



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

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A YEAR.

Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month :

"Deaconess Work."—"The Summer Missionary Campaign."

China.

From Miss Brackbill, Shanghai, Dec. 31, 1900.

YES, I am in China yet, and since you have said all the time that we on the field knew best, I have seen it my duty to stay here. At first, having just got back from home, and not having really grasped the situation, I scarcely knew what to do, but it did not seem right for me to leave. The more I have talked with other missionaries and have seen and heard what was being done by other and older societies, and realized how impossible it was to understand the situation while in any other country, the more have I had the assurance that I was in the place where I could be of most use to our Woman's Missionary Society for the future work in China. Our contingent in Japan concur in this opinion.

You probably have seen the peace conditions ere this (that is the preliminary conditions) and they seem very good when we remember that eleven powers had to agree to the terms. It is said the Chinese were willing to comply with them, and if this is true, it certainly will be safe to return to the interior very soon.

From some Canadian letters the impression has been given me that the people at home think the work is entirely broken up in China. Now, though this may be true to a certain extent in the north, it is not so in the west; it is only interrupted for a time.

Our buildings are still standing from latest accounts; our orphans are there to be provided for; we hope that many, if not all, of our pupils will return to us; the sick are still there to be ministered to, and the multitudes are there to have the Gospel preached to them.

Where the work is old enough, and they have trained helpers, the preaching, and in many cases other departments of the work are being attended to by the natives. How we do wish the trouble could be satisfactorily settled and we could get back to our stations, but there is no use of patching it up. There must be thorough settlement at this time so there will never be a repetition of these horrible deeds.

Later—From Miss Brackbill, Shanghai, Jan. 17th, 1901.

IN a previous letter I wrote you about ladies starting for Chungking, and more were to follow soon. The consul is perfectly willing for ladies to go that far at any time, and I expect in a very short time he will give his consent for them to go farther. For some time I have been hoping and expecting we could start after the Chinese new year, probably in March. Day before yesterday Mrs. Kilborn came in to ask what we were thinking of doing, and said if they could rent a house in Chungking they would go up after the Chinese new year. The American W.M.S. ladies have a very large deaconess home there, and not nearly enough ladies to fill it, so many being at home, I am sure it will be open to us if the way is not clear for us to go on to Chentu by that time.

I had a letter from the teacher in Chentu a couple of days ago. He says everything is perfectly quiet, and they are wanting to know when we are coming back. Our places are all as they were left.

Even if we can get no farther than Chungking, it will be a great advantage to the ladies, as there will be no difficulty in securing teachers there, and they can devote all their time to study, which is the most any of them should do for some time yet. Then, too, they will understand what is said around them, as the difference between the dialect there and at Chentu is very slight. Of course the expense of living will be no more there than at our own station.

I have written the above to the ladies in Japan, and have asked them to talk it over and decide what they are to do.

Indian Work.

From Miss Clarke, Port Simpson, B.C., Feb. 7th, 1901.

I ALWAYS seem to have something of a trying character to relate, and now it is to tell you that two more of our girls have passed away, within two weeks of each other. The first, Anna Lawson, was a little girl of ten, and died of consumption, after having been cared for in the hospital when it was no longer safe for her to be in the home. She faded very rapidly, but always, during her stay with us, would greet our coming with a smile, and was very gentle and patient. She began to work a necktie to exhibit at the school examination, and was very anxious to have it done, but the poor little fingers failed, and the work had to be laid aside unfinished.

Edith Nelson, a girl of fifteen, was taken suddenly ill with acute dysentery, and, after a week's illness in the home, removed to the hospital, where for two weeks the doctor and nurses fought for her life, but constitutional weakness, no doubt, proved the real cause that their efforts availed only to keep her alive a little longer than otherwise would have been possible.

It is very hard to see our girls fade and die, and to feel that their parents grieve so; they had hoped much for their daughter's good from coming to the home. Edith's father and mother are spending the winter up the Skeena, where they are frozen in, and no word of their daughter's illness and death can reach them for some time, however, Edith's grandmother and uncle were here and visited her daily. As far as I know they expressed no unkindness toward us, and Edith's sister and cousin were allowed to remain in the home without question. The sister we will send home when the parents arrive in the Spring, as I feel I can not be responsible for her, Edith being the second of the same family to die in the home.

We have not had a single case of illness among the girls for more than a week, which is very unusual.

One of the Skagway boats brought word of the Queen's death in time to unite in the memorial service on the day of her funeral. Impressive services were held, both in the Episcopal and Methodist churches, and in the afternoon our girls joined a parade, headed by the brass band, and in which all classes and colors participated. I am sure the girls will long remember the solemn occasion and, I trust, take into their hearts the lessons taught from our beloved Queen's noble life.

Miss Carroll is improving, though not yet able to be about or to care for herself. She regrets greatly having to give up her work, and we are very sorry to lose her. Miss Paul plans to leave on the first boat, a March, so I trust all possible haste will be made in sending reinforcements. The girls have been very good, but at best such a houseful must be a great care. Miss Alton has been a wonderful help, still no one can take my greatest care.

Miss Paul has kept up bravely, and has been very cheerful in face of repeated disappointments and under heavy pressure of work. She has shown a most unselfish spirit and, I think, we all appreciate what she has done for us and for the home.

Miss Elliott is better than when last I wrote, but still far from strong. Miss Alton thinks there are not very many people quite so strong as she and I are, and, perhaps, she is right. I have not been out of the house for an hour a week for months together, and still I have a good appetite and can sleep when ever I have an opportunity, or stay awake, if needs be. I am very truly thankful for strength to fulfil my daily duties, and am very happy and contented withal. Indeed, I cannot help being glad and thankful when I think of the goodness of my many friends and their kind sympathy, and above all of the divine goodness that surrounds me and bears with my weakness and waywardness, all the time remembering me in love and comforting as no other can do.

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.

Report of School and Evangelistic Work Among the Chinese and Japanese Women in British Columbia.

By Miss Morgan.

OUR Home School during the past four months has been much as usual; but seven names have been registered, six Chinese, one being a day pupil, and one Japanese. The girls have made fair progress and are ready for promotion. We have been pleased to note their interest in the daily Bible lesson. The two who came to us a year ago read their English Bible every morning, and while they are timid in answering in our mother tongue, they are generally ready to show their knowledge of the previous lesson in Chinese. Not long ago one of these two went to Chinatown with me on Sunday afternoon, and I was delighted with her effort to explain the lesson to the women.

The outside work was not in any way disturbed by our recent rescue case, except that two houses are closed to me, but as my visits to these places were only occasional, it has not made much difference.

Since September, meetings have been held at six homes; twenty-nine women and six girls have been reached in this way. Owing to sickness in three families, Sunday services have been very much interrupted. Forty-three meetings have been held during the term. One woman left for China; one, who left for her native land with her husband and children last winter, died there in September. Two new houses have been found; the four previously reported as closed to me are still closed. One hundred and eighty visits were made during the past three months.

Two weeks ago, in company with Rev. Mr. Winchester and his interpreter, we spent three hours at the customs in a vain effort to rescue two young girls who were claimed as the wives of a Chinaman. Their false statements were a repetition of what has happened at least four times during the past four years. Our hearts sicken when we realize how helpless we are to act on such occasions. In this case we feel that the end is not yet. The two young girls are to enter a "house" in the near future, we are informed, and up to date are willing victims. When we returned from the customs without them, Eva comforted us by saying that after a while the girls would be glad to come to the "home" just as the last two were. We are constantly asking ourselves if there is anything else we can do, or if others could succeed where we so often are disappointed.

Mr. Winchester's withdrawal from the Chinese work is deeply regretted, not only by his fellow-workers, but by all who were privileged to know him. We cannot speak too highly of his kindness to us. He has been so closely associated with this work ever since I came—four and a half years ago—that I have felt as though he really belonged to us, and I rather dread the thought of facing a court trial or rescue case without his counsel and help.

Miss Sugizaki has been in Vancouver since the end of September. She reports having found thirty-four new women, and has held meetings among them as often as possible. Several women are interested in the Bible and a number have attended Sunday services.

There are about eight married Japanese women in Victoria whom I visit. Pray that with the dawn of the new century our hearts may be baptized afresh with courage and hope; and may we ever remember that "as thy days so shall thy strength be."

Miss Morgan writes subsequently, "The day after our reports were written little Susie died. She was the daughter of Choy Lin, a sister of Edith and Emira. Her full name was Susannah Wesley Chu. She has been in the hospital most of the time since May. Thinking a Chinese doctor could help her, they brought her to her father's home three weeks before she died. The poor, weary, diseased little body found rest on Saturday, December 29th. She said she had no fear of death as she loved Jesus, and we could not grieve over her, for we felt it was a happy release. The Reaper has been busy among our girls since I came. This is the fourth death among our Christians."

January 5th.—"We appreciate very much the kind words of greeting from the Board, and deeply desire to be worthy of your trust. It has been a source of great comfort that some of our ladies from the East were able to visit our field of labor last summer; their loving words of encouragement have been a stimulus to us."

CHINESE GIRLS' HOME, VICTORIA, B.C.

From Mrs. Snyder.

I have been much comforted by the sentiment expressed by one of our sisters in Japan as to the foundation work being necessary, though it seemed lost, for we have been depressed so often by the thought that we were making no advance.

The family still consists of the five Chinese girls: Bessie, Eva, Bell, Jean and Dorothy. The last of November, O Chio, a Japanese woman who had been with us in the summer, returned and stayed with us one week, waiting for a boat going south. Her husband made his home at the Japanese Mission while here and, of course, paid for her board. They both were very thankful for our care of her.

There have been days when we felt that our girls were making as good progress as English girls could, and they certainly *work* well when I am with them; but there are times when we doubt everything, even our own fitness for the work, for they do not seem to have grasped the first thought of forbearance or self-control.

One occasion of trouble has been that men have been asking for wives and, of course, the girls wish to be married, but the proposals have not come from Christian men, and as we make careful inquiries, the girls feel that we are holding them too closely.

The Mission Band held an open meeting, to which all the Chinese women were specially invited. Only five outside women and three children came. One can never depend on these people accepting an invitation; however, as the ladies of the Advisory Committee were present, we spent a very pleasant time.

Last month I asked Mr. Chan to give the girls some help in Chinese, and he consented to come or send some one once a week to give an hour's lesson, but they have been very irregular in their visits; however, we try to gain all we can of the language.

We were very much disappointed the day we were at the customs, and we realize what a very slippery, elastic affair the law is. Oh, how we wish for wisdom and a better knowledge of Chinese; but we are hoping that very soon the girls themselves will send for us to help them. Pray for us that we may have patience and wisdom in our work.

I find I have forgotten to mention the visit of Dr. and Mrs. Brecken in September, which was a great pleasure to us and also a great encouragement, because I wish very much that our friends should see the work as it is; the dark as well as the bright side, and judge whether it is wise to carry it on.

Suggested Programme—May, 1901.

Subject for Prayer and Study:

"The Stranger within Our Gates."

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| I. Opening Exercises. | { Doxology.
Read Subjects for Prayer and Study.
Hymn.
Scripture Lesson.
Prayer. |
| II. Regular Business. | |
| III. Hymn. | |
| IV. The Watch Tower. | |
| V. Readings. Subject, "The Stranger within Our Gates."* | |
| VI. Awakenings and Beginnings in the Nineteenth Century.† | |
| Five Minutes' Address. Subject, "The Life of William Case." | |
| VII. Hymn. Prayer. | |

* See Leaflet. "The Stranger within Our Gates." Price 4 cents.

† For data, see "The Life of William Case." Price 5 cents. We suggest that this address be given by the Watchman for our Indian Missions. This life, so rich in incident of the early days of Canada, should be of especial interest to us.

The above may be ordered from Room 20 and the Depots. For addresses, see foot of Catalogue. Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.

Notes from Room 20 and the Depots.

The following gratifying note concerning the Flag Exercise has been received at Room 20:

OIL CITY.—"The 'Flag Exercise,' prepared and published at Room 20, has been successfully given by the Junior League of this place. The children acquitted themselves admirably, both in song and recitation, and we know of nothing that could arouse a deeper missionary spirit than this 'Exercise.' Parents and friends were not only delighted but deeply moved to see the boys and girls, so early in life, falling in line with this great missionary movement."

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EXERCISE.**

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Subscriptions

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, per year, 65 cents. (Subscriptions to this magazine may begin at any time, but must close with June or December.) Message and Deaconess World, 50 cents.

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