

THIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH.

Monthly Letter.

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SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER—DECEMBER.

Medical mission and dispensary work, that through the healing of the body the soul may be touched. Our work in China, and the work of Dr. Bolton on the Pacific coast. Heb. x. 36.

JAPAN.

From Miss Preston.

KOFU, *October 9th, 1894.*

I have been a full month now in my Kofu home. The familiar life at home is fast receding into the past, and it would almost seem as if I had hardly left Japan, were it not that the experiences of the year at home form a part of my inner world and leave their ineffaceable mark there. One is better able, too, to compare things Japanese with things foreign after a fresh glimpse of the home-life.

Some people who return to Japan after a visit at home are disappointed in it, everything seems so small. But

while things and people do appear diminutive to me — as they are — I appreciate with heightened feelings of admiration the beauty of nature in Japan mountains, soft in the hazy distance, fields of vegetables, waving rice-fields in almost unbroken masses, unmarred by unsightly fences, the farm landscape a mass of brightest green, and the whole effect softened and intensified by the beauty of the warm summer sky.

Japan is beautiful, and here in Kofu we have given to us a rich share of the beautiful scenery. I count as one of our blessings, the privilege of enjoying such scenery. Mountains surrounding us on every side, with Fuji now gleaming white in its snowy covering, rearing its proud head high over all the green rice-fields of the plain; now changing to yellow a landscape, varied by numerous houses and trees dotting the plain, and often times, crowning all, great snowy-cloud billows or a golden sunset sky. To be sure, there is an off-set to this, strong cold winter winds and frequently a hard journey in getting here. This time I felt the rough shaling and jolting in the "basha," the long ride, and the indigified but necessary bargaining with "basha" men very much. We had bad roads and rain, and to cap the climax our "basha" upset; but, fortunately, not one of us was hurt. There were four in our party and two Japanese men besides. As we went over, no one uttered a word, we preserved a dignified silence; but we were compelled to crawl out of the "basha" in anything but a dignified fashion.

Familiar scenes and short absence from them make the change less marked from the home-life to life in Japan. It is very nice to be amongst Kofu friends, and the old life comes back to me quite readily.

The work in the school and amongst the women and children is fairly going now. All through there is much to encourage. A number of changes are being made in the school staff—old teachers leaving and new ones taking their place.

One of our brightest students died during the holidays. She was a Christian girl, and had been over three years in the school. Two of her sisters, who were also students for a time, are both Christians. One of our little Sunday-school

pupils died very suddenly ; she was looking forward to the opening of the Sunday-school after the summer vacation with great delight, and even in her brief illness talked of it, and we have reason to believe that she, too, had a child's faith in Jesus.

The attendance at our Sunday-schools is very encouraging. Great interest is felt everywhere in the war. Some of our Christians have either gone, or are going, to the seat of war. To-day there is a prayer-meeting in the church and a gathering of friends to give a sincere and heartfelt send-off to one of our young men, a sergeant in one of the Northern regiments, which has been called off on service to Korea. The war does not and is not likely to affect us at all personally. The basis of operations is far away from here and is not likely to change, but we are interested in it because it is the absorbing topic of interest to those around us, and the Japanese are showing themselves so patriotic and brave that it cannot but arouse one's admiration. I understand there are 300,000 soldiers in the Empire, and that of these about 50,000 have gone to the war. So far the war has not affected our school, indeed, we have one or two new pupils coming in.

We are having cold weather, and feel the need of fires and warm clothing.

This is the month for the Branch and Annual meetings. I trust that God's blessing may be richly upon you, that wise decisions may be made, that increased interest in the work and greater inspiration for it may be the result of your meeting together.

CHINA.

From Miss Brackbill.

LING-NGAI-SI, August 27th, 1894.

In a previous letter I spoke of the intense heat in the city, and as this kept on increasing, and the showers, which had occurred on an average once a week, ceased, it became almost impossible to study or do much else in the city, so we decided to take our teachers and go up on the mountains, where several of the people had stayed last summer. It is

nearly two days' chair journey from Chen-tu, and one is obliged to carry their bedding, chairs, toilet articles, etc., along with them. Accommodation can be secured nowhere except in temples, but with a little trouble the rooms can be made very comfortable for a short stay, and the pleasantest spots on the mountains are generally chosen when building these temples. But the best of all is, that it is cool enough to study all day long, and another pleasant feature is, that we are free to go out for exercise, which is something we miss sadly in the city. Personally, the change has done me a great deal of good, as the continued heat and lack of necessary exercise, though not really telling on my health, was depriving me of some of my usual energy. However, as it has been raining, and was much cooler yesterday and to-day, some of us will probably be starting back to the city this week.

Each morning a service in Chinese for the teachers and servants is held, and on Sundays, a Sabbath-school. As several of the teachers and servants of the M. E. Mission party are Christians, we are in hopes our stay here may be beneficial to those natives who came up with us.

The news contained in your last letter of Miss Ford's appointment was very welcome. I trust she may have a pleasant and prosperous voyage and arrive here safely. It seems a great pity that more could not have been sent at the same time, because of the trouble and expense of getting so far inland; and long before they can arrive here and acquire the language, workers will be needed—yes, are needed right at once.

Concerning day schools. It is only possible to keep girls in the day schools here in the East for a very short time, as at a very early age they are not allowed on the street, and thus all influence over them is lost unless we have a school to place them in. Day schools certainly are needed, and would do an excellent work, particularly if one could secure Christian teachers; but they should, I think, be used as feeders for boarding-schools where Christian workers are being trained.

You ask if property can be held by foreigners. It is really leased for a long term of years, but is practically the same as purchased, and is considered so by both parties.

CHINESE WORK IN VICTORIA, B.C.

From Mrs. Morrow.

VICTORIA, B.C., *October 13th, 1894.*

When I sent the annual report and letter, just two weeks ago, I told you that a new girl just from China had been brought to the Home while I was writing, and gave you the story as it was told to me. We have had a most peculiar experience with her. From the Saturday on which she came until midday on the following Tuesday she persistently refused to taste anything, saying we had medicine in everything to make her crazy. I offered to get anything she liked from Chinatown, which she might open herself and do as she liked with, but she would not consent to have food no matter where it came from. At last, on Tuesday, she would take an egg, and then she began to eat everything that was offered her; and, of course, appeared much more contented and satisfied.

In about a week I was served with a notice to appear with her in the Supreme Court to answer why she was taken from her husband, or rather, *alleged* husband. I supposed the Chief of Police would be clear on that point, but after adjournment for^o time to get evidence, we could not prove that there had not been a marriage in China, nor that another woman, with whom the man had lived and is still living, was really his wife; and, somewhat to my sad surprise, when the girl was given her choice she said she would go back to her husband. So the case was lost and the girl has gone back. I felt I had no alternative but to secure legal advice, much as I regret to spend money in that way.

Mary's eyes continue to improve, and I am thankful all may be said to be in health now in the Home

I am sorry that two of those who married when you were here, and Nun Yeo, the last married, have left Victoria and are living more than twenty miles away. Their husbands have taken up fishing as a means of living, but I fear the

wives have a hard life, and they are away from all means of grace.

NOTE.—We commend these young Christian women to the sympathy and prayers of their sisters of the Women's Missionary Society. "If one member suffer, all the members suffer with it."—*Lit. Com.*

SUPPLY COMMITTEE WORK.

From John Semmens.

WINNIPEG, MAN., *October 30th, 1894.*

DEAR MRS. BRIGGS, -Seldom if ever in the history of my missionary work have I witnessed greater poverty than was found last summer at some of the Missions in the far north. It always requires more energy than the average Indian gets credit for to keep from hunger and cold in a sub-arctic wilderness. There are two sources of income possible to him. In the winter months, when the snow lies deep upon the ground, he may hunt for fur, and find a market with the Hudson's Bay Company for all he can bring at fair prices, but when he comes to take up his earnings in tea and sugar, pork and flour, or in blankets, clothing and ammunition, he finds that what appeared to be large earnings are speedily spent, and that the results favorable to himself are meagre and inadequate after all. If it be the right season, he may supplement his wages by the sale of fish, but here, again, the prices paid are not an inducement, and he soon wearies of the toil which fails to bring with it ample reward. Gradually he has fallen into the habit of drifting with the current of passing time, rousing only when pangs of hunger or stress of weather make inaction impossible, or when the wants of the "mother with the children" appeal with irresistible force to the best instincts of his manhood.

The persons of whom we now speak are far beyond the wheat fields of Manitoba, beyond the hire and pay of modern commercial life, beyond the paternal care of the Dominion Government, beyond the Annuities and Gratuities of the Indian Department. They *work* when they must, *wait* while they can, *want* always.

There were special reasons however for the distress of last summer. La grippe had run its disastrous course; measles followed. Many, weakened by the first attack, were unprepared for the second visitation, and fell easy victims to its death-dealing power. Throughout the whole land there was mourning over the dying and the dead.

“There was no flock however watched and tended,
But one dead lamb was there;
There was no fireside howsoe'er defended,
But had one vacant chair.”

Many of those who passed away were heads of families, and their children were left to the care of neighbors, who had children of their own to support. What with watching by the sick, grieving over the departed, and caring for the convalescent, not much hunting was done all the long winter through; and when spring came, the meagre returns of fur did not suffice to prevent abject poverty. Thirteen children in school poorly clad, forty on the hillside in the camps with little or no apparel; one hundred people in church barely presentable, many more at home who could not go out at all for lack of proper covering. I can assure you it was a great pleasure to us to be able to offer some help in the name of the Christian women of Canada. The boxes sent were just enough to give one to each mission on the district, and while the goods were gladly given and thankfully received what were they after all among so many. Only the most needy received anything at all, and many were hurt to find that they were overlooked in the distribution.

This is a good work, and I trust the godly ladies associated with you in it will not relax their effort in this direction while the need continues to be so great. We bear our own proportion of the expense of transport, for it costs from one to three dollars per hundred pounds to move freight from this point northward; but we gladly bear our share of the burden so as to relieve the prevailing distress.

Let it be understood that we do not give indiscriminately.

There are two or three classes who are entitled to receive favors, and these only; widows, orphans, sick persons, helpless old people; but all who can work, are left to care for themselves. Many thanks for all the gifts received.

Suggested Programme for January Meeting.

I. Opening exercises :

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech. iv. 6.

II. Regular Business.

III. The Watch-Tower.*

IV. Subjects for Prayer for the month :

That missionaries, officers, members and converts may surrender themselves to God's will and direction in their work. Acts ii. 18.

V. Hymn: "Draw Me Nearer."

VI. Consecration Service.

(a) *The President will read the following exhortation :*

Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?

* We suggest that the Watch Tower be made a feature of the programme for this year. It is an idea we borrow from a widely known writer, Miss Belle Brain, and if well managed cannot fail to add greatly to the interest of the Auxiliary Meetings. It should be taken charge of by three ladies: No. 1 to represent our work among the Chinese of both continents; No. 2, Japan; No. 3, the Indian work and that among the French. These ladies must aim to know their ground thoroughly (the number and location of stations, missionaries, Bible women, schools, hospitals, etc.), and at the monthly meetings will each read a carefully-prepared and condensed report from her field of labor. For items, see our Society and Church papers. If thought desirable, the number of ladies may be added to, and reports given of what sister societies are doing, the China Inland Mission, Bishop Taylor's work in Africa, etc.

This giving yourself to Him must be such as supposes that you be heartily contented—that He appoint you your work ; that He put you to whatsoever He pleaseth.

Servants, as they must do their master's work, so they must do that work which their master appoints them ; they must be for any work their master has for them to do ; they must not pick and choose ; "This I will do, and that I will not do ;" they must not say, "This is too hard," or "This is too mean," or "This may be well enough let alone."

Good servants, when they have chosen their master, will let their master choose their work, and will not dispute his will, but do it.

Be content that Christ should choose your work : that He should have the command of you and the disposal of you.

(b) *Then shall the following, be said by the President and members, all standing .*

"Make me what Thou wilt, Lord, and set me where Thou wilt ; anywhere where I may be serviceable. I put myself wholly in Thy hands ; put me to what thou wilt. I freely and heartily resign all to Thy pleasure and disposal, and the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in Heaven."

(c) *Silent prayer, all devoutly kneeling.*

Then shall the President say :

Upon your entering into covenant with God, the covenant of God stands firm to you. Lay hold on this covenant and rely upon His promise of giving grace and strength, whereby you may be enabled to perform your promise. Amen.

(d) *Let the following hymn be sung :*

Take my poor heart, and let it be
Forever closed to all but thee ;
Seal thou my breast, and let me wear
That pledge of love forever there.

How blest are they who still abide
Close sheltered at thy bleeding side,
Who life and strength from thee derive,
And by thee move, and in thee live.

(e) *Prayer and benediction.*

Help for Christmas Entertainments.

Programme Committees of Bands, Leagues or Sunday Schools will find in the "Christmas Treasury" (31 pages), and "Christmas Selections" (64 pages), a variety of recitations and dialogues suitable for both the wee ones and their older brothers and sisters. Price, "Christmas Treasury, 20 cents; "Christmas Selections," 25 cents.

New Publications.

"Our Work," No. V., by Rev. D. Jennings, on *Manners and Customs of Indians of Port Simpson District, B.C.*, is one cent for single copies, ten cents per dozen.

Missionary Songs, by Rev. E. S. Lorenz, is the best missionary song-book we have seen. It contains music suitable for both ordinary and public meetings. Price 25 cents. All for sale at Room 20.

The Literature and Publication Committee has pleasure in announcing that it will be prepared to fill orders for the Calendar for 1895 by the 1st of December. The Calendar will contain photo-engravings of our missionaries, together with the subjects for prayer and texts for each month of the year. Price, 25 cents each; posting and wrapping, 10 cents per dozen additional.

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