

"THIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH."

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# Monthly Letter.

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SUBJECT FOR PRAYER.

Medical Missions.

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INDIAN WORK.

From Miss Spence.

FORT SIMPSON, B.C., *Sept. 4th, 1896.*

We have had a busy and a prosperous year throughout. While on one hand we have enjoyed considerable sunshine and communion with our blessed Master, on the other hand it has been fraught with anxieties and dark shadows, which seemed so hard to penetrate. But we know and believe that "our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Even in our saddest moments we have been cheered and impressed

by the words of the Psalmist, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." The death of the Doctor's little daughter filled our hearts with sorrow. Our official staff consists of a superintendent and two nurses. The superintendent is a very busy man—his duties are manifold. In addition to his medical work (which alone is sufficient for any ordinary man) he must, as Justice of the Peace, administer justice to the transgressors, who are quite numerous in a mixed population, and as local preacher he must fill appointments, whether convenient or otherwise.

Miss Stevenson, whose duties commenced in April, filled the place left vacant by Miss Lawrence. She is well qualified for missionary work, and in time with proper training will make an excellent nurse.

In addition to my work in the hospital, I have made 119 visits among the sick of the village. I had time and opportunity for prayer and reading the Scriptures with them 44 times, and have presided at 8 meetings in connection with the W.M.S. Auxiliary.

We have religious services with the patients every day, in which quite a number of them take part. On Sunday afternoon the missionary or some of the Christian natives hold a preaching service in the wards, which the patients greatly enjoy. I do not know what number of conversions have taken place in the wards, but I do know that some of them date their conversion from the time when they were in the hospital.

In grateful acknowledgment of your many prayers, sympathies and favors, I remain, your loving sister in the work.

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## JAPAN.

From Miss Blackmore.

AZABU, TOKYO, Oct. 1st, 1896.

I am sorry not to have been able to write to you by the Canadian mail, but it went out at an especially busy time.

Dr. Macdonald and I went down to Yokohama to meet the new missionaries on September 7th, and the next morning Miss Hargrave and I, with five of the Japanese belonging to the school, started for Kofu. Miss Lambly accompanied by three Japanese had gone the day before. It was pouring rain, and you know something about the trip under such circumstances. Just as we enter the mountains, for about a mile and a quarter, the road is the bottom of a deep, narrow gorge, the mountains rising abruptly on either hand; it is quite steep and very narrow, and had become the bed of a muddy, rushing little river. There was no way but to wade through, and in the deepest places (above my knees) the current was so strong that the Japanese girls could not hold their own against it, but had to be helped from one shallower spot to another.

Fortunately we had met at Hachioji with Judge Kakatani, whose home is very near the Kofu school, and who has the reputation of cordially disliking Christians and foreigners. He was very kind and helpful, however, and I think our three days' journeying under difficulties helped to remove some of his prejudices.

The flood has been general over a large part of the country—bridges are gone, landslides blocked the roads, and houses and rice-fields are destroyed.

We got through after walking about eighteen miles, but we were the last to get through for a week; then it was necessary to walk between thirty and forty miles. One of our Japanese teachers walked seventy miles to get back to work, a pretty hard walk for a Japanese woman.

You will wonder, perhaps, why I went out to Kofu at all when my work is in Tokyo. The doctor said Miss Preston must not go back to work in the heat of September, so I went out with Miss Hargrave to help her get the work started. Returning I reached Tokyo last Saturday, coming back over the mountains, as the river is still too swollen to be passable. Miss Preston started to go out on Tuesday and probably reached the school to-day. She has grown stronger, but will need to be very careful this

year. Miss Crombie is still in Tokyo, not having sufficiently regained her strength to undertake so rough and long a journey as that to Kanazawa. The railroad is washed out in many places, and jinrikisha and boats are uncertain. She hopes to start next week.

I wish I could give you an idea of the joy, and hope and courage which the return of Misses Hargrave and Hart, and the coming of the new missionaries have brought to the Christian workers, both foreign and native. Mr. T., the Azabu pastor, seems like a new man. His sermons are so much more bright and earnest, and the girls say he even prays differently. Do not grow weary of asking God to endue us all with wisdom and strength for His work.

Miss Alcorn is falling into line with the readiness of one who has had experience in life and in Christian work. We are thinking of and praying for you as the season of annual meeting approaches. May He who errs not, guide all your deliberations.

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## CHINA.

From Miss Brackbill.

CHEN-TU, *Sept. 5th, 1896.*

I am sending you a copy of the deed of the new place. Of course it had not the stamp of the official as the deed itself has, but I thought you might like a copy, though it may be a little difficult for you to translate it. I am keeping a copy here and sending the true ones down to the bank at Hankow. Besides the one made out for us we have the old one the previous owner had. We have possession of the place, and are cleaning and repairing it, hoping to move over next week.

We came back on Monday from the mountains, and Miss Ford is feeling quite well again. We had a pleasant trip—all quiet on the road—no disturbance whatever—Mrs Bishop to the contrary. I am sending you a Shanghai paper containing a description of her (Mrs. Bishop's) trip through here. She had a great deal of trouble, but it was due to her

using an open chair, something the people have never seen here.

A gentleman (who has been out several years) and his wife left the city the day before we did, and encountered a mob at one place and were rather roughly treated—cause: a theatre in progress on the street. We had two days on the road each way, and were set down only a few feet from a theatre crowd, and though the people knew there were foreigners in the chairs we were not molested in any way. It seems to me a good argument that people can travel as well in foreign as in Chinese clothes, if argument is needed. We are badly in need of help. Help in school work will be required before one can get command of the language.

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### ANNUAL REPORT.

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The Annual Report will be ready about the time this number of the MONTHLY LETTER is distributed, and orders will be filled as rapidly as possible. It is hoped that all orders received before November 21st will be filled by December 10th.

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### NOTICE.

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The Holiday Edition of the "Cycle of Prayer" is now ready. It is a very attractive booklet, bound in white card, with embossed border and gold-embossed title in Tudor lettering, and is very suitable for Christmas distribution, taking the place of the customary Christmas card or the Missionary Calendar formerly prepared by the W.M.S. The price is: 10 cents each, 3 copies for 25 cents, \$1.00 per dozen copies. Please enclose two cents additional for postage and wrapping on each order.

## Suggested Programme for January Meeting.

### Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month.

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

For increased spiritual power to come upon the membership, upon all missionaries and teachers, that secret believers in the mission fields may be taught of the Spirit.

#### I. Opening exercises.

“For work is good, and righteousness is good, and knowledge is good, but best of all is Love. Love is Jesus’ chosen guest-chamber, and he that has Jesus for a guest has power and goodness, and truth and God.”  
—*Ian Maclaren.*

#### II. Regular business.

#### III. Hymn.

#### IV. Bible Reading. Text, “Did ye receive the Holy Ghost when ye believed?” Acts xix. 2. (R. V.)\*

#### V. Reading. “The Man that Died for Me.”†

#### VI. Prayer: That the Woman’s Missionary Society may dwell in the Secret of His Presence.

#### VII. Bible examples of woman’s work.‡ (This exercise will throw new light on precedent and privilege.)

1. Romans xvi. 12. 2. Romans xvi. 3; Acts xviii. 2, 18, 26.
3. Acts xxi. 8, 9. 4. Acts ix. 36. 5. John xii. 1, 2, 3. 6. Luke ii. 36-38. 7. Judges iv. 4-8. 8. Judges iv. 9; Judges v. 24-27, 31.
9. Acts xvi. 14, 15.

#### VIII. Watch-Tower.

#### IX. Hymn. Prayer.

\*The member appointed to this number should carefully and prayerfully read “The Filling of the Holy Spirit,” by the Rev. F. B. Meyer, price 2 cents, at Room 20, and then prepare a short talk on the text given.

†See Leaflet, “The Man that Died for Me.” Price, 1 cent, at Room 20

‡To be given by nine members. Each member should search the Scriptures for all information to be found about the woman whose work is spoken of in the chapter and verses given her, then clothe in her own language and tell to the Society

## NOTICES TO AUXILIARIES AND MISSION BANDS.

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It may be interesting to members of Auxiliaries to know that Rev. Mr. Takagi, one of the Directors of the Azabu Ladies' School, is in Toronto, taking a post-graduate course at Victoria College. He was the pastor of our missionaries in Azabu, Tokyo, and has spoken most acceptably several times in public of the work.

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Letters concerning the organization of Auxiliaries and Mission Bands should be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary of the Branch in which the work is situated. For Corresponding Secretaries' addresses see Annual Report.

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The Literature Committee has much pleasure in announcing that a small circulating Library has been formed at Room 20, to which it is hoped additions will be made from time to time. Donations have been received from the following friends: Miss Wass, money; books, from the Mission Rooms, Mrs. Willmott, Mrs. R. Williams, Mrs. McKay, Mrs. Bascom, Miss Firstbrook, Miss Ogden, Rev. R. N. Burns, Mr. Beall, A Class in Carlton St. Sunday School, Toronto.

### TERMS FOR BORROWERS.

Ten cents a week and return postage. A book can be held for two weeks from the time received. If retained longer without notice of renewal, a fine of 3 cents per day will be imposed. No book may be renewed for longer than two weeks.

## CATALOGUE OF BOOKS IN CIRCULATING LIBRARY AT ROOM 20.

(Please preserve the following list for reference.)

	PAGES
China and Its People. Withrow .. . . . .	304
China and the Chinese. Mission Rooms.....	80
A Retrospect. J. Hudson Taylor .. . . . .	128
A History of the Sze-chuen Riots. A. Cunningham, Shanghai	68
Native Races of North America. Withrow.....	200
The Indians, Whence Came They? Who Are They? Their Manners and Customs. Maclean.....	350
James Evans, Inventor of the Syllabic System of the Cree Language. Maclean .. . . . .	208
Mission Life in the North-West. Semmens .. . . . .	199
Forest, Lake and Prairie. McDougall.....	267
By Canoe and Dog-Train. Young .. . . . .	267
Our India Mission. A Gordon.....	516
The Bishop's Conversion (A Story of Mission Life in India). Maxwell .. . . . .	384
Through the Dark Continent. Stanley .. . . . .	312
Memoirs of Mrs. Rebecca Wakefield, missionary in Zanzibar	373
Dr. David Livingstone. Mossman. . . . .	81
Adoniram Judson, the Apostle of Burma. Marrat .. . . . .	128
Australia and Homeward. Lucas .. . . . .	336
Japan, the Land of the Morning. Saunby.....	302
Life of Rev. J. Hardy Neesima.....	156
South America, the Neglected Continent.....	182
Missionary Scenes in Many Lands. Barrass .. . . . .	209
My Mission Garden (Ceylon). Langdon .. . . . .	200
A Missionary Among Cannibals; or, The Life of John Hunt. By Rowe.....	286
Modern Heroes of the Mission Field. Bishop of Ossory .. . . . .	344
Letters and Sketches from the New Hebrides. Mrs. J. G. Paton .. . . . .	382
Story of the Fisk Jubilee Singers (with their songs). Marsh.	243



	PAGES
Prize Essay on Missions—The Heathen World: Its Need of the Gospel, and the Church's Obligation to Supply It. By Patterson .....	293
Miracles of Missions. Pierson .....	193
Systematic Beneficence—Three Prize Essays .....	124
The Religions of the World. Grant .....	137
Historical Sketches of Woman's Missionary Societies in England and the United States. Hart .....	204
Roberts' Rules of Order.....	192
Guide to the Conduct of Meetings. Fish .....	189

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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.

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Orders for *Palm Branch* should be sent to Miss S. E. Smith, 282 Princess Street, St. John, N.B. Single copies, 15 cents; 10 copies to one address, \$1.00.

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Life-membership fees are to be sent with the quarterly returns to the Treasurer of the Branch in which the member lives.

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The address of the General Treasurer, Mrs. Thompson, is now 68 Gloucester Street, Toronto, instead of Rosedale.

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All communications regarding Supply Committee work should be addressed to Mrs. Wm. Briggs, 21 Grenville Street, Toronto, Ont.

Manuscripts for loan can be procured from Room 20. Subjects: "Chinese Religious Faiths," by A. W. Briggs; "Systematic Giving," by A Systematic Giver. Postage and wrapping, 3 cents each. The manuscript to be carefully *enclosed* in paper, and returned the day after it is used.

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.

## LEAFLETS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

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Our Christmas Gifts. A Service. ....	.06	.60
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