

EVEN OUR FAITH.

# Monthly Letter.

PUBLISHED BY

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

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## Subjects for Prayer.

The Extinction of the Liquor and Opium Traffics, and all overous hindrances to Christianity.

NOTE.—In view of the approaching Plebiscite vote, the Literature formuttee thought it advisable to put the subject of the Liquor and pium Traffic in the month of June instead of July, as many of the juxiliaries do not meet in July.

# JAPAN.

From Miss Blackmore.

"Many members, yet but one body."

AZABU, TOKYO, April 14th, 1898.

Kubo San, the Bible-woman (who has been supported for hany years by Mrs. Dr. Eccles, of London), has had to go nto Dr. Whitney's hospital to have an operation on her yes. I went over to see her yesterday, and found her very appy and contented with her surroundings. Miss Harrion (the head nurse) told me that Kubo San uses every

#### MONTHLY LETTER.

epportunity to help in the Christian work of the hospital In the ward where she sleeps there are just three of them--Kubo San, another elderly woman (also a Christian), and a younger woman who knew nothing of Christianity when she came in, except that a relative of hers (a blind man who had been in the hospital several months and learned there of Christ) had become a very good man and had told her she would hear good teaching there. Consequently she is eager to learn all she can during these days of opportunity. As her eyes are bad she cannot read the Bible for herself, and of course Kubo San cannot either; but the third woman's eyes are all right (she is crippled with rheumatism), so she reads the Bible and Kubo San explains its meaning in the simple language necessary to make the new thoughts clear to a mind not accustomed to much thinking.

Tanno San is no better. Another abscess is forming and is very painful, but she is bright and cheerful, and very. very thankful for the care taken of her.

The ladies of Shizuoka and Nagano were in the city for a few days at Easter, and the city cousins greatly enjoyed having them.

Our closing was a real success — a beautiful evening, and the girls did their very best.

A letter just received gives the painful intelligence that Miss Lambly's health is in such a condition that she will be obliged to return to Canada this summer.

#### CHINA.

#### From Miss Brackbill.

CHEN-TU, January 6th, 1898.

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Your letter of November 2nd arrived January 2nd, having been just two months on the road, an unusually quick trip. We were so glad to hear the report of the annual meeting and such good news. It rejoiced our hearts to hear that another lady had been appointed for the work, and was possibly on the way. May the nurse and doctor soon follow, particularly the nurse as Miss Foster hopes t, take up the evangelistic work unless otherwise ordered by the society.

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We were very pleased to hear of the grant for an orphanage, and that it was to be called the "Jennie Ford Home." Miss Ford was so anxious that the Society should take up this work; "being dead she will yet speak" to future workers here through these children. We had a business meeting to-day, and Miss Foster was appointed chairman of the committee for building the orphanage. She has progressed very well with the language, and it will do her good to do this work. Of course, I will give any help necessary.

February 14th.—We are h.ving beautiful weather at present—no rain since the 1st of September. Consequently, rice is very dear. We were out on the wall a few days ago to see the beggars fed. From there we could look right down in the enclosure and see the bowls of rice handed to them, and pitiful looking objects most of them were, many of them, even in the coldest days, having nothing in the way of clothing but a piece of matting tied around their shoulders.

The enclosure is divided—one side for the women and the other for the men, and when the gates were opened for them to leave, we watched them for twenty-five minutes crowding out and still could not perceive that the crowd inside had lessened very much. They are fed during the winter months at both the north and east gates, and at this east gate alone the number is e timated at anything from 5,000 to 10,000; and still I have recently seen in some of the home papers that there are no beggars in China. (Perhaps this referred to the Chinese in America.) In the streets of this city, any day in the year, we can show you some most pitiable looking creatures.

The annual meeting of the American Methodists of West China is being held this week, so we have man, of the Chung-King friends with us at present. To reach here they had ten days overland journey in Sedan chairs, otherwise it would have meant a month or more by boat. Of course they had all the pleasure of resting at nights in Chinese inns with the company of chickens, pigs, opium-smoking chairmen, etc., etc., disagreeables too numerous to mention.

Bishop Joyce took this journey last year and said he

wished he could show some of the people at home what travelling in China meant; and, above all, he wished he could bottle up some of the smells and let them  $\log_{\infty}$  at a missionary meeting, but it would be necessary to fasten the doors first or he would lose his audience.

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Februar J .3th.—We are just starting another school ut class). I have secured a woman as teacher who has an  $u_{\lambda}$  ceptionally good education for a woman, and there are plenty of little girls very near us, so I see no reason  $w_{hj}$  we should not have two full schools in time.

Sunday afternoons the room where we hold service for the women and children is crowded, more come than can find seats, and for several Sundays the church has been so crowded that it has been very difficult for the people to hear, so yesterday the outer gates were closed after the plan was well filled.

The Methodist Episcopal friends have decided to  $o_{\text{pell}}$ woman's work here, and one of their deaconesses remained for that purpose. We are glad to welcome more  $y_{\text{unb}_{\mathcal{S}}}$ ladies to the city, and as they are away across the city (forty-five minutes ride, there is no danger of the work ever conflicting.

## CHINESE WORK IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

#### Report of Evangelistic Work Among the Chinese Women m Victoria, B.C., for Quarter Ending March 31st, 1898.

While the past quarter has been a short one, owing to our own and the Chinese New Year making breaks in the regular work, and while the number of visits, 224, is less in proportion than that of the preceding four months, the work generally has been more encouraging than at any previous time A large majority of the wornen are constantly engaged sewing and heretofore have given little heed to anything said to them. Lately, however, they have appeared interested in Bible pictures and have listened to the stories told, sometimes asking questions or repeating sentences after me. Singing from character has also been a great attraction, the

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women who can read being eager to show their knowledge. The other day a woman learned a verse from a hymn while sewing as I held the book in front of her. Efforts have been made to form meetings at several houses on Sunday afternoon, as that is the time the women have leisure. For the last four weeks I have gone to one home at five o clock and had a half hour service, with an average attendance of eight adults, men and women. We hope during the coming quarter more meetings may be started. Vancouver, New Westminster, Nanaimo, Union and Wellington have each been visited once. If it were possible to have meetings for the women at these places the work would be more effectual, as the calls at each house are necessarily short. Mrs. Thom hoped to accomplish this and invited the women to meet meat the mission, but only one came out. The children's Sunday-school has been much more regule dy attended (largely by the children of our family) with an average of seven. I have the promise that more will attend. I am sorry to say that six of the women regularly visited expect to return to China with their children during the next two months. How I wish they were Christians that they might carry the Gospel back to their own country ! I mean to spend all the time I can with them. What impressions of Christianity will they take away? and will they ever have another opportunity of hearing of Jesus? are questions that force themselves into my mind. God grant that I may be faithful in the discharge of my duty and be a real help to these women for whom our Saviour died.

F. KATE MORGAN.

#### INDIAN WORK.

#### CROSBY GIRLS' HOME,

PORT SIMPSON, B.C., April 20th, 1898.

As I attempt to prepare my last quarterly report, I regret that it is indeed to be my last. For during the five years that I have spent among these people they have grown very dear to my heart.

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In parting from the girls I realize that they have become very much like my own children; and what it will mean to me to leave them, some at least of our readers will quite understand. My greatest anxiety has been to see them all savingly converted, but in this I am disappointed. Still, as we watch the gradual improvement and see their characters growing stronger and they more firm in times of temptation, we feel that our labor has not been in vain, but that a good foundation has been laid upon which strong Christian characters will eventually be built.

During the past two weeks we have had special services in the Home for our own girls and boys, conducted by Mr. Robson, and there has been a marked increase of interest shown in all the meetings. We most earnestly hope and pray that this may strengthen and deepen in their hearts, until all are brought into a close fellowship with Him who has said, "Suffer the children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Some are earnestly trying to live the Christ-life, and there is no book they study or love more than the Bible.

The health of the girls during the last quarter has been remarkably good, but as spring advances there are two or three who are complaining of general debility. We trust that with judicious care and treatment they will soon be well and strong again. Matilda (an invalid for the past two years) has passed the winter remarkably well, and to outward appearanc is quite as strong as last spring. Her cough is very trying at times, and we know that the dread disease consumption, which is so prevalent among these people, is surely doing its work, and soon she, too, will go to join the great multitude who are waving palms of victory.

Lydia, or "our baby," as we all call her, has been troubled with a scrofulous sore on her leg, and has not been able to walk across the room for three weeks; but the last day or two she has been improving rapidly, so much so that we dare not leave her alone for more than a very few minu'es at a time, lest when we return we find that she has been busy washing night dress, pinafore, or any other article of clothing that she can get into the wash-basin. Large and heavy though our regular washings are, we do not quite

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approve of our new help. It amuses the girls very much, as Lydia is such a pet. At present we have forty-three names on our roll; we fear, however, that one must be returned to her friends, as she is not strong enough to stand either work or discipline. A mistake was made in admitting her, but we hoped she vould improve. The average age of our present number is very much lower than formerly, which makes them easier managed; but the work is pretty heavy for them. As for the staff, we are as busy as it is possible for three women to be. We have very little time to devote to the necessary letter-writing and book keeping, and frequently have to burn the midnight oil to get these duties attended to.

It is very quiet in the village at present. Most of the people are away to the Oolachan fishing, and others have departed north to the much talked of gold minos. Mr. and Mrs. Robson have gone to Victoria to attend Conference. Dr. and Mrs. Bolton are in Victoria also, and we miss them all very much. We most earnestly hope that Mr. Robson will return here for at least another year.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierce are expected down from Upper Skeena in a few days. We nope they will have a safe journey. A pleasant one they cannot have this time of the year.

And now, as I leave my loved work for others to take up, I can only add:

"Lord, bless those who teach and those who learn, Send wisdom from above, And may they for instruction yearn, And all Thy precepts love."

J. REDNER.

#### INCREASE.

Bay of Quinte Branch.

Davis Church, Demorestville Circuit—"Day Star" Mission Band.

Toronto Conference.

Elmvale-Auxiliary.

Bracebridge ... " Onward " Mission Circle,

# Suggested Programme-July.

# Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month: "India k. All Mohammedan Countries."

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

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- I. Opening Exercises : "We must help to make the song
  - That is waited for above."
- II. Regular Business.
- III. Hymn.
- IV. The Watch-Tower.

"Watchman, tell us of the night, What the signs of promise are."

- V. President will read :
  - A writer in the Harvest Field summarises the present work of Protestant missions in India as follows: "There are to day nearly three-fourths of a million of Protestant Christians, half a million of children are under Christian instruction, there are also 1,000 European and Eurasian preachers, another 1,000 lady workers, 5,000 native preachers, and 10,000 native teachers at work spreading Christian truth among the people."
  - Bishop Thoburn of the M.E. Church writes of the present opportunities in India as contrasted with forty years ago "It is no longer necessary to go to the jungles to find inquirers. In many parts of India thousands are manifesting al practical interest in the Christian "eligion. Thirty years ago the great difficulty was to find converts who desired instrution. To day enough Christian teachers cannot be form to inst uct the applicants for baptism."

One sixth of the women in India are widows.

The last census (taken in 1891) is as follows :

- Widows under 4 years of age, 13,878.
- Widows between 5 and 9 years, 64,040.
- Widows between 10 and 14 years, 174,532.
- VI. Reading: "Hindu Widowhood."\*
- VII. Short Sketch (seven minutes) of the Life and Work of the Pundita Ramabai.\*
- VIII. Prayer.

IX. Hymn. Benediction.

\*Sketch of the Life and Work of the Pundita should be carefully condensed from Leaflet.

Literature for this rogramme will be ready about 15th June, prive 6 cents, at Room 20 and the Depots. For addresses see last page.

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#### WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

# NOTICES TO AUXILIARIES.

#### Our New Gold Pin.

The Literature Committee has just completed arrangements for our W. M. S. and Mission Band Pins in gold for hife-members. The star is attacheā 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.

The Literature Committee regrets that it has been found necessary to increase the price of the silver Mission Band Pin to 15 cents each, \$1.50 per doz. This price will not be asked until the 1st of June; until then it will remain as at present, 10 cents each for any quantity. Flease enclose the usual 2 cents for postage and wrapping.

# Special Notice.

Room 20 and the Depots will be closed as usual during August. Kindly send all orders before the 25th of July.

#### Cycle of Prayer (new edition.)

The Literature Committee regrets that after waiting some time for the American edition of the Cycle of Prayer, in order to approach uniformity as nearly as possible, it was found that it would not be issued until the autumn. The Canadian edition was then immediately prepared, and is now ready for sale.

A few alterations have been made in the subjects for the month, bringing the Cycle into closer accord with our Canadian work. The King's Daughters and Sons have been added to the daily subjects, and also The Deep Sea Mission, which now possesses an added personal interest to us, as one of our Student Volunteers is now connected with this Mission.

All the above-mentioned articles may be ordered from Room 20, and the Deputs. For addresses see foot of page 12.

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Subscriptions for the following missionary periodicals will be received and forwarded by MISS OGDEN :

Missionary Review of the World, per year \$2.25; Go-pel in All Lands, 6 months, 10 cents. Subscriptions to this Magaame may begin at any time, but must continue till December and then end. Illustrated Christian World, 75 cents; Message and beaconess World, 50 cents; The Double Cross and Medical Missionary Record, \$1.00-to missionaries and student volunteers, 50 cents

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

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