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UNITED CHURCH
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Missionary Leaflet.

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

VOL. VIII.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1892.

No. 4.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

APRIL.

For the Indian Work.

The schools and homes, teachers, helpers and children—that those taught may become good and useful citizens. Rom. 10: 14. For Dr. Bolton's medical work on the Pacific Coast.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READING TO BE USED AT MONTHLY MEETINGS OF AUXILIARIES :

Psalm lxxii. 1-14; Matt. xviii. 1-14.

JAPAN WORK.

From Mrs. Large.

TOKYO, February, 8, 1892.

This morning we laid one of our men-servants to rest in the Aoyama cemetery, beside old Sakuma who died a little more than three years ago. His name is Tokizo, he came to the school while I was away. Some years ago he was a very bad man, making his living by robbery. He had two children, but he had no love for them, and knew not even where

they were. Being caught in a theft, he was put in prison, and while he was there heard the glad news of salvation through Christ, from the keeper of the prison, one of the members of the Shizuoka church. So good was his behaviour that he was released before his time was up. He accepted Christ, and great was the joy that filled his heart. His was no outward washing, the blood of Christ had cleansed from all sin; and from that time he was ever about his Master's business. To all who came in his way he was ever talking of the light that had come into his own life, and entreating them to walk the "Narrow way." The policemen who were on guard last winter, became so interested that they asked for Bibles to be given them. At the beginning of the new year we hired a new servant to take the place of Sentaro, who was changed to the charge of the cooking department. This new one was not here ten days before Tokizo had him reading his Bible, and was urging him to learn all he could of this One who had changed him into a new creature. Two weeks ago to-day he was unable to attend to his work. Three days later we sent him to the hospital in which our girls support a bed (a private Christian hospital, where the Bible is taught daily). We had no thought of his dying; the doctor said he would be around in about two weeks. But he was very weak, and when the suffering ceased he had no strength with which to rally, and quietly passed away Saturday night. Mr. Hiraiwa spoke so earnestly to those present this morning to be also ready. We shall miss him here, but "the Master had need" of him, and we know, he, though dead, yet speaks.

The little girls have just been in collecting money to buy some flowers. They went to Miss Munro last night and asked if they could not buy flowers to send to Tokizo's funeral, but Miss M. did not think it wise to allow them to do

this; they were very much disappointed at this, as Tokizo had been their friend and had often talked to them of God. Miss M. explained that as he was now in heaven the flowers would do him no good, but that they might take up a collection of not more than three certs each, to buy flowers to send to those who are now in the hospital where he died, and so do good to others, for his sake. This pleased all.

You will remember the S—— family. At one time, two of the girls were in the school. In the days when this school was so fashionable, Mr. S. was our great friend, but, for some reason that we could never understand, the girls were taken away in a strange manner, and all communication ceased. Two years ago last Christmas, Mrs. S. was present at our closing, having been brought by our teacher of Japanese literature, Mrs. Kobayashi. I spoke to her. Looking at me, she said that she was ashamed to see me, after the way they had acted. These last two months, Mrs. Kobayashi has been telling me where she thought my going would do good, as she was aware that I was giving all my spare time to visiting in the homes of former students. So one day she asked me to go to the S——s' with her, as they had a little girl to send to school shortly, and talked some of sending her here; that they regretted very much having ever taken Tazu from us; that she had been changed around, and now knew nothing; that if I went, they would see that there was no ill-feeling in my heart towards them. I consented to go. As we walked together, Mrs. K. was full of the good that this visit was going to do. I confess I was not quite so hopeful. The children only were at home, so we made a short call; and when leaving, I gave Tazu tracts and papers. Among them were seven volumes of a tract on "The True Life." That same, or the next, day, Mr. S.,

while in an unconscious fit, fell with his face over the "hibachi," and when found was terribly burned. Since that time he has not been able to leave his home. Saturday, Mrs. K. came to me for some more books, and told me that the day before she had found him rejoicing in sins forgiven. He could not read for himself, could not stand to have difficult matter read to him, and so these seven little volumes had been read. Through them he had seen himself a sinner, but having given all up to Christ, he was full of joy and determined that he and all his house would serve God. He recognized God's hand in his affliction. We do pray that the good work begun will continue. How very little idea we have of what, of all our work, will prosper!

Viscountess Y—— has passed away. She had been ill ever since the birth of her last child, in October last, I think. I do not think that anyone, save the members of the family, had seen her for months. These people in high life shut themselves in so closely at such times. But in their home, the Word has been taught for a year and a-half by one of the students of the school, and for a long time the whole family attended church regularly. The Viscount is a regular contributor to the Azabu church. Seven or eight small children are left without the care of a good mother, for such she was. We are wondering if the funeral will be a Christian one.

We are pretty well shut into the house these days. The smallpox is very bad in the city, worse than it has ever been since I first came. Dr. Macdonald thought we had better give up all our outside work for a time, until the worst was over, as he said we could not tell when we were exposed to infection. The day he told us this, he said he met one person being carried off somewhere, and saw on the street another with the signs of it on him. One of the missionary ladies in Tsukiji died of it last week, contracted in a Sunday-school to which she went. Two others are down with the disease. It is hard to lay by all work, especially for those who attend regular meetings, for it is so hard to get the women out at any time, and after a few weeks of absence, we will probably find that some have forgotten to go to the meetings. We can but leave the results with God. In face of the doctor's advice, we dare not do other than we are doing. The numbers in the school are not falling off this

term; there are several to come in, most of them to be helped in part, at least; with these we may have a little increase. We all have about as many on our hands as we can spare money for. The "King's Daughters" society has appropriated enough money to pay for one girl for a year. We have quite a number that are not taking English, their afternoons being given to working embroidery, the teacher taking the work when done. Just yet, they can do nothing very elaborate. He supplies all the materials, and makes what he can by the sale of the work. Later on, a price will be allowed for their work, so that after the first year careful workers can make enough to pay for their board. Three years of this work will make them independent. We do not think it is wise to teach every girl English; there are some who come who have no ability to ever grasp enough to do them any good; others will be more useful without a knowledge of it, and then the time taken in getting a thorough knowledge of English is so much longer. They take all the Japanese lessons.

FRENCH WORK.

Report on French Mission Work for the month of January, 1892.

The past month was pretty quiet as regards visiting, only fifty calls and visits were made, having been kept in for nearly three weeks by la grippe. While I felt grieved to be kept from my usual routine work, yet the dear Master did not keep me altogether with folded hands. As I could not go forth to speak for Him to the poor Papists, they came to me. One day scarcely passed but some of them called, and we have had a wonderful time. Some who are very sick and unable to be out I wrote to, so as to encourage them and keep the seed moist; also got Miss Runwells to visit them after school hours, so that few have been neglected. Also sent a report of our Christmas festival to the press, which appeared in the *Citizen Franco-American*, of Springfield, Mass., on the 28th ult. So that, altogether, I feel a blessed work has been accomplished, and the time neither lost nor misspent, for which I feel truly grateful, as also for the kind

remembrance of dear friends towards our school and the poor families I visit. I was greatly encouraged in receiving (by express on the 25th ult.) the promised bag of clothing for the poor, from the Easton's Corners Woman's Missionary Society. It contained a fine assortment of good and useful things, too numerous to mention or enumerate, but all kinds of clothing for women and children; also a very fine patch-work quilt, new, pieced by Mrs. Brown's class. I was so pleased I forgot all about being sick and weak, and got my son to open the bag the same day it came. Had all the things brought up to my room, assorted and divided them, bundled up part of them ready to be sent next day. It was twelve o'clock before I got through, and went to bed very tired; but my heart felt light and happy in the thought of the many poor ones who would be made glad. I also received and distributed among the poor and sick ones a very fine package or parcel from Douglas Church, through Mrs. Antliff, consisting of packages of flour, sugar, tea, candies and raisins; also half a dozen nice toy books and a very pretty album. This was received on the 7th ult., for which we wish to return our sincere thanks. We failed to acknowledge the receipt of these things before, not having the address. Also received from Mrs. Torrence the sum of five dollars; so that our poor are being looked after most generously. Praise God! We have felt the need of extra labor and zeal, in order to compete with the opposition we are receiving from the priests and nuns. They are constantly, in fact daily, going around to warn and threaten the parents whose children attend our school. But I fancy they are doing themselves more harm than their would-be victims. As I told the nuns, "Our work is of God and for Him, therefore must prosper spite of all persecutions." While some have left school, or are staying away for awhile, new ones are coming in, so we have a decent attendance. Souls are being warmed, and a good work is being done. The attendance at church and Sunday-school is increasing, so we feel repaid and encouraged. Hoping all our dear friends will feel likewise, and enjoy much of the presence of the Master through the coming year.

I remain, very sincerely, yours,

M. D. LAMONTAGUE.

PRAYER CARD LEAFLET.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

MAY.

For Auxiliaries, Mission Circles and Bands; Executive, Supply and Literature committees; Conference and District Organizers; and representatives to Annual Conferences.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS.—*Gen. xviii. 23-32; Phil. iv. 1.9.*

In the above we are all included, from the babe in arms, to the aged pilgrim leaning upon her staff; from the member burdened with office and committee work, to the many free from these responsibilities, with no other care but to be true to the obligations of membership (See By-law IX., page 172) which means so much, if carefully considered and observed.

The nine departments embraced in the subject for this month's prayer, covers all our work, and we might think it unnecessary to spend so much time on ourselves, and conclude the month lost, but from the fact that we are absolutely dependant upon the Divine One, who has Himself said, "Without *Me*, ye can do nothing." Hence the imperative necessity to be constant in prayer for His direction and help.

I often think, that in the present, when there is so much said about "best methods and plans of work," and rightly too, that we are apt to forget that our work is God's work. In our anxiety to be good efficient workers and secure success, we unconsciously turn our eyes from God and take the work, with its care and responsibility wholly upon our own hearts, and endeavor to do our part and His too. Oh how heavy and hard the work!

"Without *Me* ye can do nothing." How important then that we take our work and workers to Him in earnest, believing, importunate prayer.

It would be well, we think, to take the trouble to copy this month's subjects, in a bold hand. Take them once a day and spread them out before the Lord and dwell, as we may and can, upon each subject. This certainly would be an exercise most profitable, drawing out sympathies, and enabling us to take a more intelligent interest in our work generally. If this would be a profitable exercise to us who engage in it, what might, and would, be the result upon our work at home and abroad? "O wondrous power of faithful prayer."

It has been said that the whole movement of modern Missions has been in answer to prayer; that at first, God's people prayed that the world might be opened for the missionary and the gospel. So quickly has God answered that prayer, that His people are amazed at the answer. Then, prayer began for men and women to go as Christ's messengers. That prayer, too, has been answered, as witness the thousands of young people who have offered themselves for mission work, and who will go as soon as the Churches will send them. With such stupendous proof that God answers prayer, with what enthusiasm should we enter upon the month's duty and privilege!

We might attempt to say something by way of advice, or recommendation, to those dear sisters who are called to the important work allotted them in their several committees and departments, but we do not wish to divert your minds. God will send His own Spirit to suggest, prompt, direct and be wisdom and all that is necessary to them.

Anticipating the glorious possibilities awaiting our faith, let us nerve ourselves for activities and faithfulness, such as we have not hitherto thought of nor attempted.

Extracts of Letters to Supply Committee.

"The parcel was received last Friday evening. Accept sincere thanks for your valuable gift and convey to the Committee my appreciation of their kindness, so unexpected as well as undeserved. I see the hand of my Heavenly Father in it, and recognize you as His messengers to me."

"Mrs. Tate of Chilliwhack, acknowledges the receipt of a bale of clothing sent from the Auxiliary at Barrie. She says, 'We were glad to find so many good and useful articles in it, and are very thankful to the ladies whose forethought and labor provided such an excellent supply for us.'"

"Miss Hart of the 'Crosby Home,' Port Simpson, acknowledges with thanks, boxes and parcels, from Foxboro', Canifton Verschoyle, Woodstock, Rockwood, and a box from Lefroy which was sent to the Boys' Home. Miss Hart would be pleased to acknowledge the receipt of boxes direct to Auxiliaries sending, if they would put in the box the name of President or Secretary."

"A lady from Schomberg sent \$1.00, per Mrs. V. D. Walker, to be used for the children in the Home at Chilliwhack."

"The Auxiliary at Sutton sent a box of clothing, valued at \$18.50, to Thessalon, before Christmas, the contents of which were distributed, and greatly appreciated by the recipients."

"We acknowledge with very great pleasure the receipt of a sewing machine for the McDougall Orphanage, from members of the Davisville congregation, also a good supply of material for underclothing, contributed by the Sunday School scholars, aided by friends in the same Church. The Children's Class of Davisville are sending a clock. These donations have been secured through Rev. T. E. Bartley, who has taken an active interest in the work. We are hoping to be able to send a stove very soon, and shall thankfully receive contributions in money or goods for the Orphanage, which at present is in great need."

Boxes or bales weighing 100 pounds can be sent direct to the North-West, or British Columbia. Smaller boxes and parcels can be sent to the Methodist Book Room, Richmond Street West, Toronto, addressed to

21 Grenville Street, Toronto.

MRS. W. BRIGGS,

Secretary.

Reviews of Useful Leaflets.

When the "Maine Liquor Law" was pending, and it was yet uncertain what the final vote would be, Neal Dow said, "We must sow the State knee deep with literature."

These were wise words, for we can never feel an interest in any subject of which we know little or nothing, but as our knowledge grows our interest will deepen.

This is eminently true of missionary work, and we are very glad that each month a certain number of leaflets are brought to the notice of the members of our Auxiliaries, with the hope that they will obtain and read them at their leisure.

"The Responsibility of Not Doing." We thank our sister for the heart-searching words contained in this leaflet. She asks, "Are you and I responsible for what we have not done for the heathen?" and then proceeds to prove that we *are*, and that our *not doing* is disobedience to the command of our risen Lord, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." We wonder and feel ashamed when we hear a Christian woman say, "I do not believe in foreign missions." We try to excuse her by saying, "She does not know enough about the subject," but we are then brought face to face with the responsibility of *not knowing*, Prov. 24. 11, 12. Thus every shelter is swept away, and the responsibility of *not knowing* and *not doing* rests on the soul that refuses to *know* and to *do*. We strongly urge our members to read this earnest, faithful leaflet.

"That Missionary Baby,"—had a mother who so thoroughly understood and felt the individual responsibility we have been speaking about, that though a very busy woman, with a family to care for, and with no "help" in the kitchen "except the baby," still thought she must do something for the cause of missions. She could not attend the Auxiliary meetings, and yet, through her silent influence, as one of the "Scattered Helpers," the members became more regular in their attendance, and the general interest in missions was increased.

Dear sisters, read this leaflet in order to find out the method of the mother, and what became of "That Missionary Baby."

"Why Our Society did Not Disband." If you

are a member of a disheartened Auxiliary, order this leaflet, and read it at the next meeting. You will there see how all the excuses—even those which seem to be reasonable to ourselves—would sound, if uttered in the immediate presence of the Lord Jesus. In the quaint language of the writer, “How flimsy they would look, and how we’d hate to take up them excuses to the judgment bar of God. We wouldn’t get ’em off our tongues there as glib as we do now,”—and yet, “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,” and excuses that will not stand *then* cannot be accepted *now*. God grant that “the responsibility of not doing” may so rest on our consciences that “we may do with our might what our hands find to do” till the Master shall call us home.

“The Deacon’s Week.” Most of our leaflets are exclusively missionary in their aim, but as everything which lifts the soul nearer to God also draws it closer to the suffering heart of humanity, so anything which tends to make the heart purer and the daily Christian life more practical must be of the greatest value in our work.

In the above mentioned leaflet a discouraged pastor, instead of announcing the usual week of prayer, asks his congregation for a week of practice in its place—taking the same topics for each day as were those of the week of prayer. Monday—Temperance, to be temperate in speech and action. Tuesday—Sunday-school work, teachers to visit all their absent scholars. Wednesday—fellowship day, to be friendly with those who might be unfriendly, healing up all breaches, confessing their faults, etc., and so on until Saturday, which was set apart for missionary work.

On Saturday evening they met to compare notes, one being chosen by ballot to give his full experience, and we venture to say that Deacon Simmon’s confession will find an echo in the heart out of every Christian who has earnestly tried to make Christianity practical. No one can read this leaflet and forget it, or fail to receive benefit from it.

It is something you would instinctively lay by after perusal to be lent to some dear friend that she might receive the same blessing which its reading has brought to you. If you can only send for one copy let some member read it aloud in the Auxiliary meeting and you will all receive a lift heavenward.

Missionary Society of the Methodist Church.

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