



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

PUBLISHED BY

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

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1901.

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A YEAR.

Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month:

"Domestic Missions." "India."

Japan.

From Miss Blackmore, Azabu, Tokyo, April 11th, 1901.

WE always think when a new worker arrives or an old one returns that we are just as glad as we can possibly be, but I wonder if ever before we were really quite so glad as we are now at Miss Preston's coming. It has been most opportune, being here in time for the re-arrangement of the work for the new term. I have laid the evangelistic department on her willing, capable shoulders, and, with a satisfied heart, gone back to the class-room. School has opened with a number of new pupils; the enrolment this term will be the largest we have had for years.

Miss Wigle has decided to go by C.P.R. steamship of May 3rd, and will attend Manitoba Branch annual meeting. Miss Alcorn and I sail July 5th.

A few words from Miss Preston will be welcome, written April 1st:

"Where shall I begin to tell you of all that has befallen me since last I wrote? I am deeply grateful to Him by whose mercy I have reached my destination safely without any mishap, and after one of the most pleasant voyages I have ever had. We had a day at Honolulu. How much we did enjoy landing and looking at the tropical vegetation, banana groves, coconut, date and royal palms, and what not. Not least in point of interest was the Bishop Museum, in which are exhibited products of the Pacific Islands and many curios therefrom.

"The ladies had not received word of my coming and were not looking for me till the next steamer. I found Miss Hargrave here from Nagano, just for a few days' Easter visit. Altogether the earlier arrival has proved of great advantage. School began on the 8th, and I went to my first meeting on the 7th. I am now in full work. I have a little teaching in the school, not much, but it gives me a source of contact with the girls. I am enjoying the work very much. It seems so natural to be here, almost as if I had never been away from Japan.

From Miss Veazey, Azabu, Tokyo, March 31st, 1901.

DURING the past quarter ninety-eight pupils have been enrolled, twelve of whom entered during the term. Quite a number have been obliged to withdraw through sickness or removal, leaving ninety-one in actual attendance at the end of March. We have no baptism to report, but ten of the younger girls have joined the class-meetings since January, and will, we trust, receive permission to be baptized when ready for it. In addition to this quite a number of the new pupils have united with our "Y" Society, and considerable interest in temperance work has been manifest in the school.

Our commencement exercises were held on the 29th of March, and were well attended. Our three graduates acquitted themselves creditably, and it is a great satisfaction to have them all remain with us as workers. One of them is Rev. Mr. Hiraiwa's second daughter, and the others are two of our most satisfactory supported students, one of them the daughter of an evangelist of our Church. These two remain in Tokyo to help us for the present, while the third

one goes to Shidzuoka, where she has been promised since last year.

We could place twice the number of graduates in our five stations this year did we but have them. In Tokyo we are able to secure helpers from other mission schools, and this spring have engaged two, one from the Methodist Episcopal school and one from the Presbyterian, but the outside stations find it very difficult to get helpers, so we were very glad to have a number of applications this spring from girls who wished to come in as supported students, and have selected four of the most promising for a trial, giving them work to do in caring for the school room before and after school hours in order to see what manner of girls they may be. Quite a number of students have already been registered for the new term, and the prospect is good for a full school when we re-open after our week's vacation. Our hope and prayer is that the success of the year may not be in numbers alone, but that there may be a corresponding growth in soul culture, and in the lives of the pupils.

Miss Alcorn writes from Shidzuoka. "The week preceding the Sabbath appointed as the day of prayer for schools and colleges all over the world, we held special meetings for prayer. On Sunday five of the girls spoke of their decision for Christ. A class-meeting was formed of these younger pupils, to each of whom we gave a copy of Clarke's 'Scripture Promises.' They read one every morning, and tell at their meeting which helped them most and why. It is beautiful to hear their testimonies of daily struggles, daily defeats and daily victories.

"Two of our teachers have taken a firm stand for Christ. One went from us March 30th. Before going she received baptism. It strengthened our belief in the power of the 'grand old Gospel' to hear her tell of her decision before entering this Christian school—to listen without heeding to the Bible teaching, how gradually she was convicted of sin, then of her resistance and unhappiness until she sought and found peace."

From Kofu Miss Robertson writes. "The third term of the school year is always a time of falling off in the attendance. This term we have registered but ninety-four. The reduction is due to many causes, some have removed to distant places, others have had ill health, one or two have withdrawn to be married, again others have been graduated and returned to their homes. The graduating exercises were unusually well attended by many of the former students and graduates. The visitors were pleased to say the exercises were the best we have yet had. The graduating class numbered ten in Japanese, a few of whom hope to return for English and sewing; and one in English, Ueno Tomoe San, who graduated in Japanese last year. She has been a very satisfactory pupil, both in English and music, showing unusual aptitude. After spending three months in a Kindergarten school she will go to Nagano to help Miss Hargrave in the work there. We hope she will give satisfaction.

"One girl has received baptism and three others have asked for it, but we thought it better for them to wait a little longer that they might test their own hearts."

From Miss Foster, North Kingston, N.S., April 1st, 1901

I WAS delighted to see Mrs. Ross's letter in the Outlook for March; also the reference in the April number concerning our advance work in West China. We ought to have an evangelist and a teacher in each of the eight walled cities to work among the women.

It would be well if either the teacher or evangelist had a knowledge of nursing. First of all, these women must be called of God for the work, and there should not be the least shadow of a doubt in their own minds as to their being called for *this particular work*.

They will find many unpleasant and discouraging things on the field during the first two or three years. They should possess a naturally cheerful disposition and good common sense. They should be good cooks and fairly good housekeepers. I would strongly recommend each candidate to take a course in cooking; also, it would be well for her to have a knowledge of dressmaking. It is very important that she have a musical education, and if she is an artist, so much the better.

Last, but not least, she should have had a good Bible course of study, and be willing to go anywhere or to do anything that God calls her to do.

I hope the Lord is calling sixteen young women to this work in West China. I wish we might have that many to go with us when we return next fall. Ought we not to ask the Lord to give us these workers and *expect* that He *will give* them. I will gladly go with one new worker to any one of the eight cities to which it is thought best to send us. God calls us to give these millions the Gospel. Shall we not go quickly and give them the light of life?

The Lord has helped me in the meetings which I have held, for which I am very thankful. If you will remember me in your prayers, that the Lord may be with me in my delegation work, I shall deem it a great kindness.

China.

From Miss Brimstin, Ichang, April 1st, 1901.

WE are glad to report a safe journey as far as Ichang. We left Shanghai March 19th in Japanese steamer; along the river things seemed very quiet. Arriving in Hankow we found the people very quiet and the missionaries back at their stations as happy and hopeful as usual. Here we changed boats, taking a China merchant steamer for Ichang. Some of the people on shore greeted us in the usual way, by calling "foreign devil," etc., but one becomes accustomed to this salutation in China.

We arrived March 29th. Here also the people seem quiet, taking little, if any, notice of us.

Arrangements for our house-boat are almost completed. Our plan was to have two boats for our party, Dr. and Mrs. Ewan having one, and we the other, but as there is danger of our boats not keeping together we have decided to go all together in one boat. We hope to be off in a few days. We are so glad to again journey toward Chentu. It will be a joy again to be with the people we learned to love, and among whom we hoped to work while in that part of the Master's vineyard.

Suggested Programme—August, 1901.

Subjects for Prayer and Study:

"Our Missions in Japan." "The Isles of the Sea."

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| I. Opening Exercises. | } | Doxology.
Read Subjects for Prayer and Study.
Scripture Lesson.
Hymn.
Prayer. |
| II. Business. | | |
| III. Hymn. | | |
| IV. The Watch Tower. | | |
| V. A study of the life of "the Martyr of Erramonga."* | | |
| VI. Question Drawer.† | | |

[Questions to be distributed among the members of the Auxiliary. Answers to be given by the Watchman for Japan.]

VII. Hymn. Prayer.

Question Drawer.

[Please do not send to Room 20 for the answers to these questions. The Watchman who has lived up to her privileges in the way of reading THE MONTHLY LETTER, the *Outlook*, *Palm Branch*, and the Annual Report, will answer from a well-stored mind. The Watchman, who has not kept abreast of the work, will find the information her Auxiliary seeks in the back numbers of the above publications.]

1. How many stations on the W.M.S. mission in Japan?
2. How many miles apart are they, and what distance is each station from Tokio? (See Map of Japan. Price 5c., at Room 20.)
3. How many missionaries do you report?
4. What is the health report of the members of the mission?
5. To whom are they indebted for medical attendance?
6. Would you recommend that a missionary, who is also a nurse graduate, be appointed to every mission of the W.M.S.?
7. Do the missionaries use Japanese food?
8. How many years of service are required of a missionary before she is permitted to take a furlough?
9. Where do our missionaries usually hold their annual council?
10. What can you tell us about Karuizawa?
11. How many schools on the Japanese mission? Are they boarding or day schools? and, Why do missionaries in all lands prefer to have their pupils in boarding schools?
12. Why was an industrial school opened at Kanazawa?
13. What is done with the embroidery worked by its pupils?
14. The Auxiliary would like to hear something about the Y.W.C.T.U., organized in connection with the school at Kofu.

Notes from Room 20 and the Depots.

NOTICE TO N.B. AND N.S. BRANCHES.

FROM the 1st of July to the 15th of October, inclusive, all orders for literature from the N.S. and N.B. Branches are to be sent to Room 20, on account of Mrs. Stewart's absence from home.

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ROOM 20 and the Depots at Sackville, N.B., and Winnipeg, Man., will be closed during the month of August, as usual. Please send all orders before the 26th of July.

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MONTHLY LETTERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS.

WILL Corresponding Secretaries please notice that subscriptions to the MONTHLY LETTER expire with the double number for August-September, and try to arrange at the September meeting to send immediately for MONTHLY LETTERS and Annual Reports, remittance to accompany the order.

It is important to have this done early in September, as the Literature Committee may not be able to supply back numbers to those who are late in renewing. Price of MONTHLY LETTER, cents per year; Annual Report, 10 cents per copy, postpaid.

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CHINESE TEXT-BOOKS.

THE Literature Committee takes pleasure in announcing that arrangements have been made by which Societies carrying on work among the Chinese in our midst, can be supplied with the necessary text-books, at the following prices, postpaid:

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*Leaflet: "The Life of John Williams." Price 5c. at Room 20 and the Manitoba Depot; (3 cents additional for postage and wrapping.) Let this number be given to some one who will be glad to take the leaflet home, to read it carefully, and to arrange a five minute talk on the life of Polynesia's noblest apostle.

† See questions on following page.

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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