

HIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

PUBLISHED BY

the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, Canada
ROOM 20, WESLEY BUILDINGS.

Vol. XV.]
No. 1.]

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1898.

[Price 5c.
a year.]

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

That increased spiritual power may come upon the membership, missionaries and preachers, and that secret believers in the mission field may be taught of the Spirit.

CHINA—THE ORPHANAGE.

From Miss Brooks.

August 3rd 1897.

Miss Foster has gone with some of the Chinese to the prayer service at Mr. Hartwell's. I am "having an eye" on the babies. The small one—Miss Ford's—is one of the brightest children I have ever seen, and is a great pet with everyone. They are both as healthy as possible; the older one has rather a bad temper, but otherwise is very nice.

We have carpenters engaged making bedroom furniture. We gave them a picture (cut from a Toronto paper) and dimensions, and they produced exceedingly good results. It was a great surprise to me at first.

To-day has been the hottest of the season, and studying is hard work.

August 25th.

It seems like an age since I wrote the above; neither Miss Foster nor I have written since. The days intervening have been very busy ones, and when evening came we were too hot and tired.

We are all settled in our new home now, and very nice it is. We expect Miss Brackbill and Dr. Killam next week. It still continues very hot. Yesterday it was ninety-six degrees in the shade.

We have taken another girl in since Miss Brackbill left. She is about thirteen years of age. Her parents are both dead, and she had been making her home with a married brother, who lives two days' journey away. He was very poor, and his wife brought the girl into the city here to sell her; but failing to get her price—1,000 cash, equal to about fifty or sixty cents—she turned her out on the streets, where our night watchman found her, with very little clothing and nearly starved. Her case was almost more pitiable to me than that of the babies, so we decided to take her in; and unless Miss Brackbill sees some objection, I shall support her as a boarding-school girl. She is looking much better now, but is very dull yet. I have been trying to teach her characters, but she does not appear to have much mind or memory for them. However, I am hoping she will brighten up as she feels better. The first thing she has shown much interest in was a handkerchief I gave her to hem to-day. She has been with us two weeks.

From Miss Brackbill.

“The harvest truly is plenteous,
The laborers are few.”

CHENTU, Sept. 24th, 1897.

Your letter of June 7th arrived here yesterday, and the *Guardian* containing the advertisement for another nurse and doctor. It is needless to tell you how glad we all were that the ladies had at once seen the need for reinforcement, and acted accordingly. How we do hope and pray that the ones fittest for the work may come forth in response to this

call. They are needed, and the opportunities for work are opening up faster than we will be able to meet them.

Yes, indeed, we will be glad when the noise and confusion of building is over. The dormitories were raised yesterday, and are being covered to-day. We are building larger than we expected, as we found our plans were on too small a scale.

We are all well, the ladies studying hard each day; the babies thriving; school girls happy as can be.

How I wish you could drop in and see us in our own home and at work. Then you would understand matters so much better. We pray that you may be guided in your annual meeting.

FRENCH MISSION SCHOOLS.

SOWING AND REAPING.

Extracts from Miss Matthieu's reports.

"Some time ago I visited a Roman Catholic family, fully expecting they would send their little boy to our school. The child had never been to school and seemed pleased with the idea when his mother partly consented to his coming, but the grandmother chimed in, saying, 'he must not be sent to a Protestant school,' and that finished my work there for a time. Some time afterwards I called again, when the grandmother told me her daughter was out, but just then the mother and child appeared. She remembered my face and gave me a cordial invitation to enter her parlor. In a few minutes she consented to have her little boy attend our school, gave me his name and age, paid a month's fee, and promised to bring him the next morning. When I entered the school-room next morning they were there. Last time I called she assured me she would send her daughter later, who was then at a convent. This may seem but a trifling evidence of success, but it cheers me wonderfully."

"At another time I met with two Christian invalids who are seldom visited by pastor or Christian workers. They have drawn strongly upon my sympathies, one of them being paralyzed and quite helpless. Her husband met with an accident lately, and is in one of our hospitals. She seems

so very lonely, as she is cared for by strangers, who are Roman Catholics. When I asked to read and pray with the sick, these strangers quickly disappear. The sweet smile of thanks from one who had lost the power of speech meant so much. I hope to speak with these Roman Catholic women on my next visit, perhaps they may accept a tract."

"In the early part of March I was made to feel that our instruction in the school-room in the past had been a blessing to some who had left us. A woman from Quebec city called at our school, and asked if we had a school book to spare, as she wished to purchase a reading book for a French Roman Catholic boy who lived out of the city and could not attend school. Three years ago he had attended our school for a few weeks, and had finished the book he took with him at that time. He was allowed to read from it, but not from the Testament. I thought of this boy as a pupil for our Institute in the future."

The mission schools in Montreal re-opened on the first of September, and the teachers are continuing their work with patience and perseverance. It was decided by the committee on French work that sewing should be taught. In the East End Miss Desmarais takes charge of the sewing class, while Miss Matthieu teaches the boys drawing. In the West End, Miss Jackson had not time to devote to this work, consequently it has been undertaken by ladies connected with the city auxiliaries. It is also their intention to teach knitting and darning, and thus fit our girls for greater usefulness in their homes.

The Band of Hope, which was organized last year, is much appreciated by the children. Rev. T. Roy addressed one of the meetings in October, and promised to come again.

It is encouraging to know that five pupils from our Mission Schools have entered the Institute this year

We trust the members of our Society will remember these schools in their prayers, that while instruction is being given to their minds, their hearts may be won and their feet guided into the paths of truth and righteousness.

FRANCES H. KNOX,
Secy. Com.

AN INDIAN POTLATCH.

An Indian wishing to be called a great chief, will for many years deny himself almost everything in order to save his money and blankets that he may build a large house and give a great feast and potlatch. Potlatch means a gift.

When he has enough money he puts up the post to his house. As soon as the house is enclosed, he calls his people from villages far and near to come to the feast. Dancing will be continued for several successive days and nights. The dancing is very strange; the men stand on one side of the house, and the women on the opposite side, swaying themselves backward and forward, and then from side to side, singing all the time a dull, low song. They are dressed in furs and Chileat blankets: handsome blankets trimmed with red cloth and many rows of white pearl buttons. They wear wooden masks, made in the shape of a bear's head, or that of a wolf, a whale, a crow, or an eagle; some are very beautifully carved and painted. These are preserved, some having been kept for many generations.

If the man giving the feast has had any disputes or quarrels with any of his friends, there must now be a settlement before the feasting is begun. Several of the best young men are selected from the tribe, and are carried bodily by stout men into the house of the enemy, where they are fed and given the very best the house affords. After a little time white eagle feathers are placed upright in the hair of one of the men, signifying that a reconciliation is desired; if the man allows the feathers to remain, it is understood that he is ready for peace, which is then declared. After a day or two more of hospitality from the enemy, the young men are carried out of the house and returned to their own homes and tribe, and the feasting is begun.

Large earthen bowls, filled with seal oil and berries, also crackers, are placed before the guests who have gathered into the new house and are squatted upon the floor. This food is eaten in large quantities and with great relish. After the feasting the potlatch begins. Hundreds of blankets, large bolts of muslin, etc., are distributed among the guests. Some of the blankets are given out whole,

M

while others are torn into strips ten and twelve inches in width. The calico and muslin are given out in yard lengths. This would seem a great waste of material, but the pieces of blankets are sewn together very neatly by the women, and made into shirts or coats. Some are, indeed, quite pretty, and might well be termed coats of many colors.

The man giving the feast has made himself absolutely poor, having given away all his hard years' earnings; but it matters not, for by his much giving he has become a very great chief, and his name will go down to posterity.

I

QUESTION DRAWER.

1. How many missions to the Indians are supported (wholly or partially) by the W. M. S.?
2. Name and point out on map.
3. Name missionaries of the W. M. S. stationed at the Crosby Girls' Home, Dr. Bolton's Hospital, the Coqualeetza Institute, and Kitamaat (see pages lxi. and lxxv).
4. What are their duties?
5. Give recommendations made by the Committee on Indian Affairs at the last Board Meeting (see page xii).
6. Illustrate, by incident, the important work done on our Indian missions through the agency of the Supply Committee (see page xxxii).

INCREASE.

Hamilton Conference—Ebenezer Mission Circle (Nassagaweya Circuit).

New Brunswick—Buctouche Auxiliary, Oromocto Auxiliary, Buctouche Band, Miltown Band.

P. E. I.—Pleasant Valley Auxiliary, Crapand Auxiliary.

Bay of Quinte—Melville Auxiliary, Burr's Church Auxiliary, Picton Jubilee Mission Band,

Suggested Programme—February.

Subjects for Prayer and Study.

The Indians of our Dominion.

The Methodist Orphanage in Newfoundland.

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

- I. Opening Exercises: "The Indians have the same affections, passions, desires and capacities that other people have. A somewhat careful study of them in face-to-face contact on the Reservation, in their homes, and in the Government schools, has led to the firm conviction that, as a class, under favorable conditions, they are self-respecting, noble-minded, and responsive to all rightful appeals to their better nature.—*The Spirit of Missions.*
- II. Regular Business.
- III. Hymn.
- IV. The Watch-Tower.
- V. Question Drawer.*
- VI. Reading, "How the Gospel came to Port Simpson."†
- VII. Prayer for the utter destruction of the Red Man's strongest foe—the liquor traffic.

Mr. Hayter Reed, in his concluding report as Deputy Superintendent of Indian affairs, says: "Taking the Dominion throughout, the conduct of the Indians has been all that could be expected, save as regards intemperance, of which there has been a good deal, more particularly in the older provinces and British Columbia. As to drinking, there is no doubt the Indian is much more sinned against than sinning; and, considering his extreme infirmity when exposed to the temptation of drink, it may be a matter of congratulation that he has not given way to a much greater extent than he really has."

- VIII. Hymn. Benediction.*

* See Question Drawer on page 6. Answers will be found in the W. M. S. Annual Report, 1896-97; they should be *told* in the briefest manner possible. Do not fail to use map of British Columbia, cannot be supplied at Room 20.

† See "Our Work Series No. XI," just issued. Price 1 cent, at Room 20.

NOTICES TO AUXILIARIES.

COLLECTION ENVELOPE.—We recommend to all our auxiliaries the new envelope plan for systematic giving. The plan is a very simple one: A packet of twelve small envelopes is enclosed in a larger envelope, each packet having a different number. The Secretary in distributing the envelopes will keep a record of the numbers *only*. Those holding envelopes will place each month in one of the twelve envelopes the amount they may be led to give—not necessarily the same amount each month. At the close of the year the Secretary may read out each number with the amount contributed. By this means no one will know what has been given by any other number than their own. The object is not to take the place of the useful little Mite-box, but to “gather up the fragments” systematically. Price per packet, 1 cent.

OUR W. M. S. PIN.—A fresh supply of our W.M.S. pins, a silver star encircling the world, will be ready about the middle of December. These stars will be attached as pendants to a small pin, and will make an acceptable and appropriate Christmas gift for a member of our Society. Price 25 cents. May be ordered from Room 20 and the Branch Depots.

CATALOGUE OF BOOKS IN CIRCULATING LIBRARY AT ROOM 20.

TERMS FOR BORROWERS.—Five cents a week and return postage. A book can be held for two weeks from the time received. If retained longer without notice of renewal, a fine of 3 cents per day will be imposed. A book may be renewed for an additional two weeks at the same rates.

(Please preserve the following list for reference.)

	PAGES
China and Its People. Withrow	301
China and the Chinese.....	80
Western China. V. C. Hart	306
A Retrospect. J. Hudson Taylor.....	428
A History of the Sze-chuen Riots. A. Cunningham, Shanghai	68
Native Races of North America. Withrow.....	200
The Indians, Whence Came They? Who Are They? Their Manners and Customs. Maclean.....	350

James Evans, Inventor of the Syllabic System of the Cree Language. Maclean	208
Mission Life in the North-West. Semmens	169
Forest, Lake and Prairie. McDougall	267
By Canoe and Dog-Train. Young	267
Kin-da-shon's Wife. (A Story of Alaska.) By Willard ..	516
Our India Mission. A. Gordon	516
The Pundita Ramabai	
The Bishop's Conversion (A Story of Mission Life in India). Maxwell	384
Adoniram Judson, the Apostle of Burma. Marrat	128
Through the Dark Continent. Stanley	312
Memoirs of Mrs. Rebecca Wakefield, missionary in Zanzibar	313
Dr. David Livingstone. Mossman	81
Australia and Homeward. Lucas	336
Japan, the Land of the Morning. Saunby	302
Life of Rev. J. Hardy Neesima	156
South America, the Neglected Continent	182
Missionary Scene in Many Lands. Barrass	200
My Mission Garden (Ceylon). Langdon	200
A Missionary Among Cannibals: or, The Life of John Hunt. By Rowe	236
The Hawaiian Islands, Their Resources, Agricultural, Commercial and Financial	95
The Illustrated Christian World for 1897	
The Great Value and Success of Foreign Missions Liggins	237
Music—Duet for Tenor and Alto, "Ho! Reapers!" Two copies. Songs of the Orient. Two copies	57
Music for the Kindergarten	57
Modern Heroes of the Mission Field. Bishop of Ossory	344
Letters and Sketches from the New Hebrides Mrs. J. G. Paton	382
Story of the Fisk Jubilee Singers (with their songs). Marsh.	243
Prize Essay on Missions—The Heathen World: Its Need of the Gospel, and the Church's Obligation to Supply It. By Patterson	293
Miracles of Missions. Pierson	193
Gist. By Lily Ryde. Gracey	203
Systematic Beneficence—Three Prize Essays	124
The Religions of the World. Grant	137
Historical Sketches of Woman's Missionary Societies in England and the United States. Hart	204
Roberts' Rules of Order	192
Guide to the Conduct of Meetings. Fish	189

Maps of China, Japan and British Columbia, hand-painted on cotton, about one yard square, 25 cents. To be carefully enclosed and returned the day after being used.

Manuscripts—Send 3 cents for postage. Systematic Giving by a Systematic Giver. Chinese Religious Faiths. A. W. Briggs. The Relation of the Auxiliary to the Mission Board. Helen A. Sheppard.

M 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 Lands, 80 cents, beginning with January number; Illustrated Christian World, 75 cents; Message and Deaconess World, 50 cents; The Doctor's Cross and Medical Missionary Record, \$1.00—to missionaries and student volunteers, 50 cents.

LEAFLETS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

Please Send Remittance With Order.

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

(A signifies Adult; J, Juvenile.)

Each Per

1	Christmas Cantata for choir and school, or quartette and chorus .....	.10	
	Countries—* A Powerful Factor (French-Canada).....	.01	.10
	China. By Dr. J. T. Gracey .....	.15	
	India. By Rev. E. Storrow. In two parts .....	.35	
	Metlakahla.....	.05	.25
	Our Work Series—No. 2. Our Chinese Rescue Home; No. 3, Our Work in Japan; No. 4. Medical Work Among the Indians in B.C.; No. 5, Manners and Customs of the Indians of Simpson District, B.C.; No. 6, Manners, Customs and Religion of the French-Canadians; No. 7. Trials and Triumphs of Methodism in the North-West; No. 8, A Beacon-Light in Japan; No. 9, Present State of the Work Among the French-Canadians; No. 10. Some Facts About our French-Canadian Mission; per 100, 75 cents.....	.01	.10
	The Chinese Women of this Country .....	.01	.10
	The Claims of India.....	.02	.24
	The Needs of South America.....	.02	.24
	*The Neglected Continent..... Single copy free.		
	Woman in China .....	.01	.10
	Woman's Rights in India.....	.01	.10
	Women of the Lower Congo .....	.01	.10
	(A J) Who will Open the Door for Ling Te? .....	.02	.15
	(A J) Question Book Series—Japan and Korea, China, Chinese in America, Mexico, India, Siam and Laos, Africa, Persia, South America, and Syria		
	10 in set, 50c.	.05	
	Some Curious Things About Japan.....	.02	.20
	Medical—Murdered Millions..... Cloth, 35c.; paper,	.17	
	Medical Work Among the Indians in B.C.....	.01	.10
	Kania, A Story .....	.02	.20
	Supply—Beginnings at Muddy Creek .....	.02	.15
	(J) Clare's Part.....	.01	.10

	Each	Per doz.
clips for Workers—Do They Understand? .....	.01	.12
A Question of Delegates and One of Expenses .....	.02	.15
Collection Envelopes, one large containing 12 small...	.01	
Experience of an Auxiliary President .....	.01	.10
Duties of Auxiliary Officers	free	
Happy Hints for Mission Bands—music and programmes .....	.05	.50
The Auxiliary Member Between Meetings. 65c. hund.	.01	.10
Fuel for Missionary Fires .....	.55	
Rules of Order .....	.05	.30
Scattered Helpers' Leaflets and Cards.....	free	
Methods of Work, and Suggestions for Young People's Societies	Sample copy free	.08
*W. M. S. Books—Rec. Sec. and Treas., 60c. each, the set, \$1.00.		
Treasurer's Quarterly Report Book	free	
Appeal—A Basket Secretary .....	.02	.15
A Call to Young Women..... 25c. per hundred	.01	.04
* Christian Missions and the Temperance Reform .....	.02	.15
*(A.J) Cicero's Call .....	.02	.20
How Much Do I Owe? .....	.01	.05
Her Son .....	.05	
* If They Only Knew..... 75c. per hundred	.01	.10
Inasmuch .....	.01	.12
Personal Responsibility (Narrative).....	.02	.20
Not for the Heathen Merely, but for Christ.....	.01	.06
She Hath Done What She Thought She Couldn't.....	.01	.10
The Revolt in the Hall Closet .....	.02	.15
The Voices of the Women.....	.01	.16
The Responsibility of Not Doing .....	.01	.10
Unemployed Talent in the Church .....	.02	.20
Why Our Society did not Disband .....	.02	.20
Will You Offer Prayer this Afternoon? .....	.02	.20
Winding Up a Horse	free	
Giving—A Talk on Mite-Boxes.....	.02	.20
A Tithe for the Lord..... 50c. per hundred	.01	.10
God's Tenth. A True Story.....	.03	.30
* Have You a Mite-Box?	free	
How Much do I Owe.....	.01	.05
Mrs. Bartlett's Thank-Offering.....	.01	.10
Proportionate Giving (an exercise). By M. B. Willmott		
35c. per hundred	.01	.05
(J) A Partnership. A Penny a Week and a Prayer.....	.02	.24
(A J) Experiences of Some Mite-Boxes.....	free	
Miss Witterly's China.....	.01	.10
(J) Tother and Which.....	.01	.05
Ten Reasons for Tithing.....	free	
The Grace of Liberality.....	.01	.10
The Wilful Gifts and the Disconcerted Deacons.....	.02	.20
What We Owe and How to Pay It.....	.01	.10
Winding Up a Horse.....	free	

		Each	Perdo
M	Miscellaneous—Cycle of Prayer	\$2.00 per hundred	.03 .30
	* A Missionary's Outfit	50c. per hundred	.01 .10
	Charlotte Marie Tucker (A.L.O.E.).....		.03
	Facts on Foreign Missions. By Dr. Wanless.....		.05 .30
	Helping Together with Prayer.....		.01 .08
	John G. Paton. Story of His Life.....		.10
	(J) Little Corners.....		.01 .10
	*(AJ) Missionary Game.....		.50
	* Missionary Standard of Living and What It Means to be a Foreign Missionary		free
	Origin and Work of the W.M.S		free
	* The Man that Died for Me.....		.01 .10
	The Mission of Failures.....		.02 .15
	The Measuring Rod ....		.01 .10
	Women Under the Ethnic Religions.....		.02 .20
	Why Are We Protestants?.....		.05 .50
	Recitations and Poems—(J) A Mite-Box Song.....		.03 .20
	* Arguments For and Against Missionary Work. By Mrs. Hardy. An exercise .....		.03 .30
	* Bible Responses to Missionary Questions ...65c. per 100		.01 .10
	*(AJ) Behold, the Fields are White (music) .....		.03 .20
	*(A) Ho! Reapers! Duet for Tenor and Alto.....		.30
	How Some Little Dollies came to go as Missionaries (for four little girls)	4 copies 12c.	.04
	Happy Hints for Mission Bands. Music and Programmes.....		.05 .50
	Missionary Songs By E. Lorenz, words and music....		.25 2.50
	Proportionate Giving. An exercise ..35c. per hundred		.01 .05
	(J) The Light of the World is Jesus (for 15 children)		.02 .20
	"So Much to do at home." "Unawares." (J) "A Little Brown Penny." *What is That in Thine Hand. *A Lady. Each poem .....		.01 .10
	Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.		
	Blue Pasteboard Mite-Boxes		free
	Postage and wrappings, 3 cents each, or per express, carriage paid on delivery.		
	* W.M.S. Pin, Silver Star .....		.20
	" " " pendant and superior quality. ....		.25
	Mission Band Pin, small silver star.....		.10
	Life Membership Certificate, Auxiliary .....		.25
	" " " Illuminated.....		1.00
	" " " Mission Band.....		free
	Postage and wrapping, 3 cents each, 12 cents for 6.		

For the above, Address MISS A. L. OGDEN,

ROOM 20, WESLEY BUILDINGS, RICHMOND ST. WEST, TORONTO, ONT.
Open every morning.

Also, MRS. C. STEWART, care of Rev. Dr. Stewart, Sackville, N.B.
Or MISS ELLA NELSON, 7th 4 MAIN ST., WINNIPEG, MAN.

⚠ Please note that no Monthly Letters or Reports are to be ordered from Branch Depots. Write to Room 20, Wesley Buildings, Toronto, for them.