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"This 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. XVII.]
Nos. 5.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1900.

[Price 5c.
a year.]

Subjects for Study and Prayer for the Month:

French Canadian Missions.

Papal Countries.

Japan.

FEARS ALLAYED.

From MISS BLACKMORE, 31 SANGENYA, AZABU, TOKYO,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

THE news from the Board meeting made our hearts glad. It seemed a fitting close to the prosperous year of the Society.

I think I have mentioned previously that the new school regulations do not affect us, except in respect to children under ten years of age. At present we have three such little ones, and it may be that in April, if the regulations are allowed to come into force, we will have to send them out to a public school, but they will have their home with us just the same. It is to the Christian boys' schools that the real trouble comes. In order to secure their pupils against

conscription until their school course was finished, almost all the mission boys' schools had placed themselves in the category of government schools, and so of course the new regulations put them in a very awkward position.

I am sending with this the minutes *re* the purchase of property in Kanazawa (you will notice that one of the pupils has "helped" by copying them for me). There seemed nothing else for us to do but to buy No. 75. There is little danger of our losing money in the purchase as it is a good situation that will hold its value.

The present building, we estimate, will last four years—those on the ground place it at ten years—and if in the meantime there is an opportunity to secure a lot in any way better suited to our purpose, No. 75 can be sold again. The removal of a small Japanese building, such as our orphanage would be, is no very great matter.

"A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM."

From MISS HART, AZABU, Nov. 14th, 1899.

SOME little time ago a man who has for some time been taking strong drink, and because of it, being very disagreeable to his family, came home in an unusually bad state of temper. After a few harsh words he sent his wife and two little daughters off into a dark part of the house, where they were forced to spend the night. The wife, who, though a professing Christian, had become discouraged, forgot to look for divine help until the little girls, seeing her distress, began to tell her of what they had learned in Sunday School of God's promises to hear and answer prayer, and the three spent most of the night in prayer. Early morning found the father in a better frame of mind and he allowed the family to come back to the living apartments.

A few days later he overheard his youngest daughter—a child under five—praying for him, and was so touched by the prayer that he decided then and there to give up drink. You can perhaps imagine the joy in that family as day after day passed, and the father held to his resolution.

But one evening he came home very tired and said he must have a drink; it was no use, he could not hold out any longer. It had been his custom to send his wife to buy what he wanted, and though much troubled, she had not dared to refuse him or object. This day, however, for some reason he had not the face to order her to buy it, but called one of the children to go. The child was so determined to save her father that, cost what it might, she dared to tell him she *could not do it*.

The father either surprised at the child's courage or having a tinge of conscience, did not get angry, but said, "You have been telling the Bible woman about me, and she has put this notion into your head." "No," said the child, "I have not told on you", but went on to tell what she had learned in Sunday School about the evils of strong drink, and said, I cannot buy and give you what I know is so bad for you. After a little more conversation the father yielded to the child's entreaties not to touch the "bad stuff," and in a short time nature gave him true refreshment in a sound natural sleep.

A little girl who lives near here was put into a certain house to be trained for a *bad life*. The teaching she had received in Sunday School soon led her to see that all was not as it should be and she ran away. Going to the uncle who had put her in that house she told him she could not stay there, and gave her reasons. The uncle was so angry that he made her take off all her clothes and then turned her out of doors for the night. One of the Bible women hearing of the case called upon the grand-mother and pleaded for the child, which ended in a promise from the grand-mother to interfere and save her.

We are often tempted to feel that the Sunday School lessons go "in at one ear and out at the other" of many if not all of the little ones who attend Sunday School. But how little we know, and how true it is that,

"We know not which may thrive,
The late or early sown;
Grace keeps the precious germs alive,
When and wherever sown."

By these and many other tokens God is showing us that His *word* will not return unto Him void, "but it shall

accomplish that which I please, and shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

This afternoon we had a very good meeting at Kakigara cho, with nine present, besides Mrs. Hayashi and myself. Afterwards I went around to Tsukiji to see Mrs. Large about taking a little girl into the Rescue Home, not the one previously mentioned, but another whose step-father's mother is determined to put her into a geisha house in spite of the mother's protests. The obasan (old women) are so often such terrors and rule the whole family, although they are supposed to obey their sons. Really it is dreadful the way girls are sold in this land. Between our work and Mrs. Large's in rescuing such girls we hear of so many sad cases.

Our school begins to look as if some day it may be a house to live in, but I doubt the promise for the end of this year. I wish it might be so, but having my mind made up to its being much later before we can get possession, we may have an agreeable surprise should we be able to use part of the building by New Year. The disappointment was very hard at first, and we could not see how it was possible to keep school at all, but we are getting along better than we thought we could, and are keeping well, which is best of all.

It is wonderful what one can do when there is no better way open, and we will appreciate the new home all the more after these months. One of the former pupils, calling the other day, said it seemed as if we had been through a fire. Of course we are better off than after a fire, for we have all our belongings, even if we cannot have them about us or get at them easily. Sometimes it is quite funny the things we have to do and the way we have to do them. We have had much to be thankful for in the fine weather during November, and also the latter part of October.

THE NEW SCHOOL ALMOST READY.

A LITTLE glimpse, not intended for publication, is given by Miss Veazey, Nov. 30th: "Since vacation we have lived 'mid scenes of confusion, and I have done very little outside of my home and necessary letters. We

find that living as we do in a constant bustle, with no moment alone day or night, is not conducive to making the best use of time, and school work with Bible preparation have claimed first attention; but we are coming now within sight of a better state of things, and hope to begin living again within a couple of months. It has only been a "staying on" with an endeavor to possess our souls in patience and keep our school together. It is a great cause for gratitude that we have been so well provided for and have lost none of our pupils from the lack of proper school accommodations. There have been many pleasant things too connected with all the crowding and discomfort, one of which is the getting to know the girls better in their every-day life, for here at the church seventeen of them, ten of whom are little girls under twelve, eat, sleep, play, study, and have school all in the one room which is practically the same as the one in which Miss Hart and I live at the end, being divided only by paper doors open over the top, and it is a constant amusement to hear the little dialogues, songs, and fun that go on during play time within two feet of where I am writing. I do not believe as many home girls would get along as happily together in such cramped quarters as do our seventeen, and I have yet to hear the first word of real complaint over the discomforts, though with us they are watching most eagerly the progress of the new school day by day, and there will be a real 'thanksgiving' held when we are settled in our bright and roomy school house."

PROGRESS IN TEMPERANCE WORK.

MISS JOST writes from Kofu, under date of Nov. 28th, of great activity and grand success on temperance lines through the visit of Mrs. Large and Mr. Miyama to their city. She says: "I know you will be glad to hear of our meeting this afternoon. We are all so excited and delighted. There were about eighty women present—over fifty of these had no connection whatever with the school. About thirty handed in their names as wishing to join the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Mr. Miyama,

Mrs. Large and Mr. Hiraiwa all spoke. Mr. Hiraiwa said lony a few words, but they were received with rejoicing. As a result of the meetings already held there is to be a mass meeting to consider the prohibition of the use of tobacco in all the schools.

I am especially rejoicing because a woman from a house where I called three times before gaining admittance came to the meeting and stayed to the end. The first time I was not asked to go in; the second time she was "very busy," "the days were short," etc. I said I would come again earlier in the afternoon which I did. This time she invited me in, but left me to the tender mercies of the grandfather.

To-day Watanabe San came running to me in great excitement to tell of her presence in the parlor among the women; so as soon as the meeting closed I went to her to tell her how welcome she was. I do enjoy the work out here so much. I have had more evangelistic work than I had in Tokyo, and it does me good. I get more in touch with the people.

"The Lord Will Provide."

From MISS LONG, KITAMAAT, Nov. 22nd, 1899.

IT is with a thankful heart that I am writing. The ladies of the Woman's Missionary Society have been very good to us. When I received Mrs. Raley's letter saying what they would do, and that I was to have help in the Home, it seemed almost too good to be true. I am sure Mr. Raley is greatly relieved, he has worked so hard and was so anxious about it. The prospect before us is much brighter—a new Home, more money, and more help. For some things I like pioneer work because one does appreciate each improvement so much.

Besides the good news we had a generous supply of things wanted in the Home; plenty of quilts for the winter and some blankets which we need very badly. Until lately we have not wanted coats, but in future we shall be very glad of them as the girls have just begun to

wear them. We have quite a number of coats. I gave some to the girls who had no parents, not having enough for all, and knowing it is better for the parents to do as much as they can for their children, I said I would sell the others, and any parents who had not the money could bring wood in exchange.

On Sunday all the girls but one had hats and coats. On Monday this girl's grandmother came up (her parents are away) and said she had not any money, but would make a mat of cedar bark if I would give Flora a coat; so I gave her one and a wool Tam o' Shanter. I was rather amused the first Sunday the girls appeared in coats; some of the people criticised their walk. One girl's mother put hers on to show her how to walk in it, but she cried. It is hard to teach them how to hold themselves and to walk properly, though they are improving. The little ones will do better, their calisthenics helping them.

We are busy preparing for Christmas, practising with the children in the afternoon, and choir practise three evenings in the week. I started early because near Christmas we have to practise every night, and it is such hard work. I hardly knew how I would manage without Mr. Raley. I have to sing with each part a few bars at a time till they know it; they have nearly learned two good anthems.

Our "Home" motto from the first has been, "The Lord will provide," and we have proved it true. Often when I have hardly known what to do, a bale has come with the very things needed.

I used to be very much troubled at the untruthfulness of the girls. I have punished them, talked with them, and prayed with them about it; lately they have improved greatly, and I know they are trying to overcome. I am starting another year very much encouraged and with my faith strengthened.

Mission Bands, Epworth Leagues, and Sunday Schools having entertainments in view, should send for a copy of the new "Flag Exercise." Price, 5 cents.

Suggested Programme

FOR THE

Thank-Offering Service, Eastertide, 1900.

*"I gave My life for thee,
What hast thou given for Me?"*

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| I. Opening Exercises | } | Doxology. |
| | | Scripture Lesson. St. Matthew xxvi.
1-5, 14-16, 36-50; St. Mark xiv. 53,
xv. 1-20. |
| | | Hymn—"Father, whose everlasting
Love." |
| | | Prayer. |

II. Business.

III. Hymn—"When I survey the wondrous Cross."

IV. The Watch-Tower.

V. Recitation—"There is a Green Hill far away."

1. There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.
2. We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.
3. He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by His precious blood.
4. There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.
5. Oh, dearly, dearly has He loved!
And we must love Him too;
And trust in His redeeming blood,
And try His works to do.

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