



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

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A YEAR.

Subject for Prayer and Study for the Month:

"The Stranger Within Our Gates."

Japan.

From Miss Veazey, Ei-wa Jo Gakko, Azabu, Tokyo.

THE past quarter, ending December 21st, has seen more changes than is usual in our numbers, the enrolment since September being ninety-eight, of whom thirteen were new pupils, but we closed with only ninety in actual attendance. A few were obliged to withdraw on account of sickness, but a larger number left through the persuasions of one of our former daily teachers, a Japanese, whom we were obliged to dismiss before the summer vacation.

This teacher opened a school in her own house near us, and by circulating damaging reports concerning our school, succeeded in drawing away quite a number of the newly entered daily students. None of the boarding pupils left, however, and our school will soon live down the ugly rumors, as it has done several times in the past.

Our boarding department is gradually filling up, and the new pupils are most of them from good families, some of them in our near neighborhood.

Our new school building was formally opened Nov. 1st, and both teachers and pupils greatly enjoy its comforts and conveniences.

We have had but one baptism this term, a former pupil, now assistant sewing teacher; but six of the younger girls have taken their stand as Christians, by entering class meeting, and we trust that in time they may all receive baptism.

The King's Daughters' School is doing nicely in the hands of Iinuma San, one of the Kofu girls, whose head would not permit her to finish the course there, but who makes a very efficient teacher for the Poor School and Sunday School. The numbers are smaller than formerly, being now restricted to girls' classes only. Twenty-eight have been enrolled for the term, with an average attendance of twenty-five.

WORK IN TOKYO.

From Miss Blackmore we learn that meetings are being held in twelve different places in Tokyo with an average attendance of seven. Three Bible women are at work, and there are nine children in the Orphanage.

SHIDZUOKA.

In the Shidzuoka school, out of an average attendance of forty, twenty are attending class and twelve are members of the Normal Class for Sunday School teachers. Eight meetings have been held in factories, besides seventy-two regular women's meetings.

KOFU.

Miss Robertson writes from Kofu. "The usual meetings have been well attended, especially the Temperance meeting held once a month. At the daily Bible lesson we are glad to notice special interest on the part of several girls, while the few who show a somewhat indifferent spirit will probably become more interested as the days go by. We have no baptism to report, though one girl obtained the consent of her parents to be baptized shortly before school closed. We are looking forward to the event for next term."

As to the Evangelistic work in Kofu, Miss Washington says. "In October we opened meetings in another large silk factory. All the silk factories but one closed in November,—that one in December. The cotton factory in which we hold meetings is open throughout the year.

"Mrs. Yoshii, our new Bible woman, with a little more help and experience, will become a very good worker. Children's Sunday meetings have been held as usual in seven different places in the city, with a good attendance. About two hundred little ones gathered at their Christmas entertainment in our school rooms, and enjoyed themselves very much.

"Five women have received baptism. Most of our work throughout the whole term has been very encouraging indeed."

From Miss Wight, Nagano, Jan. 23rd, 1901.

As it devolves upon me to write the January letter, I thought it might be interesting to the home friends to hear of some of the difficulties in the way of those around us who are trying to follow Christ. When we learn how nobly these difficulties are met by both old and young, we thank God and take courage.

You know that our six little girl boarders attend the Government school for their Japanese lessons. They are there made the subject of many unpleasant remarks because they live in a Christian school.

When school closes on Saturday, the teachers often give their classes extra work to be done on Sunday; and, of course, when our girls appear on Monday without this work done, it makes "the Christians," appear in a very bad light, but they bear it very bravely. We try especially in our little "family talk" Sunday evenings, to give them food that will make them really strong little witnesses always for Him whom they are trying to serve. One of them stood first in her class last spring, and we believe their influence is being felt in the school. Two of their teachers surprised us not long ago by advising their pupils to attend Sunday School, and they themselves have attended church quite regularly since that time.

Oh! this work among the children is a grand work. To look into their faces as they assemble for a meeting; to try to imagine what sorrow has already come, and is still coming day by day into their young lives, and to think of their being entirely cut off from Christian influences in most cases for six days and twenty-three hours out of every week, makes one feel that to preach Jesus Christ is the highest privilege one could wish. And it does our hearts good to know that those in the home land, the mothers and fathers and the children, are working and praying together with us for the enlightenment of those who are in such great darkness. The work grows dearer day by day, and the thought of leaving it so soon even for a year's rest, is sometimes a very unpleasant one. But the Master will continue the work though the workers may be far away, and we trust Him for all things.

From Miss Howie, Azabu, Tokyo, Japan, Feb. 11th, 1901.

It is now five months since we landed in Japan, and during that time everything has tended to give me a favorable impression of the country.

As we steamed into Yokohama harbor and dropped anchor, we looked with curious interest at the fleet of small boats that swarmed around us, filled with dusky natives, who shouted in an unknown tongue, and exhibited strange wares for us to buy. But when we heard ourselves addressed in a familiar tongue by those who had come to meet us, we forgot all about the busy throng with their strange cries, and saw only our friends and heard only their words of welcome.

After attending to our baggage we took the train for Tokyo. Misses Laing, Forrest and myself were taken to the Girls' School in Azabu. We found that our ladies had moved into the building just a few days before, so that a nice, new home awaited us.

Shortly after we came school opened, and then my regular work of teaching and studying commenced. All my teaching is done in English, and to the advanced classes who understand English very well. I enjoy my work with the girls and find them earnest and careful students. Of course in my present work I see the Japanese girl as she is after she has been under Christian training for several years, but as I see her she impresses me as comparing very favorably with her Canadian sisters. At first they all looked alike to me, and my attempts at pronouncing their names proved a never failing source of amusement to them. I think they honestly tried to conceal their feelings, and on the whole succeeded very well, but in spite of their low bows and sober faces I instinctively felt that they were amused. However, my ear and my eye have both been trained somewhat, so that now I wonder why I ever thought the girls looked alike, and many of their names come quite naturally to me.

We have nearly one hundred pupils in the school this year, and about one-third are Christians. Last month twelve expressed a desire to become Christians. We believe that the

majority understand what it means, and take this step because they want Christ as their Guide and Master.

The school-rooms are arranged so that six can be thrown into one. In this way we were able to have a fine large audience room for the afternoon exercises. This looked very pretty, decorated with palms, ferns, chrysanthemums and flags. Although it rained heavily, by two o'clock this large room was well filled. After the programme, which consisted of music, essays and recitations by the students, and an address by Professor Saibara, President of the Doshisha, coffee and cake were served.

After this, school life went on very quietly until the Christmas season approached. Then the girls began to plan and work for their Christmas entertainment for their poor Sunday schools. This year the children from these schools were invited to meet in the vestry of the Azabu church, and at the appointed hour the room was well filled. Evidently they felt that this was a special occasion, for nearly all had attempted to improve their appearance. Poor little things! how I pitied them, for their very attempts only showed how helpless they were.

The Christmas story was first told to them by the pastor, then they sang hymns and recited Bible verses that the girls had taught them in Sunday School. As I sat watching them, I thought of the thousands around us who have never even heard of that One who came to bring "Peace on earth, good will to men," and I prayed that my Heavenly Father would use me in some way to advance His kingdom in this land.

Indian Work.

From Miss Clarke, Port Simpson, B.C., Feb. 20th, 1901.

THIS week I have got back to my own regular work, and am feeling quite rested. It is really delightful to find oneself actually accomplishing a trifle more than barely keeping things together. Miss Carroll is slowly improving, though still very frail.

There are at present forty inmates of the Home. Last week one of the large girls was received at the hospital for the treatment of swollen glands in her neck. Two others who were ailing were also allowed to go to their own homes, where we hope they may get stronger. In neither of the cases do we anticipate any danger of fatal results.

The school examination and exhibition of work in November was well attended by both white people and Indians, who expressed themselves well pleased with all they saw and heard. The distribution of prizes occasioned much interest, especially on the part of the parents. The prizes were awarded to those who succeeded best in the written examinations held in October. Lily Jones received three, the highest number awarded any one girl. Hannah Taylor won the catechism prize, with Sarah Sheppard a close second, and both papers were remarkably good. Thirty-seven girls had pieces of work to show, and most of the older girls three or four. The fancy work was much admired, as were also the dressmaking and plain sewing.

Fifty dollars were realized from the sale of work, which we were greatly pleased to be able to pass over to Dr. Bolton for the benefit of the hospital.

All the fancy work is done outside regular work hours. The girls take great delight in it, and with one accord are always glad to have the money earned given to some benevolent object.

The Christmas exercises were less elaborate than usual, still we had an unusually happy time, and I think the gathering of the girls' parents, the pupils of the Boys' Home and the resident missionaries the day after Christmas, proved the most successful social event we have yet undertaken.

The girls hung up their stockings this year and enjoyed the change from the regular Christmas tree. It was quite a sight, the forty-four pairs of stockings balanced across the banister rail, and I am sure the kind friends who helped us so liberally with their gifts would have felt repaid for their trouble, had they seen the delight of the girls on Christmas morning, when it took a very tiny jingle of the bell to empty every bed at the rising hour.

Since the holidays, illness among teachers and pupils has kept us very busy, but just now we are having a little breathing space, which means a great deal to us all, after the toil and anxiety of the past months. Only those who work can know the sweetness of rest and be properly thankful for the same, and perhaps that is why some very serious people can be so thoroughly merry when they happen to get a day off. The girls are cheerful and obedient, though by no means perfect; still we have much cause for gratitude because of the improvement we can note as we work on from month to month, and from year to year.

I seem to be having a very special holding up these days.

I am so light-hearted and strong and free from any anxious care. I really have not felt so well for months. How to be thankful enough I do not know, but the good Father understands and I know will accept such little acknowledgments as I can make.

Suggested Programme—June, 1901.

Subjects for Prayer and Study:

"Our Homes and Schools."

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|---|---|---|
| i. Opening Exercises. | } | Doxology.
Read Subjects for Prayer and Study.
Hymn.
Scripture Lesson.
Prayer. |
| II. Business. | | |
| III. Hymn. | | |
| IV. The Watch Tower. | | |
| V. Address* (10 minutes). Subject, "Our Homes and Schools in Foreign Lands." | | |
| VI. Address* (10 minutes). Subject, "Our Homes and Schools in the Dominion of Canada." | | |
| VII. The President will read the following: | | |
| The Missionary Reading Course.—Those who followed the proceedings of the last Board meeting, held in Toronto, will have noticed that the Seven Years' Course of Study on Missions, proposed by the Ecumenical Council, was adopted. The Literature Committee has had the Course under consideration for some months, and now presents the story of Thomas Coke, the fourth of a series of Preliminary Studies on "Christian Missions in the Nineteenth Century." It is found in item number IX. of the Suggested Programme of this issue. | | |
| IX. Paper (five minutes). Subject, "The Life of Thomas Coke."† | | |

"The evangelistic movements of our day owe their origin largely to the awakenings of the latter half of the eighteenth century. In giving that newly found Christian life a world-wide extension, no one appears to have been in advance of Thomas Coke."

X. Hymn, Prayer.

* For data see the Annual Reports of the Missionary Societies of the Church, and back numbers of *The Outlook*. W. M. S. Report, price 10 cents. The Report of the General Society and back numbers of *The Outlook* cannot be supplied at Room 20.

† Life of Thomas Coke, D.C.L. Price 5 cts., at Room 20 and the depots. Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.

Notice.

NO doubt many of the subscribers to the MONTHLY LETTER have wondered why this welcome little visitor had been changed in shape. In explanation thereof, we have to state it was decided by the Executive of the Board of the W.M.S., at its last meeting, that owing to the expense of the issue such change was necessary.

It is a matter of regret to many, and the Literature Committee would suggest that a larger subscription list would probably lessen the necessity.

Increase.

MANITOBA AND NORTH-WEST CONFERENCE BRANCH.—New Auxiliaries—Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina. New Bands—Prince Albert and Saskatoon.

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.

Notes from Room 20 and the Depots.

Send to Room 20 or the Depots for a sample copy of the Flag Exercise, price 7 cents, postpaid. The twelve Large Flags required, and as many small Union Jacks as are necessary, can be rented from Room 20 for \$1.00, and the return express charges. The flags are to be returned the day after being used, care being requested in packing them.

The "Large British Ensign" and "Large Stars and Stripes" are to be obtained from local societies.

Note.—The Flags are in such request that they can only be loaned for about ten days, so, in order to avoid disappointment, it would be well to send the date for which they will be required, to Room 20, as soon as it is decided upon.

ORDER IN ADVANCE.—Letters are frequently received ordering leaflets by return mail. When one reflects that the same mail that brings such an order also brings many other orders, each of which must be opened, carefully read, and the remittances which they contain entered upon the cash book before the orders can be filled, it will be seen that it is quite impossible to comply with the request. Besides, detention in transmitting by mail is of not infrequent occurrence. All of which leads us to emphasize the desirability and necessity of ordering in advance to be certain of securing supplies at desired dates. Remittances should be sent by registered letter, postal order, or postal note. If nothing but stamps can be procured, please send as large denominations as possible.

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