

# Monthly Letter.

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## SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

JULY—"That covetous hindrances to Christianity may be removed."

AUGUST—"African and Jewish Missions."

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## A SPECIAL REQUEST.

There is urgent need of two new workers for West China—a teacher and a medical missionary. It is desirable that they should be ready to accompany Miss Foster this summer, or early in the fall.

Will the members of our Society, in faith and earnestness, obey the instruction of our Divine Master: "I pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

He knows the need, but what is meant by, "Put me in remembrance?" He will surely hear our cry and choose those whom He will anoint for these important posts.

E. S. STRACHAN, *Cor. Sec.*

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## CHINA.

Miss Brackbill writes from Chung-King, March 6th, 1896:

We arrived here a couple of days ago, and shall be leaving for our up-river trip to-morrow. We have made the trip in much less time than we did before, having had favorable winds the greater part of the way. We met Dr. Hart a couple of weeks ago, on his way down the river.

On arriving here, we found a party, including ladies, had just started to Chentu to resume work there.

Half the indemnity money has been paid here—the remainder is to be paid in May.

KIA-RING, April 7th.—As several ladies of other missions have returned to Chentu, and the last report from there is that everything is quiet, we hope to go on soon, and trust we may be able to send you encouraging reports from there very soon.

April 10th.—Dr. and Mrs. Kilborn have arrived, and we all go on together from here on Monday, a four days' journey in chairs. The thermometer stands at 94° in the shade to-day. I hope it may be cooler ere we start. Miss Ford is well and sends kind regards. I will write again from Chentu as to prospects for purchasing, etc.

From Miss Brackbill.

CHENTU, April 20th, 1896.

Just a card to say we arrived here last Friday, after a four days' overland journey in chairs. An escort of soldiers came out fifteen miles to meet us and, as far as we know, everything seems comparatively quiet in the city. Mr. Hartwell's house is nearly completed. At present we are staying at the place furnished Dr. Hart by the officials on his arrival here.

## REPORT OF THE JAPAN WORK OF THE W.M.S.

From January 1st to March 31st, 1896.

TOKYO BRANCH—*Continued from June Monthly Letter.*

Two women have asked for baptism.

The Charity School at Ushigome, taught by one of the Bible Women and supported by a graduate of this school, is progressing satisfactorily. A Sunday School is held in connection with it.

Much of our work lies among those who have accepted Christianity, as many stand in great need of instruction and some have grown cold or indifferent. The distribution of tracts, leaflets and Bibles, and of clothing and food to those who are suffering for lack of them, is a constant and important part of our work. The funds used for the two latter items are received from some of the Japanese Christians connected with the Girls' School.

### SHIZUOKA BRANCH.

*School.*—No new pupils entered after the Christmas vacation; one withdrew at the beginning of the term, leaving an enrollment of twenty. Though our number is small, we are thankful to see an increase in interest in their work and an earnest striving after better things among the girls who are with us. One of the leading educationalists of the city was discussing the three Girls' Schools we have here, and he said "that he thought the girls of Shizuoka Jo Gakko (our school) were best in their womanly character, their culture and deportment, compared with the girls of the other two schools. Something of dignity and grace is noticeable about them." This gentleman said other educationalists of the Province have the same opinion. We have revised our course of study to bring it up to the needs of the times, and have sent out new calendars, hoping to awaken an interest in the minds of the people. We have heard of a half dozen or more pupils who may come in with the new term. Our new building may be an inducement to some. It is slowly nearing completion, and we expect it to be ready for occupation in two or three months.

We graduated a class of five girls in Japanese at the close of the term, but have delayed the public exercises till after moving. One of the five withdrew; the other four continue their English. One, who received a Japanese diploma a few years ago, has now finished her English course. She remains in the school as assistant teacher in Japanese.

We have no baptisms to report this term.

*Evangelistic.*—In January, in compliance with a request from the pastor in Numazu, work was opened in that town. Miss Ito, who graduated from our Tokyo school in December, and came to Shizuoka in January to assist in the evangelistic work, has visited Numazu twice a month, staying two days each time. She has not yet been able to start a woman's meeting, but has visited in the homes of the Christians and others. Since she began the work there has been a better attendance of the Christian women at the weekly prayer-meetings and Sunday services.

On account of several removals, the woman's meeting in Ejiri has been broken up for a time, but a children's meeting is held and visits are paid wherever it is possible to gain admission to the homes. The work at the other places continues much the same as the previous quarter—587 visits have been made throughout the district, nineteen homes visited for the first time, and seventy meetings held. We are glad to be able to report four baptisms—two in Shizuoka, one in Omiya and one in Fujiyeda. The children's meeting at Shimada has had an average attendance of seventy, at Ejiri forty-five, and at Kakegawa five. Average attendance at the three Sunday Schools conducted by pupils from the school is 103.

#### KOFU BRANCH.

*School.*—This term has been a somewhat broken one in the school work, but we feel it has been one of progress. Thirty-two pupils have been enrolled; of these, four were graduated, two in both English and Japanese, and two in Japanese only. One of these graduates returns to the school for a time, and another, Noguch O Zuki san, continues her studies in our Azabu school. We had the pleasure of seeing O Zuki san and three others of our students baptized in March. The closing exercises of the school year passed off successfully, the Governor of the Province and several educational dignitaries being present.

The King's Daughters are supporting a little orphan girl in the school, though not as a regular student. She is the daughter of a former teacher who died a year ago. She is a very unpromising child, and we are afraid we shall not be able to do much with her.

One of our former graduates, who left the school at the end of the year, has opened a Sunday School in her own home and has an attendance of eight or nine children every Sunday. She is the only child of wealthy parents. She is allowed to keep the Sabbath, and has already impressed those around her with the earnest sincerity of her faith. She provides the Sunday School cards she uses, herself.

A rival girls' school—non-religious—has just been started; in time it may prove a formidable rival, but at present our own prospects were never brighter. We already have a large number of applications for the new term. The fact that our school is Christian is a great objection to many, but, nevertheless, it is acknowledged a good school and parents feel that their daughters are safe with us.

*Evangelistic.*—The winter term is the best for evangelistic work. There has been much to encourage—increased attendance at several of the women's meetings and a manifest interest in the truth on the part of several. The church services have been well attended by both Christian and non-Christian women. Fifty-eight meetings have been held, with an average of over eleven, and eighteen children's

meetings, with an average of sixteen; 316 visits have been made to non-Christian homes, and 273 to Christian homes, giving a total of 589 visits. We report one baptism and some requests for baptism. Seventy five sessions of our seven Sunday Schools have been held, with an aggregate attendance of 2,033 and an average of twenty-seven. Thus there are nearly 200 children under our instruction every Sabbath.

The Lord does show us tokens for good. Because He has been our help, therefore in the shadow of His wings shall we rejoice.

#### KANAZAWA BRANCH.

Our visiting list for the past quarter shows that 101 homes have been visited, twelve of them for the first time; 311 visits have been paid in all.

Our two regular weekly meetings for the women of the church have been well attended, the average being nine and ten respectively.

The Orphanage has had no additions since the autumn, so our number remains at sixteen. The eldest boy has done good work this winter as assistant at the Kawakami night school, and we have felt much satisfaction at the continued improvement of the children generally.

Beyond the routine of the general work, there is little to report. The weeks have been fuller than usual, but as the extra work has come in great part in connection with the Kawakami school, where the necessity for a change of teachers has called for much thought and rearrangement of work, we can speak of but little that seems like advancement yet. We trust, however, that we have entered on the beginning of brighter days. The embroidery teacher continues satisfactory, and the five girls who have remained with us are faithful in attendance at Sunday School and night school and seem to appreciate the advantages of the school more than formerly. Three new pupils have come in recently, and several of the former pupils still attend our meetings and are visited in their homes by the Bible woman. The mother's meeting has been largely attended, the number of women ranging from twenty to forty.

The Poor School in the Daijime District is in a very satisfactory condition now, the serious illness of the teacher and his wife during the winter being the only cause of anxiety. There are eighteen children working during the day, and the Sunday School has an enrollment of thirty-four, with an average attendance of twenty. The weekly meeting held there averages about the same as the Sunday School, with the addition of nine or ten adults.

MINNIE A. ROBERTSON, *Cor. Sec.*

#### FRUIT FROM SEED SOWN IN JAPAN.

The Auxiliaries will be pleased to hear not only from our missionaries, but occasionally from those who have received their teaching.

The following extracts are from a letter to Mrs. Large, who has kindly consented to their publication. They are written by one who was a graduate of the Azabu School, Tokyo, and who taught the Charity School in that neighborhood, Yoshida O Yu san, who has married and moved to Tacoma, U. S.

"I am remembering you and Kato and others in my daily prayers. I am anxious about your health, and very often I wished very much that I can get near you to do something for you. Yesterday evening I had English singing alone and sung some hymns which I have learned in the school. Among them I sang 'He leadeth me,' and I stopped to think about it a while, then the memory of you came back to me, and reminded you. The farewell meeting of you when we had it in the church, that hymn had been sung by all who came, and we prayed for you that He will lead you while you are away from us a year. When I thought our Father is just same to-day and He is guiding still you as ever before and after. As He leadeth you He will lead me to the path which I will take; and my thoughts came up and I was comforted and left all anxious thoughts on you and other my friends and mine in the hand of Heavenly Father. I am away from my own country and friends whom can talk with native language, and often have quiet times to think about future, etc. I often reminded the verse which you gave to us some time ago: Rev. ii. 10: 'Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.' Though you are suffering with your sickness, etc., yet the Lord is near and His strength is sufficient to you. It may not be very long you to suffer, He will bring you easy time. I hope and pray that you are resting at the foot of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

"Since I came to this country I learned many things, and especially I have experienced that prayer is power. If I have not known Jesus and to come Him, I cannot be in strange country.

"While I was in the school I often saw the words: 'His strength is sufficient for thee,' but now it is more than ever before, and His strength is sufficient for me. I wish that I can tell you all my feeling, but cannot write.

"Mr. Y. [her husband] has been in this country nearly ten years, and is inclined to go back to live in his own country, Japan, but it is not decided yet. I have not any objection to stay or leave this country; the Lord is preparing a way to take, and I will follow and obey His will. If I go back to my own country I can do His work straightly to the people; and though the time is very short, yet I have been among Christians and experienced and learned many things which I could not learn staying in Japan, so I am thankful for it, and if He will let us stay more in this country I shall be glad to stay. My way in future is preparing by the Lord, and He will lead me as best way for me and His work, I believe.

"Mr. X. was intending to join the Church last month when I joined, but he wished to wait little longer, so when July comes he will be quite ready to join. We have prayer together every day, and we talk about the Bible very often. Sunday afternoon we almost always have talks on the Bible. We want to study the Bible every night in certain times, but very often we are prevented by visitors. Will you please pray for him? He had not much time to study the Bible before, so he wants to study more and more. When we will see you some day he will be Christian publicly. Please take good care of yourself."

## INDIAN WORK.

From Mrs. Rednor.

PORT SIMPSON, B.C., April 21st, 1896.

In some respects the last quarter has been the most trying period of my stay here. The constant watchfulness necessary to properly guard these children leaves but little rest for the body and none for the mind, except time spent in sleep. We have had more sickness among the children this spring than in the three years previous. La grippe has been prevalent all along the Coast, and has affected the children very seriously. Many have been taken away. Fanny Ryan, of whom I have spoken before (as failing with consumption) was laid to rest one week ago. Fannie was one of our most promising girls, but has been slowly failing since last September. For some time it was only a tired feeling and a weary look, but soon after Christmas she began to cough at night—very little during the day. She was more ambitious than most of the girls, and was bright and cheerful until about three weeks before her death. Two weeks previous to her death she walked down home with her mother; was very tired when she reached there and laid down on her little bed on the floor, from which she never rose again. Owing to the change from a good comfortable bedroom, with the best care we could possibly give her both night and day, the very reverse of these, she took a most severe cold. It may have been la grippe, such as the others were having, but she sank very rapidly, suffering very much. We continued doing all we could to make her comfortable, as the poor mother was unable to care for her in the least. It was a relief to know that she had gone where pain and suffering are no more. She gave clear evidence of her acceptance with Christ. And although she has not lived for a long life of usefulness, we realize that time and means spent in her behalf have not been in vain, for she has been saved from a life of sin and shame, and has her place among the redeemed.

Little Mary Maxwell, eight years of age, left us yesterday to go to her own home. Mary was not a very strong child, and is failing very fast. It is only two weeks since she was first attacked with la grippe, and now to all appearances she is near the end of her journey.

Martha Bradley, who has had a severe attack of pleurisy, the result of la grippe, is recovering, and we hope in a day or two will be out of danger.

Nellie Tenas, who has a diseased hip, has been confined to her bed for five weeks, having had la grippe in the meantime. Dr. Bolton intends operating to-morrow to remove the diseased part. Nellie was in the hospital for treatment two years ago, and was discharged apparently cured. It is only recently that it has troubled her again. We are praying that God may bless the means used for her restoration, and that she may be spared for a long life of usefulness.

The remainder of the twenty-four girls have nearly all been sick with la grippe, but not seriously. The doctor has done all that was possible to be done for them. Too much cannot be said in regard to his faithful care and interest in them. For five weeks he has visited them every day, and for some time twice and three times a day.

We might have felt somewhat discouraged at times had it not been for Him who was and is our Counsellor and Friend, always a present help in time of need. We also try to bear in mind that the work is the Lord's. And we are His. He will do what is best for both.

Apart from sickness, the girls have been doing very well. We have much to be thankful for, even though there have been a few hard places in our path.

We are now trying to prepare for the friends who are coming to District Meeting. This has always been a bright spot in the year; we trust it will not be less so this year, and that we may be profited by meeting together for a short time.

We are also looking forward very anxiously to a visit from Dr. Carman and Rev. Mr. Woodsworth, of Manitoba, and hope to be cheered and blessed by their visit. We have been wishing that some of the ladies of W. M. S. could accompany Dr. Carman, but we hear he is coming alone.

## SUGGESTED PROGRAMME FOR AUGUST MEETING.

## I. Opening Exercises :

"To know that millions are perishing body and soul : to possess the means which might save both ; to withhold the same and let them perish,—is what?"—*Geo. D. Douckontt, M. D.*

## II. Regular Business.

## III. Hymn.

## IV. Subjects for prayer for the month : " African and Jewish Missions."

"Ethiopia has stretched out her hands. The Church of Christ has seen her manacles and slave yokes ; has seen her men, women and children staggering from vile drink ; has heard the bitter cries and dying moans, and has begun the greatest task that Christ ever laid upon His bride, that is, to liberate 200,000,000 people who are spiritually dead ; who have deformed minds and crippled faculties ; whose very existence and condition is a continual and persistent prayer to the Christian and civilized nations of the earth to help this infant race up to their own level. God is in the work. It cannot fail."—*Mission Studies.*

## V. Prayer. Can we forget that it was a man from Africa who carried the Saviour's Cross?

## VI. Map Exercise.

"Bound Africa ; mention its size, its political divisions ; and give its population. Point out the great rivers, principal lakes and mountains, and describe the great desert. Refer to any modern geography. Africa has been made an island, artificially, by the Suez Canal, which is one hundred miles long, and wide enough to afford passage for large steamships, thus avoiding the long passage around the Cape of Good Hope. The coast of Africa is peculiar, having no bays or inlets of any size."

## VII. Readings.\* Subject: "Africa." (Readings should be taken by different members.)

## VIII. The Watch Tower.

## IX. Hymn. Prayer.

\* See "Students' Campaigner," July. Price 2 cents, at Room 20. Please enclose two cents additional for postage and wrapping. The Room will be closed as usual during August. Kindly send all orders by July 25th.

There has not been any programme prepared for September, as that is the month for the Annual Meeting. See Constitution, article vi., page 170.

## HOME READINGS.

The Opium Traffic. . . . . *Missionary Review*, February, 1896, page 37.

The Present Position of the Anti-

Opium Movement. . . . . *Missionary Review*, April, 1896, page 265.

## INCREASE.

BAY OF QUINTE CONFERENCE BRANCH.

Your g's School House Auxiliary. | Cressy Auxiliary. | Solmesville Auxiliary.

## REPORT OF SUPPLY COMMITTEE.

A letter was received a few weeks ago from Miss Spence, the indefatigable nurse at Port Simpson; accompanying the letter was a small box containing a few shells and moss work. The young girl whose trembling fingers made a cross and horse-shoe of moss, had been an inmate of the hospital since New Year's. She is dying of tuberculosis of the lungs. Miss Spence says "a great many of these girls die of consumption. They mature early and many of them are unable to cope with the rapid development and gradually sink into early graves. They marry quite young. The parents arrange the marriages, and often before full development the cares of motherhood are thrust upon them. At times it is impossible to find one to work in our kitchen. Some of them make very good domestics, but will only remain for a short time, as they are either betrothed before their arrival or shortly afterwards."

After Miss Lawrence left the hospital, Miss Spence for several weeks had the care of ten patients, and for a while no one to do the kitchen work. They were very much pleased to welcome Miss Stephenson.

Miss Spence asks if our Committee could send them a few dishes for the table, as she pays \$2.00 per dozen for the commonest cups and saucers, and as the hospital is not in the most independent circumstances financially, Miss Spence herself has paid for these necessaries. She asked for cups, saucers, small plates, soup plates, sauce dishes and spoons, also a few feeding cups for invalids.

To give some idea of how beautifully things work together, let me tell you some weeks ago, when the Secretary went into the Mission Rooms, she was greeted with this question: "Do you know of any mission needing cups and saucers and plates, as we have some to give away?" We said we did not, just then, but enquiries could be made. When Miss Spence's letter arrived, a hasty visit was again paid to the Mission Rooms to inquire what had become of those cups and saucers. They were still there, two dozen of each. After purchasing one dozen soup plates and some feeding cups, they were carefully packed and are now on their way to Port Simpson hospital, with a few quilts from some Auxiliary which sent no name, some pretty little dolls from Huntsville, and a beautiful autograph quilt from the Bethesda Junior Class, Tyrone Circuit. This was the most beautifully worked quilt that had ever been sent to the Committee and was greatly admired by all to whom it was shown. A parcel of towels, etc., was sent from the Mission Band of St. Paul's Church and Miss Matthews' Class, of Toronto.

Dear sisters, our object in writing about these cups and saucers is to move the hearts of some of you who read, to forward to the Secretary your mite towards defraying the freight expenses of this box. The Committee have no funds at their disposal outside of their own pockets, and when parcels come from different parts of the country to be shipped to missions, freight has to be paid; therefore we will be glad of any amount, no matter how small, that you can send us—even a three-cent stamp will help.

R. M. BRIGGS.

Parcels for the North-West, containing quilts and clothing, can be sent to the Methodist Book Room, addressed to the Secretary, Mrs. W. Briggs.