

THIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH."



Monthly Letter.

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SUBJECT FOR PRAYER.

"India."

CHINESE WORK.

From Miss Brackbill.

CHEN-TU, Feb. 29th, 1897.

The photograph of the children was taken on our place here after we had moved over from the Compound of the General Society, and, with the exception of one, all who attended the school there have come over, many of their homes being just as near here as there. At first our school was held in what had been a guest room, then when that was wanted we took a room in the upper court that had been prepared as a ward, where we remained until the rooms were finished on the other side.

Even with the building (walls, school, etc.) going on, I have spent between two and three hours every day teaching, and I hope to spend more time now, as I am going to use one of the rooms in the school for a study, and will be there most of the time during the day.

The native teacher instructs the children in the Chinese classics and writing the Chinese characters, while it falls to us to teach all else, viz., geography, arithmetic, singing and religious truth.

Of the latter they are now studying the San-tsi-ching (an epitome of the Scriptures), Peep-of-Day, which is really a life of Christ, and the Sunday-school Lessons, which are printed in Chinese, and are one year behind you at home. Of these they memorize all the verses contained in the lesson and take the Daily Reading; so you see even if we cannot keep these scholars for a number of years, they get considerable knowledge of the Scriptures while here.

Some of last year's scholars are getting rather large, and I am afraid will be stopping away; but several new ones have come in, and more are coming. It is these larger scholars we would like to get as boarding pupils, and they would gladly all come in were it not for the bound-foot question, but being the children of heathens it is a serious question with them.

The school building, with the exception of the dormitories, is finished, and the school was opened in that after the Chinese New Year.

Miss Foster reached us nearly a month ago, and you may be sure we were very glad to welcome her. She is deep in the mysteries of the language and, the teacher says, is getting along very well. It was good news to hear that Miss Brooks was coming. I hope Miss Killam, M.D., has decided for China, and is with the party who are doubtless on the ocean about this time.

The workmen began at the house last week. I wish you could see the way work is carried on in this country. All the timber comes in in logs, and has to be sawed and cut up on the place. Of course, everything being done in the rough like this, it requires a large force of men, and to-day

there are between seventy and eighty working. My teacher has been an invaluable helper all through.

March 4th.—The dispensary work is increasing, a larger number of patients having been treated this week than any previous one.

Every Sunday evening the members of our own Mission meet together for a service, and every Thursday evening all the foreigners meet in turns at the different homes, once a quarter having a Sacramental service.

It was decided to ask Mr. Hartwell to hold a service over here once a week for both men and women. He consented, and to-day held the first with a very fair attendance.

The attendance of the women Sunday afternoon continues good, last Sunday there were between forty and fifty present.

The little baby has been very sick (dysentery) for a couple of nights; we scarcely thought she would live until daylight, but she is better now.

From Maud Killam. M.D.

SHANGHAI, *March 20th, 1897.*

The journey out here was a pleasant one. Mountains and rocky canons, tropical verdure, sea and birds of the ocean, and kind friends, gave us new revelations of our King's love and power. We have met with kindness all along the way, and are enjoying a Christian home here in Shanghai. Mr. Evans keeps this boarding-house for missionaries only, and carries on business for those in the interior. Other missionaries come and go. Their fellowship is helpful to us, as are also the morning and evening prayers and Bible readings.

Mr. Le Lacheur is superintendent of the Christian Alliance missions in China. He is very pleasant and earnest, and I have enjoyed talking about home folks with him. He is an old Sackville student, was twelve years in the Nova Scotia Methodist ministry, later in the Maine Methodist ministry, and later over a Congregational church in Maine. He has been one of the directors of conferences

held at Old Orchard, Maine. Just now he starts for a long tour through eleven of the provinces of China, and takes with him only a Chinese evangelist with whom he can only converse a little, enough for travelling business. He is so bright, making everybody about him cheerful. The children love him. He was a class mate of my father's, or of one of father's brothers.

Two of our boarders are in Chinese costume. We are not yet quite used to seeing our American brethren in long dresses with pig tails. Indeed it was very hard to keep a straight face in a meeting when we found we had mistaken an American for a Chinaman.

We took tiffin (lunch) at the Presbyterian Mission Compound on Wednesday, going over their school and asking about their studies. On the way back I called on Dr. Reifsnieder, who has about the finest hospital in Shanghai. She does a great deal of good, and the Chinese help to support her work, which is under the Union Missionary Society of New York. Every patient who enters the hospital hears the Gospel, and a native evangelist preaches every day to the dispensary patients as they wait their turns. There are several missionaries at this house, and I am going with one of them to visit some of the other hospitals. She is from a London hospital, and goes under the Friends' Society to Chungking. Miss Brooks will give her spare time to schools.

Thursday evening I attended a meeting for sailors from the British men-of-war. It was held in a pleasant room, called "The Jolly Boat." There were eight or nine men and one colored young woman, seated in comfortable chairs around a fire. A young man led the Gospel service, and three started to serve Christ. One young fellow had tried before and failed. He spoke as if considering his step well. Another jolly young fellow with a beaming face had had one happy month in Christian service. Thank God that some one is looking out for our wandering boys in this heathen country, where there is not the restraint of our civilization. Of course there are churches and Christians here, but, so far from home and friends, many yield to their desires for

their own way. I suppose it is the same in any city where one is unknown—a drop of water in a bucket.

Dr. Hart's son is in Wu-hu, about twenty-four hours' journey up the river. He has a large practice, both in his hospital and outside. I think there are about one hundred and twenty bed patients. He does a great deal of operating, and is very successful, only having lost one surgical case in five hundred. That was a child, almost a hopeless case, and the death was from the chloroform.

Dr. and Mrs. Hart invited me to stay at Wu-hu for six months. The advantage would be in having no responsibility in medical work, so that I could first learn the language, and, at the same time, get this valuable hospital experience. At Wu-hu they have a very good mandarin teacher. Dr. Hart says that the dialect will make considerable difference to me. Mandarin is spoken all over Central China, but each province has its own dialect, and he thinks I will have trouble in changing. So, in view of this, and as I must stay six months if at all, and that without your permission at home, I will probably start up the river on Wednesday. We are looking forward to our trip with great pleasure. We will study what we can on the way—though without a regular teacher.

THE IDEAL MISSIONARY.

By Mrs. Jennie Fuller—A Missionary in India.

What is your ideal of a Missionary? He must be called of God, wholly sanctified, a man of prayer, of great faith, unworldly, indifferent to praise or blame, free from the everlasting struggle about himself, with

“A heart at leisure from itself
To soothe and sympathize.”

Where do you get this ideal? It is a true ideal. You have the warrant of God's Word in demanding this. Christ was the world's first great Missionary. He had not where

to lay His head; despised and rejected, was in the world and yet not of it. He pleased not Himself; laid down His life for others. And the Apostles? What marvellous Missionaries they were! Beaten, imprisoned, a hungered, rejected, suffering want, abounding, ever triumphing and rejoicing in God; not counting their lives dear; kept alive by the power of God; baptized with the Spirit; leading souls to Christ; witnessing before kings, etc. Paul's own history, in 2 Cor. xi. 23-28; Phil. iv. 11-13; iii. 7-10, etc., is a short epitome of all the apostles' lives. Your soul glows and blood flows quicker as you read it and think of the possibilities of the foreign field to-day, if—and then you heave a sigh, for how many Missionaries fail to fill the ideal!

And now, dear friends, would you like to hear what the Missionary's ideal of a home Christian is? He has, happily, the same Bible that you have to draw upon. Before him rises up the lives of Christ and the apostles as examples. He fails to discover that there is one ideal laid down for the foreign Missionary and one for the Home Christian. He sees in the Word that you (1) should be wholly sanctified; (2) men of prayer; (3) of great faith; (4) unworldly; (5) indifferent to praise or blame; (6) free from the everlasting struggle about yourself, with hearts at leisure for others.

Dear friends, it is dishonest for churches or bodies of Christians to send out Missionaries, expecting of them what they are not living out themselves. What you want us to be, be that first yourselves. A Laodicean Church will send out Laodicean Missionaries, and they, in turn, will have Laodicean converts. The stream does not rise higher than its source. "Like home priest, like Missionary."

Do you send us out to reproduce the same religion that is among you, and work, and lives? Many Missionaries never knew a higher life than what they saw; never had their faith stirred to anything higher. Is it strange if, on the field, they would not expect anything higher? As they read of the apostles, is it strange if they are tempted to think those days are past? Will it be strange if he fails to make himself comfortable, just as he has seen hundreds at

home do, justifying himself with the plea that the home Christians do so, why should not I?

Dear friends, you can forestall it by a constant life of self-denial before the outgoing missionaries, that will nerve them in face of temptation to be like-minded. Your ideal of a missionary is that he is self-denying. You can never dictate it to him, but you can say to him, "Come." Say to us, "Wherefore, I beseech you, be ye followers of me" (1 Cor. iv. 16), and "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Cor. xi. 1). Not so far as I follow Christ, but because I follow Christ. I praise God for the gifts that have come into this work, heavy with the perfume of the self-denial that gave them. We have sometimes felt the money almost too sacred to use, and it has begotten in us a desire to spend it in like manner.

It is useless for you to dream away of great victories on the foreign field, unless you lead the way. Missionaries must go out to the field educated, first, in the spiritual at home. To enable them to get a language easily, many of them are sent young, and sometimes immature. They need to be constantly nerved by your life and work and example at home.

The greatest work of the Church to-day is the battle on the foreign field. Many Christians are in danger of giving a little, praying a little, and thus settling their responsibility and demanding of the missionary to do the rest. Lead the way in spiritual living and prayer. "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther iv. 14).

Dear fellow-missionaries, whether the home Church comes up to her place or not, may we not arise and live out this ideal anyway?

We have just received, unofficially, sad news from our West China Mission, of the death of Miss Ford. No particulars are known, save that her death was caused by meningitis.

Suggested Programme for July Meeting.

Subjects for Prayer and Studies for the Month.

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

“The extinction of the Liquor and Opium Traffics, and all covetous hindrances to Christianity.”

I. Opening exercises.

“Christendom’s Liquor Traffic and England’s Opium Trade with heathen lands, are the crowning infamies of this century; the bitterest wounds our Christ has received ‘in the house of His friends.’”

—*M. Dickson Thornley.*

II. Regular business.

III. Hymn.

IV. The Watch-Tower.

V. The President will read :

“It will be interesting news to the world in general, and to temperance people in particular, that Her Majesty the Queen is a total abstainer from alcoholic liquors, and has been such for at least three years. Her Majesty’s reasons for ceasing to take the small quantity of alcoholic drink to which she had been accustomed were not unconnected with the intense pain in the legs and knees from which she suffers. Whether the result has been beneficial or other wise will probably remain a matter of opinion. It is entirely certain, however, that the Queen is satisfied with the experiment—a fact which temperance lecturers will undoubtedly make full use of.”

The Most Reverend Frederick Temple, D.D., the newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, is, and always has been, a total abstainer from intoxicating liquors.

Mrs. Charlton Edholm, of Chicago, in a paper on “The Traffic in Girls and the Florence Crittenton Missions,” says: “Help us to put down the drink traffic, for only when it is outlawed by the votes of Christian men will the traffic in girls cease, and the Florence Crittenton missions be no longer needed.”

VI. Prayer.

"For the suppression of the Opium and Liquor Traffics, and that the Holy Spirit may arouse Christians to a true conception of the wickedness of these traffics, and the extent to which they hinder the growth of the Kingdom of God."

VII. Exercise :

"The battle between the Bible and the bottle in Africa."

VIII. Paper (three minutes); subject :

Can we, individually, consistently condemn those Christian (?) nations which, by their liquor traffic, "are blotting out the image of God in thousands of human souls?"

IX. Hymn.

X. Prayer :

"That the women of the Woman's Missionary Society may be led to see that they are personally responsible for the government of our land."

QUESTIONS FOR EXERCISE.

1. Why are the people of Africa an easy prey to any vice? State the number who annually die victims of intemperance.
2. Give Bishop Pinnock's report on the African rum trade in 1877.
3. Give Bishop Hartzell's report on the African gin trade in 1897.
4. Read invoices of the liquors entered in one week of year 1896 at Madeira, all going to Africa from Europe and America.
5. Tell of the appalling degradation wrought by the liquor traffic in West Africa (Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Niger, Congo Free State).
6. How did the natives of South Africa seek to protect themselves from the heartless liquor trader?
7. What religion has been largely adopted by the people of East Africa in preference to Christianity, "which would bring liquor in its train?"
8. What nations are foremost in forcing liquor upon Africa?
9. How can the liquor traffic in Africa be destroyed?

* See Questions on page 9. Data for Exercise and three-minutes paper will be found in "Christian Missions and the Temperance Reform," by Mrs. Thornley. Price, 2 cents, at Room 20. Point out on map the different divisions of Africa.

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Room 20 will be closed, as usual, during the month of August. Please send all orders before the 24th of July.

Will Corresponding Secretaries who order Annual Reports and MONTHLY LETTERS please remember that, by direction of the Board of Managers, the remittance must accompany the order. Also, that in ordering MONTHLY LETTERS, it is necessary to send only the proportionate amount of the subscription for the months that remain until September.

Will friends who order literature from Room 20 kindly remember *not* to send three-cent stamps if larger or smaller denominations can be procured? Remit by money order or bills when possible.

Will Branch Corresponding Secretaries please send names of new "Auxiliaries and Bands" to Mrs. Bascom, Secretary Literature Committee, 189 Dunn Avenue, Toronto.

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*, for 6 months, 40 cents (subscriptions to this periodical may begin at any time during the year, but must continue till December and then end); *Illustrated Christian World*, per year, 75 cents; *Message and Deaconess World*, per year, 50 cents; *The Double Cross and Medical Missionary Record*, per year, \$1.00—to missionaries and student volunteers, 50 cents per year.

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