

"THIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

PUBLISHED BY

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, Canada.

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SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER. Papal Countries and French-Canadian Missions.

French Work - East-End Mission School.

(December, 1898.)

MISS MATTHIEU writes. "We had an attendance of forty-one pupils last month. Two former pupils of Roman Catholic parentage have returned to us, their parents informing me that they could not perfect themselves in arithmetic and English with the nuns, and they felt confident we would be interested in their advancement. One woman said to me a few days ago, 'I dare not mention the fact of my daughter being at your school for two years; I know full well our priest and nuns would give me no peace of mind until I would withdraw my child, and I could not do that as we are fully satisfied with all the instruction she receives.' In fact, I have more favorable testimony from some of our Roman Catholic people than from some of our French Protestants. Our girls are improving in sewing, the desire seems to be increasing for fancy work such as knitting lace and crocheting, owing perhaps to the approach of Christmas.

“During the month seventy-one families have been visited, and ten new families have been reached. One lonely woman seemed most thankful for my second visit, as she told me I had cheered her discouraged heart, and made her feel that some one in this world cared for her. I asked the privilege of reading and praying with her, and God’s precious truth seemed to sink with effectual power into the heart of this woman. The happy moments spent in that home were more to me than all the other visits made that afternoon. Continue to remember our French work at the throne of grace.”

WEST END MISSION SCHOOL.

Miss Jackson writes: “We lost last month through removal three French-Canadians, and two who entered the convent, where they were received free of expense and given in addition a bowl of soup daily. Great effort has been made by the nuns to reclaim those who were with us last year. In some cases the threats have had no effect, as the parents are determined to send them unless the Bishop interferes.

“Last Thursday three boys entered the school and seemed much pleased, but met Miss Beauchamp next day in the street and said they could not come again as the priest was very angry. I am pleased to say two new ones entered to-day and hope they may remain with us.”

Report of the Chinese Girls’ Home, Victoria.

(From September 1st to December 7th, 1898.)

WE began the fourth year, September 1st, with five resident girls, three Japanese and two Chinese. After a few days the two Japanese from Vancouver left. Omitsu’s rest in the Home had expired, consequently she went back to her place. In October Mr. Miln, of the Custom House, sent for me. I immediately went, and found a nice-appearing Chinese woman and a girl of about sixteen. The woman stated that she had been brought out under

false pretences, expecting to be employed as a nurse, but was intended for immoral purposes. She stated that she would rather die than go into China-town. She desired to be returned to her husband, so I pleaded that she be given into my care, until the steamer would set sail, consequently both were entrusted to the "Home." Ah Moni was with me for nine days when I delivered her up to the Customs officials. I should have been pleased if she had remained, she was so agreeable and helpful. Ah Ho, the younger one, is still in the Home. She is a bright, affectionate girl but very troublesome, always wanting to be off to friends or to the Den of Iniquity, for which she was at first designed. If I had kept count of the times I have run to save her, I think forty would be under the mark; but I am thankful to say, she has not yet reached one of those yawning dens. If she can be safely tided over six months she may lose her relish for that dark life.

In November two nice Japanese women sought the protection of the Home to avoid being taken by their so-called husbands to San Francisco to make money for them in a life of shame. They want to learn to read English and do housework well, that they may secure situations as house servants. Christine is learning dress-making, Elsie attends the Public School.

The Friday meetings have been well attended, often twenty-six present, all told. The Mission Band is also doing well. I arranged an evening with "Limelight Views," of Bible and other pictures with good vocal music, in the Chinese Mission Church on the 7th December, at which a collection was taken to augment the Mite Box, which amounted to \$6.50. I think the Mission Band has done well since April 1st. Beside the membership fees, \$1.60, I have \$21.60 as the contents of the Mite Box.

The Friday meeting and the Mission Band are in Miss Morgan's care, also the Home Treasurership. The fall house-cleaning was all done. The very day that I had named to leave the Home, that I might get a rest before entering on my new duties in Vancouver, orders were given by the Advisory Board for the addition to the fence

and the barb wire extension upwards, to secure the girls from running away, also the day school was removed to the Mission. All the above changes will greatly lessen and facilitate the new matron's duties. I left five girls in the Home in charge of Miss Ferguson on the evening of the 7th of December, 1898.

I would like to say just here that I greatly value the confidence and esteem of the Woman's Missionary Board, expressed in the desire that I should remain in charge of the Home. Thanking both the Boards and Advisory Committee for kindness and forbearance, believe me as ever interested in the Home and work, yours truly,

S. BOWES.

Japan.

MISS ALCORN writes from SHIZUOKA, *November 29th*, 1898.

OUR work is going on well. A spirit of love is in the air and we pray this may be one of our best years here in Japan. Again Miss Cunningham and I are together. We have a happy home and try to remember it as one of our mercies. It is lovely that God has so provided for us in a strange land, to give us homes and friends and so much to make the way easy. We are both quite well.

Do you remember I wrote last year of our hoping sometime to have a school for the poor in Ansai. It is a part of the city where we feel work can be done. The people are poor, but kindly disposed toward us. Prejudice was removed by kindness shown to a poor old woman by Miss Cunningham and Miss Robertson.

Takenchi san held a children's meeting in the home of the old woman, and found that many of the children could not read because they could not afford to go to school. We decided it would be a wise thing to open a school for these little girls. We secured a small room which we cleaned and had papered with newspapers. Miss Cunningham gave us tatami (mats) for the floor, also some old desks, or rather little tables made from the old desks, on which the children

write as they sit on the floor. Then when we had soap, towel and comb, our little room, which costs us fifteen cents a month, looked quite inviting.

The school opened the last of September with ten little girls enrolled.

Takenchi san is the teacher. Every morning they have a short Bible lesson, then reading, writing and sewing. They have come regularly—on time, with clean faces and tidy hair.

As we visit the schools from time to time, we feel it is good work to train these little, otherwise untrained children for life.

The mothers are becoming interested and this week a meeting will be commenced for them. Every Tuesday afternoon a children's meeting is held in our little room. It averages about thirty. As yet the work is small, but we hope by moving carefully to have regular work in this part of the city.

There are always more demands on our time than we can supply. I try to do the work that is most needed, and trust in time we may have a good Bible-woman to help us.

MISS PRESTON writes from KOFU, *November 28th*, 1898.

WE are having good times in both school and evangelistic work. There is a prospect of further increase in the number of pupils in the spring. The school is becoming better known and there are a number even now in the school who are related to former students.

There is a wide work for us among this class; some few of them come to our women's meetings, and there are many more open doors than we can well enter.

Yesterday I rode out on my bicycle to S—, where we had a nice little meeting. We now have meetings there regularly every two weeks, usually also one for the children, who are very well behaved and regular in attendance. I have invited them to our Christmas gathering here in Kofu.

Sunday morning at nine o'clock we have a Bible class for young men in the church. It is well attended, twenty-

seven being present the last time. The lesson is given in both English and Japanese, the English Bible being our text-book. Sometimes I interpret in Japanese myself and at other times H. does it for me. He is a good, earnest Christian and very faithful. This class is very interesting, and through it I have found an entrance into one home and I hope to enter others.

The factory work, too, is very interesting. Generally I use a picture illustrating the life of Christ. It helps to fix the attention of the women and to lead off in the speaking. The Sunday School rolls are a great help. Old S. S. cards, Christmas cards, or the like (if in good order) could be used here in the children's work. We are short now.

One of the girls was baptized a little while ago, and old Mrs. O. has asked for baptism.

Indian Work.

MISS ALTON writes from COQUALEETZA INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE, CHILLIWACK, B.C., *Jan. 2nd, 1899.*

I HAVE wanted to write something of the work here but the spare moments have been very precious. We had scarcely finished house-cleaning and disinfecting after the measles, when we commenced practice for the entertainment which was held in December. The children did well; the club-swinging, barbell and flag exercise delighted the audience, while the singing and recitations were well received.

Our missionary meeting among the children held a couple of weeks ago, was a grand success. They all gave very liberally, the children alone giving \$54.75, without their cards, which will bring twelve or fifteen dollars more. The boys earn this money by working out during haying and harvesting on the neighboring farms, the girls by going out washing, house-cleaning and at service.

Our Christmas tree was very pretty this year through the kindness of friends of various Auxiliaries, who sent us a number of presents, then the kindergarten children made chains out of bright-colored paper, which were festooned around the tree,

We intend holding meetings every night with the children during this week of prayer commencing to-morrow. We pray that they will be the means of saving some of the dear children. We need the prayers of every Christian that our work may be owned and blessed, so that every boy and girl may be brought to Jesus this year.

Miss Smith and Miss Burpee may be here any day. We shall hail them with delight. I am sure their furlough will fit them for better service. The longer one remains in this work the more one realizes the vastness of it and the need of daily patience and perseverance.

Increase.

MANITOBA BRANCH.

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Notices to Auxiliaries.

“OUTLOOK” SUBSCRIPTIONS.

WILL subscribers kindly remember that *Outlook* subscriptions are not to be sent to Room 20. Address REV. A. SUTHERLAND, Methodist Mission Rooms, Wesley Buildings, Toronto.

OUR EASTER THANK-OFFERING ENVELOPE.

The Manitoba and North-West Branch has, at the request of the Literature Committee, prepared an envelope and appeal to be used for gathering our Easter Offering. (Please notice the space left on the envelope for writing a text.) Price, 5 cents per dozen; 15 cents for 50; 25 cents for 100. For Mission Bands the envelope is pink, but without the appeal. Price, 3 cents per dozen. Two cents

additional for postage and wrapping on each package. This applies to both Auxiliary and Mission Band orders.

They can be obtained from MISS OGDEN, Room 20, Wesley Buildings, Richmond Street West, Toronto, Ont. Also from MRS. C. STEWART, Box 121, Sackville, N.B., or MRS. CALDER, 187 Smith Street, Winnipeg, Man.

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 All Lands, 80 cents. Subscriptions to this Magazine may begin at any time, but must continue till December and then end. Message and Deaconess World, 50 cents; The Double Cross and Medical Missionary Record, \$1.00 --to missionaries and student volunteers, 50 cents.

The Literature Committee at Room 20, and the Branch Depots in Sackville, N.B., and Winnipeg, Man. (for addresses see foot of last page), are 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, and without it being necessary for the Auxiliary to write for it. The usual charge of two cents, for wrapping and postage, will be deducted for each parcel. Subscribers will be notified when their deposit is expended.

OUR GOLD PINS.

The Literature Committee has arranged to have our Woman's Missionary Society and Mission Band Pins made in gold for life-members. The star is attached by links to a pin which is topped by a small gold ball, and makes a very suitable gift for a life-member. The pins are \$3.50 each, and the order is to be accompanied by a voucher of life membership from the Recording Secretary of the Auxiliary or Band to which the member belongs. It will be well to order at least three weeks in advance, to allow time for correspondence and unforeseen delays.

Suggested Programme

FOR THE

THANK-OFFERING SERVICE

OF THE

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

Eastertide, April, 1899.

Prepared by Mrs. A. Carman, Toronto, Vice-President
of the W. M. S.

"I gave my life for thee,
What hast thou giver. for Me?"

Opening Exercises :

- I.

{	1. Doxology.
	2. Brief prayer (President, all standing).
	3. Hymn 175, "Come, ye saints."
	4. Scripture lesson, John xx. 1-23.
	5. Prayer.
- II. "Order of business for monthly meetings," 3, 4, 5
(page 165, Annual Report).
- III. Roll Call. Responses. "For Love's Sake."
*Suggested texts for responses: John iii. 16; Rom.
v. 8; Matt. xxii. 37, 38; Matt. xxii. 39, 40; John
xv. 12; John xv. 13; 2 Cor. ix. 15; Rom. xiii. 8;
1 Cor. xiii. 13; 2 John 6, etc.
- IV. Watch Tower. "I have set watchmen upon thy walls."
- V. †1. When and where was the first building erected
by our Woman's Missionary Society?
‡2. How many buildings have we now in that land?
- VI. Hymn.
- VII. Presentation of Thank-Offering.
- VIII. Prayer, consecrating the offering.
- IX. Lessons from our Eastertide service. (A five-minute
talk by the Vice-President.)
- X. Order of business, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 (page 165, Annual
Report).
- XI. Benediction.

* Will the Programme Committee (or the President, when there is no such committee) please see that enough texts along this line of thought are selected before the Auxiliary Meeting, so that each member may be supplied with a response.

† *Outlook*, March, 1899.

‡ Annual Report, 1897-98.

NOTE.—As it is taken for granted that every Auxiliary is supplied with both the *Outlook* and Annual Report, these will not be sent to subscribers for Suggested Programme Literature unless specially ordered.

NOTICE TO MISSION BANDS.

THE suggested programme for Mission Bands will in future be published in *Palm Branch*.

Send subscriptions for *Palm Branch* to Miss S. E. SMITH, 282 Princess Street, St. John, N.B.

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Please Send Remittance With Order.

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

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Also, Mrs. C. STEWART, care of Rev. Dr. Stewart, Sackville, N.B.

Or, Mrs. CALDER, 187 Smith Street, Winnipeg, Man.

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