



# Monthly Letter.

PUBLISHED BA

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

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TORONTO, JANUARY, 1899.

Price 50 a year.

# Subjects for Prayer.

"That increased spiritual power may come into the Church at home and abroad, and that secret believers may be taught of the Spirit."

#### JAPAN.

#### From Miss Blackmore.

14 Toru Zaka, Azabu, Tokyo, Japan, Nov. 3rd, 1898.

I think you would need to be here to realize how much of joy and thankfulness and satisfaction the report of the General Conference brought to us. Before Conference met, and during its progress, we could keep away anxious thought by prayer that God would so bless and control the assembly that only wise and right conclusions should be reached; but when the Conference was over and we waited for the news, there was nothing to do but resolutely put away all thought

of the matter and go on with our daily work. How great the strain was I did not know until the reports came, when the feeling of otter rest which followed made me realize how far from rest my mind had been. Dr. Macdonald's estimate of Dr. Scott's fitness for the position of Superintendent is also ours. I believe he is a good man in every sense of the word.

The next morning brought the cablegram giving us permission to buy the new lot for the school, and I need not say that we were glad and thankful. This is just the right season to begin a purchase of that kind—you know it takes much longer to arrange business matters here than it does at home, and as the end of the year approaches the demand for ready money increases, for the end of the year is the time of settling of accounts, whether large or small. We are very glad that Mr. Kobayashi is the pastor in Azabu at this time. It was he who attended to all official business when this lot was bought, and he is thoroughly competent and trustworthy.

This land is held in the name of a company composed of Mr. Hiraiwa, Mr. Kobayashi and Mr. Tsuchiya (three of our oldest and most reliable ministers), and I think we cannot do better than have our lot held by the same company. We are very thankful to our Home Board for so readily granting of request, and to God that we have a Home Board able to grant such requests.

### . .

#### A few sentences from a private letter are of interest in this connection:

"I wish you could have looked in at us the night the Canadian mail arrived. It was just after tea, and we were all still in the dining-room. When the mail was sorted, we sat down around the table, each with her own budget. All day I had been restless for the mail to come, but when the letters were before me I hesitated to open them. . . . You can fancy how, as I read, anxiety rolled off, giving place to peace and thankfulness.

"Then all (except Miss Wigle, who had to stay for the policeman's class) went up to express to Dr. Scott our satis-

faction at his appointment. I read him the page of you letter referring to Dr. Macdonald and his speech, and I can tell you we, too, were 'proud' of our dear old Doctor. I told Mr. Kobayashi about it and he said, 'We also are proud, for he is as our relative.'

"The same ship brought us news from the Plebiscite, and I felt that night that it did not make any difference whethe" I slept or not—heart and brain could rest as well awake.

"The next morning the cablegram came authorizing us to

buy the new lot. We had blessings upon blessings.

"Our King's Daughters at their last meeting decided to work harder than ever this year and give all their carnings (after deducting their tenth for China and paying the expenses of the poor school), towards a fund for the new building. How to earn money for this is a prominent question in the minds of the girls. One girl's face, not particularly good or fond of work, lighted up yesterday with the brightest smile I have seen there for a long time when I gave her a piece of work, telling her I would pay her just the regular price for that kind of sewing, and she could give the money to the building fund.

"Our girls are not forgetting other claims in their ambition to help build the new school. The floods this year caused terrible destruction in the Hokkaido, and 23,000 persons are left homeless and destitute. The 'old clothes-basket' was overhauled and contributions to the same solicited; then the girls set to work ripping, turning, patching and planning, and to-day they have made ready a purcel containing over thirty warm garments to be sent to

the sufferers in the north."

#### From Miss Munro.

Azabu, Tokyo, Nov. 3rd, 1898.

We are very thankful to God for the results arrived at by the General Conference—I mean those that affect our own work. As to Dr. Scott being the superintendent—as far as our work is concerned he will have the position which we would give, and have given him since Dr. Macdonald left. We consider it the wisest course to let the Secretary-Treasurer of the Council of the General Board know all

possible details of our work, and to consult with him on all matters of importance. Dr. Scott is so good, so interested in every little detail, so sympathetic in ou successes and our difficulties, so fatherly in his counsels and in his attitude to us as younger workers, that it has always been a great pleasure to tell him all we can of our work. The action of the General Conference has only made that a Church rule which already was a matter of policy and a pleasure. As for the annual consultation with the Council of the General Board, we have long desired just such a consultation, and rejoice to have it with Dr. Scott, Mr. Borden, Mr. Norman and Dr. Macdonald-when he returns-in the Council of the General Board. Those meetings should be Lenefit to all and to the work under both men and women

# CHINA.

#### From Miss Brackbill

CHENTU, Sept. 15th, 1898.

There is considerable uneasiness throughout the city just at present from fear of a rebellion. The ringleader of the trouble at Chungking is at large, and as he has a considerable following, the officials as well as the common people stand in dread of him.

It is reported that the mission premises are all to be destroved. One date fixed is the 3rd, another the 15th, their eighth month feast two weeks from to-morrow. It is to be directed against the Roman Catholics more particulary we hear, but fear that they will not be apt to discriminate between the French and English. We were surprised to find "chairen" at our gates night before last; and as they are still guarding the different foreign properties, and there has been trouble in several places throughout this province as well as in other parts of the Empire, we may have trouble here yet.

The Governor-General who was appointed for this province was stopped on his way up and sent to another province, and the Tartar General who was acting in his stead died very suddenly a few weeks ago, so it depends on the smaller

officials to keep order.

We should have had a mail yesterday or to-day, and on sending to see if it had arrived at the "hong" the coolie was told they dared not carry it, We are awaiting developments, as it is also reported that telegraphic communications are stopped.

Some days ago a woman stole a child, and then said she stole it for the foreigners, and they were going to give her

3,000 cash per "catty" (11 lbs.) for it.

The authorities took the matter in hand and, as punishment, compelled the woman to walk the streets proclaiming the falsehood she had told. "Chairen" followed, and if she did not call out they beat her. We were told she was stationed near each gate three days. One of our women saw her a day or two ago and said the lower part of her face was so bruised with the beating that she could scarcely speak, and that her shoulder had great gashes cut in it. Thus matters are with us just at present, but still the work goes on as usual.

Another little waif of about two years was taken in last evening. She was found near the gate—a starved, sick child, with feet so swollen she could not now walk, if she ever had. By daylight she looks ghastly, but we hope she will pull through. Of course every precaution was taken,

and the street official gave proper papers to-day.

When rumors are abroad and troubles seem imminent what a comfort to know "The Lord Reigneth" and "He will make the wrath of men to praise Him and the remainder

of wrath He will restrain."

MONDAY, 19. No tearing down of mission property as yet and yesterday passed very quietly. The report about telegraphic communication was false, as a message was received since from the consul in Chunking asking how matters were here, and if this reaches you, you may know mail is being carried. The little child taken in has died since. She was farther gone than we thought at first.

Sept. 23rd.—Things remain much the same. All mission property is well guarded by soldiers. Reports seem to be

quieting down.

Officials have offered rewards for the detection of persons who have been posting libellous placards.

Ho-Cheo, a place above Chungking, was rioted on Sunday. Methodist Episcopal Mission property was all destroyed. Workers reached Chungking safely. This is the third riot one of their native pastors has experienced, one in Chungking several years ago, one here in 1895, and now this one.

There are very alarming reports from many other places. The whole province seems unsettled and ready for any outbreak; however, the French priest has been released, and this may tend to quiet matters. We think Chentu, with all the soldiers here, should be the best protected place in the province.

Dr. Killam and Miss Brooks artived home on Tucsday, having had a pleasant trip up the river. They heard ro reports of disturbances, though in Kia-Ting, after they left, rumors were such that a special messenger was sent overland.

I was just thinking that if the rain, which is now falling heavily, had kept off until a week from to-day, 15th of eighth month, their feast day, it might have dampened their ardor and kept them quiet. However, we know they shall be restrained. If that is our Father's will.

A postal of October 3rd says: "All quiet here yet. The feast day, last Friday, passed very quietly here. Reports not in yet from other cities. City still guarded. Rebel chief still uncaptured."

#### INCREASE.

Bay of Quinte Branch.

Blackstock Auxiliary.
Tyrone "
Maple Grove "
Orono Mission Circle.

Dalston Auxiliary.

Crown Hill

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Branch. Parrsboro' "Grace Methodist" Band. Fourchie "Onward" Circle.

# Suggested Programme - February.

Prepared by Mrs. George Young, Winnipeg.

Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month:

"The Indians of our Dominion and The Stranger within our gates."

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

I. Opening Exercises:

The President will read . Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name unto all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

II. Regular business.

III. Hymn.

IV. Reading :

"How the Teacher came for Tatchnee." Sentence prayers for our Indians (our Jerusalem).

V. Hymn or Solo.

VI. Reading: "Early Methodism in the great North-West #

VII. "Watch-Tower."

VIII. Doxology. Benediction.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE.

Suggested Programme for Mission Circles and Bands will no longer appear in MONTHLY LETTER; by decision of the Board of Managers it is to be published in Palm Branchsee Seventeenth Annual Report, page xiv.

Subscriptions for Palm Branch will be received by Miss S. E. Smith, 282 Princess Street, St. John, N.B. Price

20 cents per copy, 10 copies for \$1.00.

<sup>\*</sup> Price 1 cent each at Room 20 and the Depots. Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.

Note.—The publishers of Palm Branch regret that owing to the new postal regulations it has been found necessary to place the subscription for a single copy at 20 cents per annum, instead of 15 cents, as formerly.

# NOTICES TO AUXILIARIES.

# New Leaflets.

The Literature Committee would draw attention to nine new leaflets recently added to the list, also Excell's "Songs for Young People," which contains some excellent missionary selections. Several of the leaflets have been brought to the notice of the Society through the Suggested Programmes, but others are now mentioned for the first time. The new additions are marked by an asterisk (\*). A new leaflet, "The Importance of Mission Bands," by Mrs Jackson, of the Manitoba Branch, is also being published, which organizers will find useful for circulation in places where it is desirable to form a Mission Band. This leaflet may be ordered from Room 20, and the branch depots. Price, 12 cents per dozen. Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.

# The Mission Band Pin.

The Literature Committee regrets that it has been found necessary to increase the price of the silver Mission Band Pin to 15 cents each, \$1.50 per doz. Please enclose the usual 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, 80 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 leposits of \$1.00 for the literature to be used in connection with the Suggested Programme, and will send the necessary literature whenever called for by the programme as long is 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.

#### Our New Gold Pin.

The Literature Committee has just completed arrangements for our W. M. S. and Mission Band Pins in gold for life-members. The star is attached by links to a pin which is topped by a small gold ball, and makes a very suitable gift for a life-member. The pins are \$3.50 each, and the order is to be accompanied by a voucher of life-membership from the Recording Secretary of the Auxiliary or Band to which the member belongs. It will be well to order at least three weeks in advance, to allow time for correspondence and unforeseen delays.

Music and Recitations Suitable for the Christmas Season.

Gloria in Excelsis. Price 10 cents. A beautiful cantata of moderate difficulty. Selections could also be made from it for a miscellaneous programme for Christmas. The Christmas Trensury, No. 5. Price, 15 cents. A collection of recitations, exercises and dialogues.

May be ordered from Room 20 and the Branch Depots.

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# LEAFLETS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

Please Send Remittance With Order.

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

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