

"This is the Victory



Even Our Faith."

Monthly Letter.

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Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month :

"Missionaries and Missionary Ships."

Japan.

From Miss Veazey, Tokyo.

BUILDING—HOW? WHAT?

WITH February comes my turn to send you the new from our Tokyo work. The remembrance of this has sent my thoughts running back over the past year to see what items of interest remain yet unwritten to the home Auxiliaries, and as the months passed in review before me I could not but think what a year of change and unrest it has been all the way through. "The unexpected" enters largely into our lives here at all times, but this year has been one which has called into play all the "adaptability to circumstances" of which we were possessed when we came to the mission field, or which we may have acquired since. Not only in our school, where, with rebuilding and the various fortunes and misfortunes connected therewith, we have been in an upset state and practically homeless more than half the year, but in the general atmosphere of events there has been much to disturb and cause anxious thought.

For these shaky little Islands, earthquakes have been comparatively rare during the past year, but the agitation and unrest seem to have passed from the land into the people, and many and remarkable have been the political changes during the past twelve months, several of which affect more or less directly the character of mission work here. The coming into force of the revised Treaties in July, and the issuing soon after of the Edict in regard to schools (which for a time made it seem probable that all Christian schools would have to be closed), brought up afresh the often-discussed question as to the relative importance of school and evangelistic work, and called forth some strong arguments on both sides, though none strong enough to reconcile those whose lives are being given to school work here to closing their schools, even with the privilege of being free to travel in the interior for evangelistic work. The reason, I think, why some evangelistic workers oppose school work is because they are looking upon the two as distinct branches of work. This, to my mind, is a grave mistake, for as it appears to me all school work is eminently evangelistic; while, on the other hand, all evangelistic work, to be truly successful, must partake in a certain measure of the "line upon line, precept upon precept" teaching, such as is given in our schools, and which can be given there to so much better advantage than in the homes of the women, essential as this latter work is and always will continue to be.

During my four years in the evangelistic work in Kanazawa I felt so often the disadvantages under which we worked among the women. An hour a week in the meetings, and a visit from the Bible-women or ourselves two or three times a month, was the extent of our opportunities; and among even the most faithful of the Christian women there was such a lack of Bible knowledge, or intelligent understanding even, of the responsibilities and privileges of the Christian life. I have often wished that it were possible to give our Church women and those whom we gather into our various meetings, something of the privileges of regular and systematic Bible study, with its accompanying spiritual help such as is secured to their daughters through our girls' schools.

On taking up the work in Tokyo on my return from furlough last year I was appointed to the school here, but helped for a few months in the evangelistic work as well. One meeting took me, every two weeks, a five miles' ride from the school, so that the hour for the meeting, a couple of calls on absent members, and the return ride, was all that an afternoon would allow. Sometimes we held our meetings with two or three eight was the largest number ever present, and that rarely, the homes being so scattered.

Discouraged though one may feel sometimes at the small attendance and apparent lack of interest on the part of some, we know these meetings to be a source of help and strength to those who attend, and we cannot feel that our effort has been given in vain however few the numbers. On the other hand, our school work, though decried by some as "a waste of time and mission money in a country so well supplied with schools as Japan," furnished us daily with opportunity for teaching the bible which certainly it would be hard to overestimate; and sometimes I have thought as I sat and looked into the faces of my two dozen or more "embryo women"—girls ranging from sixteen to twenty-two years of age, and two or three of them already wives—that for the privilege of teaching such a class in connection with any of our outside work a half hour daily for four, five or six years, one would be willing to sacrifice almost anything in the way of time or means for the sake of the thorough grounding in Bible knowledge and heart truths thus afforded. So it seems to me that even though all the machinery of our schools has to be organized simply to secure this daily Bible lesson with our eighty pupils, that we could still count the outlay and the hours given to *English teaching* as well spent. Outside of this, however, the new and purer world of literature opened up to our girls by the study of English, as well as the training in womanliness and helpfulness along so many lines that tend to character building, count for much in influencing the makers of the future homes of this land. Then, too, it has been proved that the most successful evangelistic workers among their own people are, in very many cases, those who have had their training and gone out from our girls' schools in former years, and the majority of the evangelistic workers among women here would find themselves greatly hampered in their work did they not have the schools to look to for helpers.

But would not "Bible schools" meet this need? is sometimes asked. So far as the actual supply of Bible-women is concerned it would, provided that we could find enough Christian women, old or young, to enter such schools for the course of training, which would be very doubtful, as even now with the number furnished from the ranks of those who have come out from heathendom in our regular girls' schools, the supply is not at all equal to the demand. Then, too, we have found that the all-round training given in these schools is just the preparation needed to fit the woman to be a successful worker in the homes of her sisters here, as well as to prepare her for the duties of wife and mother which come all too soon to all girls in this land. Therefore, it seems plain that for a number of years yet our Mission schools will be still needed in Japan;

and realizing this we cannot but feel very grateful that the danger of being obliged to close them is for the present removed. We trust, too, that the bright new building whose slow growth we have watched through so many mishaps this past year may, on its completion, gather in an increased number of the growing women of this land, and that from it may go out influences for good that shall reach on through all the coming years.

China.

ANOTHER WAIF.

From Miss Foster, Cher 'u, January 6th, 1900.

AS we have come to the close of another quarter, our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for His love and care. The work in all its departments has been much the same as it was during the first quarter, excepting that our Sunday School has been better attended. We have had a total attendance for the quarter of 306—an average of about twenty-five per Sunday, outside of our own servants and children. This quarter Miss Brooks and I have visited some of our neighbors, to give them the Gospel in their homes. Many of the women were very friendly, and invited us to come again. We greatly desire to extend this work, but are unable to do so through lack of time and helpers.

In December, three of the children in the Orphanage were very seriously ill, but by the blessing of God they are now quite well. No admissions to either the school or orphanage have been made until yesterday; we took in a poor bruised child, of about five years, who came to us for shelter, so there are now seven children in the Jennie Ford Home, and we are expecting two from Kia Ting, whom a friend there asked us to take. Dr. Killam will give you an account of the hospital work for the quarter. We continue to solicit your prayers in behalf of our work in Chentu.

We were very glad to receive your letter dated September 29th, and were quite relieved to hear that our Annual Reports had been received. We heard that Dr. Henry and Miss Brimstin were leaving Chung King on the 21st of December. If this is true, we shall expect to welcome them home in about two weeks.* We were very sorry to hear that Miss Brimstin's father died about the time she landed in Shanghai.

We had a nice long letter from Miss Brackbill a few days ago, saying she hoped to bring three new workers with her, whom we shall be very glad to welcome.

* They arrived on January 30th.

Indian Work.

FIRST NEWS FROM THE UPPER SKEENA.

From Robert H. Cole, Hugwilget, B.C., April 11th, 1900.

THE work in connection with the Hugwilget Home is going on with varying success. There have been many interruptions and difficulties.

A farmer can always find something to do under any circumstances; add to this house-keeping, teaching, and attending to children, building, etc., and you can form some idea as to my work.

Of the \$500 you so kindly sent us, I have used a part for improvements, *i.e.*, in putting an addition (18 x 24) to the old building, and a part for maintenance as the ladies suggested.

The difficulties of building in this country are known only to those who have had it to do. Material is very expensive. Although there is a saw-mill about four miles up the river, it has not been running very satisfactorily. In putting up the addition, I decided to hire as little labor as possible, doing the work myself, with the help of a boy. Six children are the most I have had. If we had accommodation for thirty or forty, we would have no difficulty in getting them.

The Indians of this country get little or no help from the Government,—nothing save a few medicines (for the indigent) and a very few garden seeds.

The site here is all that could be desired. The land is rich, and we can, with a few exceptions, grow all kinds of vegetables, and I have also been very successful with grain. Corn can not be grown on account of the cool nights.

We are perhaps in the best position in the country for work of this kind. Being just at the junction of the Bullsley and Skeena, our location is central. We are one mile from Hazelton (270 Indians), three and a-half miles from old Hugwilget (160 Indians), seven miles from Kishpiax (350 Indians), fifteen miles from Gitseguela (150 Indians)—which is down the river, also Gitwangah and Meinskinisht villages, from thirty to forty miles farther down. The land being of a light clay loam, the drainage is perfect. The Skeena supplies water of excellent quality, excepting about two months in summer—May and June—when it becomes rather muddy.

This farm, by the assessment roll, consists of 303 acres, most of which is covered with hazel brush, small poplar and birch, also some red and black willow. This has grown up probably within the past ten years, since the original timber was burnt; consequently there are any number of charred logs and stumps to be removed in clearing the land.

I have written this, expecting any moment to hear some one call out, "The canoe is coming." I will write you again for the next mail. I thank you for your kindly interest and sympathy, and for your prayers in our behalf.

From Miss Long, Kitamaat, March 13th, 1900.

THE greetings and your letter with such kind appreciation of my endeavours were a great comfort and help to me. Mr. and Mrs. Raley arrived last Wednesday, just at the limit of the time I had given them. I was so anxious about a little girl who was sick I felt I could not bear the responsibility any longer. Dr. and Mrs. Large were on the boat. I was so thankful to see the doctor, who prescribed for Elizabeth and some of the others. Elizabeth is sister to Mary Cross, the child who was so ill last year; she is very much the same as Mary was. She came to the "Home" last September and was improving wonderfully in every way until she was taken sick. Before entering she was such an ungainly child both in manner and appearance I almost dreaded having her. One of her eyes is crossed; poor child, she feels very badly about it. One day Flora was showing her a picture of Mary and Elizabeth; she pointed to Elizabeth and said, "Do you think her eye is like mine." If the girls want to tease her they tell her she has a funny eye; I am trying to break them of talking like that to each other. At first they used to cry, now they tell me, they will say, "Miss Long, Annie says I have a long neck," or "Miss Long, Lillie says I have little eyes." The worst thing they can say to each other is, "Your mother is dead," or "Your father is dead," or somebody belonging to them is dead.

I read that part of your letter to the girls in which you mentioned the names of those who had obtained "G," and your message to them; they were delighted. I have great hopes for some of the middle girls, who, I expect, will be my big girls next year. There are four the same size--Angelina, Martha, Nancy and Alice; they are all doing well. In watching the girls I often think of the resolution regarding the effort being made to train some selected girls for direct work in harmony with the aims of the "Home." Having so many little girls that are not able to do for themselves, all the big girls work hard and are willing; they are very fond of the little ones, and good to them, but as yet I only know of one girl, Martha Ross, who could be trained to take any responsibility. She is a good worker, very neat, steady, and has an influence for good over the other girls, and can make the little girls mind

let, which none of the others can do unless they have direct orders from me. Occasionally a big girl will tell her she tries to be a "moodsey" (teacher) like Miss Long, but she only laughs; any other girl would cry. At first I felt disappointed, because Mr. Raley did not bring an assistant, but, of course, I understand the position and can wait with patience.

I appreciate very much the confidence the ladies have placed in me, and feel it an honor to be recognized as one of the Woman's Missionary Society missionaries. Thanking you for your kind words of encouragement.

Suggested Programme.

(Arranged by HARRIET S. STEWART.)

Subject of Prayer and Study for July:

"INDIA AND ALL MOHAMMEDAN COUNTRIES."*

- I. Doxology, short prayer by President, hymn, Scripture lesson, two or three prayers.
- II. (a) Roll-call, replied to by items regarding India.
(b) Business.
- III. (a) Watch-Tower.
(b) "The Story of Kiteja." †
- IV. Music—"In the Secret of His Presence."
(The words of this hymn were written by Ellen Lakshmi Goreb, a Brahmin lady of the highest caste, who is now a missionary among her own countrywomen.)
- V. "Home Life in India." ‡ Three short talks §: "The Homes," "The Family," "Women there, women here."
- VI. Hymn.
Prayer for famine-stricken India, also for our Gracious Sovereign, Empress of India.

* We suggest that where it is possible a map of India be used, and, when the subject for the month is read, attention be drawn to the map and a few statistics given in regard to the country, population, where Christianity prevails, etc. This map is not supplied by Room 20 nor the depots.

† Leaflet, price one cent, at Room 20 and the depots.

‡ Leaflet, price two cents, at Room 20 and the depots.

§ Two minutes each.

NOTE.—Please enclose two cents additional for postage and wrapping when ordering leaflets.

Notes from Room 20.

THE successful debut of the "Flag Exercise," but recently added to the list of publications issued at Room 20, is most gratifying to the Committee on Literature. Arranged with the hope of interesting the younger portion of the Church in our own missions, and as a substitute for the aimless recitations, dialogues and music of too many entertainments, it cannot fail to find favor with the leaders of Mission Bands, Junior Leagues and Sunday Schools.

Mrs. Deacon, of Stanstead, Que., who had the pleasure of superintending its first presentation writes. "The juniors gave the flag exercise on Saturday evening; it was beautiful—everyone was charmed. We wished the juniors only to take part, and, as suggested, the recitations were cut down. The little folks did nobly; I wish you could have seen them. I had no idea that forty children from four to fourteen years could be trained to do so well. One lady remarked, 'It is not often children have so much religion taught them for a public exhibition.' We are requested to repeat it, and will probably do so soon. If you prepare any more exercises I shall want to try them."

**THE FLAG
EXERCISE.**

The *Stanstead Journal* says: "Then came the programme, showing much care and patient work on the part of children and teacher. This was an unusually pretty exercise, a combination of missionary hymns and recitations. The music was strikingly pretty and taking. The flags gave a pretty effect, and the children remembered remarkably well." Price 5 cents a copy at Room 20 and the Depots.



MAPS of Japan and China have been prepared in outline, which is to be heavily traced with chalk or crayon, and the points of interest added as required.

**OUTLINE
MAPS.**

The maps are on manilla paper, 34 x 46 inches, and are 5 cents each. For 5 cents additional, a small printed map of Japan will be sent to assist in locating our mission stations and the natural features of the country. For China, the public school atlas can be used in connection with the Annual Report.



HOW annoying to the "tidy one" are those loose numbers of the MISSIONARY OUTLOOK which you value so much. You could not part with them, containing as they do so much that is most important in the history of our Church. But the "tidy

one" may be made happy, and the annoyance chased away like mist in the sunshine. Just send to Room 20, or one of the Depots, for those self-binding covers, one of which will contain two years' numbers. The price is only 75 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), will receive deposits of \$1.00 for the literature to be used in connection with the Suggested Programme for Auxiliaries, 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.



CORRESPONDING Secretaries of Branches will please report increases of Auxiliaries and Mission Circles or Bands to Mrs. Bascom, 1,339 King Street West, Toronto, Secretary of Literature Committee, for publication in the *Monthly Letter*.



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*, beginning with April, 60 cents. (Subscriptions to this magazine may begin at any time, but must continue till December and then end.) *Message and Deaconess World*, 50 cents.



ROOM 20 and the Depots will be closed during August as usual. Please send all orders before July 26th.



ARTICLES in the Magazines: *Missionary Review of the World* for May—"Zinzendorf, the Father of Modern Missions"; "The Roman Catholic Crisis in France"; and "The Providence of God in Missions." The *Montreal Witness* for April 21st—"The Boxers," a Secret Society in China. *Foreign Missionary Tidings* for May—"The Religion of the West Coast Indians, B.C." The *May Ladies' Home Journal*—"A Missionary in the Great North-west" is continued, and in the January number is an interesting Indian story of our own country, "The Home-Coming of the Nakannies." *Harper's Bazar* of March 24—"Miss Humphrey's Memories," an account of a pleasant trip to Japan.

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