

THIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

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SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

French-Canadian Missions ; Papal Countries.

CHINA.

From Miss Ford.

CHEN-TU, Dec. 8th, 1896.

DEAR MRS. STRACHAN,—Your letter from away down east to Miss Brackbill just received. We were so glad to hear from you, as it had seemed so long since any word had come from home. And now for my bit of news.

You will be surprised to hear of an addition to our home, even before Miss Foster's arrival. It came about in this way. Ten days ago, early on a raw, damp, foggy morning, a coolie was sent out on an errand. He quickly returned, saying there was a baby in a deep ditch just below our com-

pound, put there by its parents to die of cold and hunger, just because it had the misfortune to be born a girl. They do such things in China, you know, and when they do die the dogs eat them. We hesitated about bringing her in at first, because of the awful stories they tell about our eating babies and digging out their eyes for medicine, etc.; but we quickly concluded the course the Master would take, and had her brought in. Such a bundle of dirty, vermin-infested rags you never saw, and from under a dirty cap two great black eyes staring wide open. No heart beat could be felt, and the little mite was too near gone to cry. We quickly gave her warm milk and stimulants, and, getting her out of the dirty rags, put her in a hot bath. We greatly feared she would not survive; so we wrapped her in a blanket, and kept her in a basket by the open oven door all day. At night the little eyes partly closed, but it was three days before she slept naturally. There was every evidence of her having been given opiates. But in a week of feeding on good milk we had a bright baby, not yet two months old, weighing now seven and a half pounds. We called the officials in and told them of the child, and that we would care for it. Proper papers were made out, so there can be no trouble, and her parents cannot claim her when she grows big enough to earn a little money.

Of course we have no authority from home to do orphanage work; but this one I have adopted, and will bring her up, trusting that some day she may perhaps take my place, when I am obliged to quit work; and she may more than fill it because of being native born.

There is a young Chinese woman now in the field who was adopted by Miss Howe, of the M. E. Mission, years ago, and after a medical education at home, has come to work among her own people. This wee one may never do that, but I shall try to train her so she will be a help to the Church in some line.

If other like cases should come to us, would we have the authority of the Home Board to take and care for them?

Not expensive work. I have heard it said that the great increase of workers and churches in the M. E. Mission in India during the past few years is due to the fact that years ago they took the tiny orphans, and bringing them up from babyhood, with no trace of idolatry in the childhood years, trained so their own evangelists and teachers.

Boys are never thrown away here, only girls. I have not named the child yet, but will some day, and will get a picture of her and send you. Her head had been half shaved (Chinese custom), and she looks pretty funny now.

From Miss Brackbill.

CHEN-TU, *Jan. 1st, 1897.*

Our property adjoins that we lived on before the riots and in going over to the General Society's compound we travel the very streets I was accustomed to walk the year before last. We (Miss Ford, myself and women) go there every Sunday for service and nearly every Wednesday evening for prayer-meeting. Were these some of the busiest streets of the city we might not feel the same freedom in going out, but they are quiet, and the shop-keepers and residents soon become acquainted, and one meets pupils either from our girls' school or the boys' school all along the way. From my short experience, I would say it was an advantage, rather than otherwise, being a little distance from the others, as it is thus another centre of influence, and we have an opportunity of reaching those around us, who would not in all probability go as far as the other place for instruction.

No doubt Miss Ford told you all about our baby. Well, we have another one, about two years old, a little girl, of course. This child was thrown out one bitter cold night last week on the next street to us, and a neighbor woman came in to ask if they might bring her in here. We said, "Yes, for the night at any rate;" but found she was such an object of charity that we have kept her. The poor child

was nothing but skin and bones; her hands and feet were badly swollen, and she showed many marks of abuse. Just yesterday and to-day she is beginning to brighten up, and act more as a child of that age should. She cannot walk yet, but speaks a few words. Dr. and Mrs. Kilborn have guaranteed her support until she is sixteen, providing we take care of her.

We learn to-day that the annual meeting of the M. E. Mission of West China is to be held in Cheu-tu, and that Bishop Joyce and his wife are on their way here now.

Last evening was our weekly meeting of the foreigners, and the regular communion service. Mr. Vale, of the China Inland Mission gave us such a helpful talk on "Hitherto" and "Henceforth," speaking of where we all were last year at that time, and how "hitherto," particularly the past year, the Lord had helped us beyond what we even dared to hope. For the "henceforth" he took as his texts, Psalm cxxv. 2; 2 Cor. v. 14-16; 2 Tim. iv. 8.

INDIAN WORK.

From Miss Paul.

PORT SIMPSON, B.C., *Jan 29th, 1897.*

I will try to give a short account of last quarter's work. We have all had very good health. We now have thirty girls. Miss Beavis left here on November 26th, and Miss Clarke arrived to-day; so Mrs. Redner and I have been alone two of the busiest months in the year, but God has given us strength for our work day by day. Our Christmas tree and entertainment passed off well. Everybody seemed pleased, and remarked on the improvement in the children since last year. We had recitations, singing, Christmas songs, motion songs, a motto recitation, and a short dialogue, besides an exhibition of club-swinging by four of the girls. The boys from the Home assisted in the programme, rendered their songs and recitations well, showing a marked improvement since last year. Between

Christmas and New Years we assisted Mr. Richards and others in giving a tea to all the children of the village, which they thoroughly enjoyed. On the day after New Years we had the girls who have been married since we came into this Home in to tea. There are eleven who live in the village, nine of whom came to tea with their husbands and babies. We spent a pleasant and profitable evening. It seemed quite like a family reunion.

The work here is going on very much as usual. We are giving line upon line and precept upon precept. There has been quite a revival among the younger people this winter. Nineteen were taken into full connexion with the Church, including four of our larger girls. Others of them have expressed a wish to join the Church. It was a most impressive service.

We have taken in two large girls lately. One had so little of comfort and training in her home that Mr. Crosby advised admitting her. She is learning well, and if her health continues to improve, will make a good worker. The other is fifteen, knows very little English, and cannot read. Martha Harris went with Miss Jessie Crosby to Bella Bella for a month or six weeks, until Mr. and Mrs. Brett came. She has since been at service, and is giving good satisfaction. She attends afternoon school. Nellie Tenas is doing well, being at service half of the day. Matilda, our oldest girl, though not strong, was very helpful while Miss Beavis and I were alone.

I hope you will all remember us and our work in your prayers. We were glad to welcome Miss Clarke to-day.

JAPAN.

Report of the Japan work for the quarter ending December 31st, 1896.

(Continued from last month.)

Orphanage.—Tokyo.

To appreciate this branch of our work one needs to look into the home and see the healthy, happy, busy children,

and then contrast their life here with the want and neglect from which they have been taken. They are polite, obedient and industrious, earning about \$3.00 each a month by their work.

Kichinosuke, our only boy, who was taken into the home when a very little fellow, because there was no other way of providing for him, has just been apprenticed to a Christian barber in the neighborhood. We are very glad indeed to get so good a place for him. This leaves us with twelve little girls. At the closing exercises of the King's Daughters' School, and at the Christmas entertainment of the Azabu Sunday School, our orphans did their parts well, showing the careful training they are receiving.

King's Daughters' School.

Our *Keifu Jo Gakko* has just completed its fifth year. Only little girls of the poorest class—those who cannot pay the fee required at the public school—are admitted. The course of study includes only what will be helpful to them in every-day life—Bible lesson, singing of hymns, reading, writing, dictation, arithmetic, composition and sewing. We try to train them to work diligently and cheerfully.

During the five years they have made good progress in their studies, and their conduct is greatly improved. Indeed one would not recognize in these neat, cleanly little girls, the noisy, dirty children who first came to us. One child, who was specially unlovable and caused her grandmother a great deal of care and trouble, has greatly improved. When she learned that Christ died for her and of a God who hears and answers even the prayers of a child, she was filled with gratitude. She was very sorry for the trouble she had given to her grandmother and others, and is now as helpful and obedient as she was mischievous and disagreeable. Day by day she listens attentively to the Bible teaching and tells it all to her grandmother.

This is only one instance; there are many other similar cases that gladden the hearts of the King's Daughters. At

present there are fifty-one names on the roll; the average attendance during the last quarter has been forty-five. The ages range from four to eleven.

On December 24th we held our closing exercises. The meeting opened with singing and prayer. The principal gave a short address and then the children carried out a programme of recitations, singing and essays.

Each child received a piece of cotton for an apron and cake was passed to all. Miss Munro then gave a copy of the New Testament to each one who was able to repeat the Commandments correctly. Sixteen stood the test. The dress of the children showed much patient care and self-denial on the part of the mothers to have them neatly clad. They made a pretty sight as seated in rows they bowed to the guests, and then with happy hearts returned to their homes.

Shizuoka Branch.—School.

Thirty-four pupils have been enrolled during the first term. Of the twelve Sunday School teachers in the three Sunday Schools, ten are from the school.

The class-meetings have been most encouraging, the weekly testimonies of the girls showing that there is a real desire for growth in grace. The Wednesday afternoon prayer-meetings have been very helpful.

The King's Daughters found themselves at the beginning of the term with only five yen in the bank. They have for some time been sending monthly contributions to two orphanages, and in order to raise the necessary money to pay these and to meet other claims, every spare moment has been spent on King's Daughters' work.

NOTE.—Part of the Japan Report has been crowded out, but will appear in the next MONTHLY LETTER.

Suggested Programme for May Meeting.

Subjects for Prayer for the Month : China and the Chinese.

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

I. Opening exercises.

“The programme should not only be bright, entertaining, instructive, appropriate and profitable; but, through all and above all, it should be *spiritual*.”

II. Regular business.

III. Hymn.

IV. Question Drawer : *

1. When was the W. M. S. Mission to China founded?
2. What city in West China was selected as the centre of operations?
3. Who were its pioneer Missionaries?
4. Name missionaries since appointed to this Mission.

V. Prayer.

Let special prayer be made for Dr. Killam and Miss Brooks, our missionaries now *en route* to Chen-tu.

VI. Paper (ten minutes). Subjects suggested : †

1. “The Women of China.” (In auxiliaries where the *Missionary Review* or the *Gospel in All Lands* is taken, data for this paper will be found in the issue of February, 1897. Cannot be supplied at Room 20.)

2. “Our Part in the Winning of China for Christ.”

Our Part :—Intercessory Prayer—Consecrated Giving—Loving Sympathy—Final Reward.

“As his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.”

* See Annual Report.

†In auxiliaries where neither of these subjects is written upon, we suggest a leaflet reading, “The Chinese Women of this Continent.” Price 1c., at Room 20. This will not be sent to subscribers to Suggested Programme Literature unless especially ordered.

VII. The Watch-Tower.

The watchman representing China will read letters from Miss Ford and Miss Brackbill, which appear in the MONTHLY LETTER for April.

VIII. Hymn. Prayer.

INCREASE.

 BAY OF QUINTE BRANCH.

Day Spring Mission Band, Campbellford.

TORONTO CONFERENCE BRANCH.

Bradford Auxiliary.

Bradford Mission Circle.

HAMILTON BRANCH.

Wilsonville and Beaton Auxiliary.

Zion Auxiliary, Alma Circuit.

Louth and Grantham Auxiliary.

NOTICES TO AUXILIARIES AND MISSION BANDS.

No Easter Programme having been asked for this year, the Literature Committee has prepared Thank-offering Envelopes, bearing a special appeal for the Indian work, to which the offering will be devoted. Auxiliaries are advised to distribute one to each woman in the congregation, if possible, with the request that she will contribute something to the Fund, be it ever so little. Price, including postage, 5c. per dozen; 15c. for 50; 25c. per hundred.

A short *Leaflet* on the Indian work has been prepared for a reading at the Easter meeting. It may be had from Room 20. Price, 1 cent each; 10 cents per dozen; 60 cents per hundred. Postage and wrapping, 2 cents. This will not be sent to subscribers to Suggested Programme Literature unless specially ordered.

Envelopes and the Easter *Leaflet* on the Indian work may be ordered from Miss Ogden, Room 20, Wesley Buildings, Toronto, Ont.; also from Mrs. C. Stewart, care of Rev. Dr. Stewart, Box 121, Sackville, N.B.; and Miss E. Neilson, 704 Main St., Winnipeg, Man.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Many Auxiliaries and individuals owe small accounts of two or three cents to Room 20. To render a bill for these may appear petty, but such has to be done, unless those indebted will be kind enough to remit. Though the items are small, in the aggregate they amount to a large sum. "A word to the wise," etc.

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.

The Literature Committee is prepared to receive deposits of \$1.00 for the literature to be used in connection with the Suggested Programme, and will send the necessary literature whenever called for by the programme, as long as the money lasts. The usual charge of two cents, for wrapping and postage, will be deducted for each parcel.

Will Branch Corresponding Secretaries please send monthly "Increase of Auxiliaries and Bands" to Mrs. Bascom, Secretary Literature Committee, 189 Dunn Ave., Toronto.

LEAFLETS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

(A signifies Adult; J, Juvenile.)

	Each	Per doz.
Countries—China. By Dr. J. T. Gracey15	
India. By Rev. E. Storrow. In two parts35	
Metlakatla05	.25
(A J) Missionary Catechism05	.30
Our Work Series—No. 1 is out of print until further notice; 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, Facts About our French-Canadian Mission; No. 11, A Macedonian Cry (from our Indian Work) ..	.01	.10
The Claims of India02	.25
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Mrs. Pickett's Missionary Box	free	
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Proportionate Giving (an exercise). By M. B. Willmott		
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Charlotte Marie Tucker (A. L. O. E.).....	.03	
John G. Paton. Story of His Life.....	.10	
Origin and Work of the W.M.S	free	

Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.

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 NEILSON, 704 MAIN ST., WINNIPEG, MAN.