work. Our school continues to be full of interest, and advancing in the different departments. We find it hard to keep the children whose parents are under the control of the priests. They make the parents believe their children will be eternally lost if they are educated in a Methodist school. Four of these

children have been taken out and the poor, deluded Indians don't know any better than to obey.

We have many things to encourage us though in seeing some of the children trying so hard to be good and letting their light shine. Little Alfred, whom Miss Burpee wrote about, has stepped "over the line" and is a brave little Christian, unfurling the banner of Christ among his companions, and at prayer-meeting last night four others stood up, showing that they wanted to be Christians. It makes our hearts glad to see them starting for the kingdom. May they learn the abiding in Christ, so that when temptation comes they will stand firm and not go back to the old way of sin.

At prayers in the evening the children are expected to repeat a verse of Scripture. One little fellow who had come to school six months before without a knowledge of the English, repeated for his first verse, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not *steal*." It created considerable merriment amongst the children, but we thought it was very good for the first attempt.

A severe type of la grippe has visited this valley, and we have not escaped. Many of the children were down with it, and all the teachers except two. Miss Smith was very ill and not able to take the school for three weeks. She is better and has taken up her duties again. We feared she was resuming work too soon, but her ambition would not let her stay out of the school. Miss Young is doing good work in her department. She has won the confidence of the children and is helping them in their Christian life.

JAPAN.

Report of the Japan work for the quarter ending December 31st, 1896.

Occasionally we hear from auxiliaries and circles that our reports are too brief and statistical to call forth the interest of the people, that they do not give a life-picture of what we are doing, and so are but little help to the workers at home.

At the risk of having our report too long for publication we have given more details than usual of some departments of the work.

Tokyo Branch.—School.

Eleven of our students spent the summer with us in our mountain home at Karuizawa. Some thought we were unwise in taking our work with us, but for many reasons it seemed best, and the results proved that we were wisely led. The girls were obedient, thoughtful and helpful, and expressed their surprise that they found so many opportunities of putting into practice our holiday motto—"freely ye have received, freely give." A few details may be of interest.

One girl sat up for two or three nights with a sick child; some frequently sat with a sick lady to allow her nurse to rest; others found work to do in comforting a Chinaman who was in trouble, and in so doing learned that "the hearts of Japanese and Chinese are the same." One for three weeks cared for the children of a tired mother who seemed to forget that what had proved so wearing to herself was equally trying to a school girl unaccustomed to the work, but afterwards O Ree San said, "God heard my prayer and allowed me to use my strong body for Him as I had no other talent. I was very tired every night, but remembering that this was the work He had given me to do I was patient."

One of the number found Christ during the holidays, and another began to attend class-meeting and to study to know and do His will.

After holidays we welcomed back to the work Miss Hart and Miss Hargrave. Their return and the coming of our new missionaries inspired us with hope and refreshed both Church and school.

At the beginning of the term Miss Blackmore's going to Kofu, rendered necessary by Miss Preston's illness, interfered with the English classes, and later the absence of one of our Japanese teachers, caused by sickness and death in

her home, to a still greater degree, interfered with the Japanese. We have very efficient teachers in our Bible classes, and our Wednesday meetings have been better than last term.

Our girls continue to be actively interested in the poor and in Sunday School work. From a few we have received quiet words of testimony of Christ's power to sustain and comfort in trouble. Others have given expression to their delight in the reading of God's Word.

Early in the term a looseness of opinion among some of the senior girls regarding the necessity of keeping the Sabbath holy, and other kindred subjects, filled us with alarm and led to humiliation and heart searching prayer, followed by serious conversations and pointed Bible talks. The seed sown we leave to the care of Him whose commands we wish to honor.

Sixty-three pupils have been enrolled—thirty six boarders and twenty-seven day scholars. Of these eighteen are supported. Two have received baptism. Two more are ready, but owing to unavoidable absence the Sunday the rite was administered, must wait until another time.

Pray for us that we may not be left to our own thoughts but may be filled with the Spirit, and thus fitted for work, and then pray for an increased attendance at the school.

Evangelistic.

As there are two in the Evangelistic work this year we have been able to increase the number of meetings, in some districts having four meetings a month where last year there was but one, and in others having two in place of one. We have also been able to reopen a meeting that had been dropped altogether during Miss Hart's absence.

Our Sunday night "Mothers' meeting" goes on as usual. Last year Inouye San had charge of it, but this year it has been given to Shimadzu San.

Shimadzu San is just beginning work, and we think she will be efficient. She seems much interested and so far has been quite successful. She has two week-day meetings as well.

We have employed Mrs. Kaneda again. You may remember she worked as Bible-woman for a year or so before Miss Hart went home. She lives in the school and works in the poor district in Azabu. There is plenty for both Kaneda San and Shimadzu San to do in that district. Sabashi San, Kubo San, Hayashi San and Sumiya San are in their usual places working away. Kubo San's eyes trouble her a good deal but she works away cheerfully.

We have put Shimada San in Shitaya. She boards with a Christian family and is doing good solid work. Christian life in Shitaya seemed to be at a low ebb. There has been a great change in the last year or so through death and removals. Even the Sunday School was almost gone for lack of teachers. Shimada San has had charge of it during the fall and the average has increased from about ten to forty-five. Shortly after beginning work she found a Christian friend who has helped her with the Sunday School, and we sincerely hope we shall be able in a short time to get some of the Church members interested enough to come and teach the children.

While speaking of Sunday schools it may be well to add that there are not as many large girls in our Azabu school who are free to help as formerly, which makes some difference in the schools, for there are really very few church members through the city who are fitted to teach. Miss Hart attends both the Negishi and Shitaya, Miss Wigle the Kakigara, and Miss Alcorn the Kobikicho Sunday School to lead the singing. Our three Sunday schools in the poor district in Azabu have been well attended. Out of the 140 children twenty-nine have not missed a Sunday during the school year. The workers for two of these schools are supplied as usual from our Girls' School, Shimazu San and Kaneda San taking charge of the third. We gave them their Christmas entertainment on Saturday, the 26th, in the Azabu Church. The children who had recitations or singing did well. One little girl unused to such a large building lost her courage and was able simply to make her bow. Three little girls not more than

seven years of age said the creed from beginning to end without a slip. I wonder how many girls at home of their age can say it.

We sent sixty-five invitations to the very poorest men and women of Azabu to come to the King's Daughters' School Christmas eve, and most of them came. Mr. Takada, the pastor, talked for a short time, after which we gave them a good but inexpensive supper which all seemed to appreciate, the actual expense being about three and one-quarter cents for each person.

Since beginning full work in September the Bible-women have made 829 visits and have reached 59 people who had never heard Christian teaching before. Eighty meetings have been held—29 of which were led by the Bible-women. Besides these Miss Hart has had three Bible lessons a month with the Bible-women. The fourth week in each month we have the regular workers' meeting at which all give reports of the month's work.

The attendance at the meetings in some districts has not been large, but those who do attend come because they are really interested. The Shitaya meeting has grown the most—from four to fifteen. The Shitaya meeting is held on Sunday afternoon as the women cannot afford to give up a working day. The change was made and was found advantageous in more ways than one. Every Sunday a crowd of men and women gather at the church door to listen to the singing, and as soon as Sunday School is dismissed the women are invited to come in. Almost every Sunday, one or two come in, and one woman has become a regular attendant in that way.

While there has been much to perplex and often to discourage, yet, during the last few weeks both Miss Hart and Miss Wible have been greatly encouraged by finding here and there one whose eager interest shows that the gospel story is indeed to them glad tidings of great joy.

Part of the Japan Report has been crowded out, but will appear in the next MONTHLY LETTER.

Suggested Programme for April Meeting.

Subjects for Prayer for the Month : French-Canadian Missions ; Papal Countries.

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

I. Opening exercises.

“We should never lose sight of two facts : First, that the inner purpose of the programme is the saving of lost souls ; second, that the work is to be accomplished by human agencies working in conjunction with the Spirit of God.”

II. Regular business.

III. Hymn.

IV. (To be read by the President) :

“Another imperative duty is the evangelization of our fellow-citizens in Quebec. In that province we have to face the most aggressive type of Romanism found in the world. A Roman Catholic bishop in England has said : ‘The great religious battle of the future will be between the Church of Rome and Methodism.’ If that be so, then we should be preparing for the conflict.”—*Rev. Alex. Sutherland, D.D.*

V. Question Drawer :*

No. 1. Give names of the W. M. S. missionaries among the French-Canadians.

No. 2. Read Annual Report (1895-'96) of French Mission Schools.

No. 3. Read Annual Report (1895-'96) of the French Methodist Institute.

VI. Reading—“Present state of the work among the French-Canadians.” †

* Answers will be found in W. M. S. Annual Report. Price, 10 cents.

† See No. IX. “Our Work Series.” Price, 1 cent.

VII. The Watch-Tower.

(For the strengthening and building up of the Department of Proportionate and Systematic Giving, which has been adopted by eight Branches of the Woman's Missionary Society, we suggest that, in every Auxiliary, the Superintendent of that Department be appointed to the Watch-Tower—to contribute, at each meeting, some item relative to God's plan of supplying His treasury.)

VIII. Hymn.

IX. Prayer—That God will establish the work of our hands.

“The work of our hands, establish Thou it,
How often with thoughtless lips we pray;
But He that sits in the heaven shall say,
“Is the work of your hands so fair, so fit,
That you dare so pray?”

Softly we answer, “Lord, make it fit—
The work of our hands—that so we may
Lift up our eyes and dare to pray,
The work of our hands, establish Thou it
Forever and aye.”

INCREASE.

MANITOBA BRANCH.

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N.B. AND P.E.I.

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“Thanksgiving” Band, Williamstown, N.B.
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“White Violet” Band, Sackville, N.B.
“Newtown” Band, New Brunswick.
“Star of Hope” Band, West Cape, P.E.I.

NOTICES TO AUXILIARIES AND MISSION BANDS.

No Easter Programme having been asked for this year the Literature Committee has prepared Thank-offering Envelopes, bearing a special appeal for the Indian work, to which the offering will be devoted. Price, including postage, 5c. per dozen; 15c. for 50; 25c. per hundred.

A short *Leaflet* on the Indian work is being prepared for reading at the Easter meeting. It may be had from Room 20. Price, 1 cent; postage and wrapping, 2 cents.

Both Envelopes and the Easter *Leaflet* on the Indian work may be ordered from Miss Ogden, Room 20, Wesley Buildings, Toronto, Ont.; also from Mrs. C. Stewart, care of Rev. Dr. Stewart, Box 121, Sackville, N.B.; and Miss E. Newson, 704 Main St., Winnipeg, Man.

Will Branch Corresponding Secretaries please send monthly "Increase of Auxiliaries and Bands" to Mr. Bascom, Secretary Literature Committee, 189 Dunn Ave. Toronto.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Many Auxiliaries and individuals owe small accounts of two or three cents to Room 20. To render a bill for these may appear petty, but such has to be done, unless those indebted will be kind enough to remit. Though the items are small, in the aggregate they amount to a large sum. "A word to the wise," etc.

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(Or, MISS ELLA NEILSON, 704 MAIN ST., WINNIPEG, MAN.

Also, MRS. C. STEWART, care of Rev. Dr. Stewart, Sackville, N.B.