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"THIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH."



Monthly Letter.

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TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1898.

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a year.

Subjects for Prayer.

The Extinction of the Liquor, Opium and Slave Trades,
and all Covetous Hindrances to Christianity.

NOTE.—See Revised Cycle of Prayer.

JAPAN.

From Miss Robertson.

KOFU, *Sept. 28th, 1898.*

It has been neither lack of love nor want of interest that has kept my pen silent during the past months, but just full days and a feeling of utter mental inability when night came to get myself down to letter-writing.

Taking the year altogether it has been a happy one, with many blessings and not a few joys. Our home-life is so contented and restful. If it were not such an ordeal to get here, Kofu would compare favorably with any of our stations. Its out-of-the-way situation makes it very difficult

for us to retain teachers long at a time. If obliged to go into Tokyo on business, the prospect of that awful journey proves too much for their courage. I was very fortunate this year. The only change was Mrs. M's removal to her husband's native province. For the present her place is partially supplied by one of the former students of this school, lately graduated from Azabu.

I am sure you are delighted with the good news of our increased attendance. This term, too, we are doing well; about seventy of the former pupils have returned, and five new ones are already here. Three or four others have applied. I do hope the popularity of the school will continue, though one cannot count much on that here, as a very little thing suffices to change the current of public opinion in Japan.

I had heard that Yamanashi girls were different from girls in our other schools. They are harder to teach and control—they have more assertiveness, and are rougher in language and manners. But we have some fine warm-hearted girls among them who will one day repay the care bestowed upon them. All over the province there are fine girls who have gone out of this school to make better the little corner about them.

Everywhere the evangelistic work is encouraging. Miss Preston often sighs for another helper, that the evangelistic department might receive more attention. She is a most energetic worker, holding meetings wherever a possibility offers. In her I see the benefit of remaining in the same station—she knows every girl who has been in the school, and keeps the majority of them on her visiting list. A number of openings for evangelistic work have come through these girls. In two weeks we shall have our *alumnae* meeting, when thirty or more of the old girls will be here for the day; many of them, being married, bring their children also. At the committee meeting the other morning Mr. Shinkai took deep interest in planning details for the day's pleasure and profit. It is a great satisfaction to have such a capable wide-awake man at the head of the school. He is never intrusive, but keeps to his own department, and never interferes with mine.

I know you are interested in the individuals under our care, as well as in the work generally. In my report I spoke of one of our girls being in the hospital. She is some better, but the doctor has no hope of her permanent recovery. Monday she returned to her home, a poor, miserable little place in one of the noisiest, dirtiest parts of the town, but it was *home* to her, and she was delighted to get back. Through visiting her many opportunities came for evangelistic work, and a number of people have heard the gospel story for the first time in their lives. One of the nurses has promised her to attend church as regularly as she possibly can, and seems much in earnest in seeking the way of salvation. We are very sorry that consumption has seized O Sute San, for she was the most satisfactory of all our supported girls. We cannot tell but that in her weakness she may be used as effectively in His service as she would have been in her strength.

Another little girl who was ill when school closed, passed, during the holidays, beyond the border into the full life beyond. She suffered intensely, but whenever she felt a little easier she would read her Bible. Such a companion was it during her illness that when she died it was put in the coffin and buried with her. Her home is a wealthy one. Her family know little or nothing of Christianity, but her older sister is a regular attendant at the woman's meeting in Kato, the village nearest her home.

An interesting girl came into the school lately. She attended a meeting Miss Preston held last winter in Yamura, a village some distance from here. The seed sown at that meeting was followed up by teaching from the evangelist, till finally she was baptized. Then came a desire for work. Her education was insufficient; she felt she must get more instruction, and finally decided she would enter a school somewhere, if she had to work as a servant to pay her expenses. Her brother said if she were that much in earnest he would pay her way. She has come in as a sewing pupil, taking special Bible instruction under Miss Preston, with a view to doing Bible work in the future. We have another strong-looking, warm hearted girl in the sewing department, who is working toward the same end.

Mrs. Yoshii, the purveyor of the school department, ever since coming into the school has been earnestly studying her Bible, with a view to becoming a Bible woman some day. Her husband was cut off in his early manhood, leaving her with a little boy to provide for. An opportunity for her to take the same position in the Bible school at Yokohama has come, thus giving her the advantages of the full Bible woman's course in the M. E. school, and enabling her to earn her own way at the same time. We are heartily sorry to lose her even for a year, as she has been most valuable, but are so glad for her good fortune that the one outbalances the other. When she is through her course we hope she will come among us again and do faithful work for our Lord. She leaves her little boy here in the school, and as her husband's first ministry was in this province her future field will in all probability be in Yamanashi. I have watched her faithful, earnest efforts during the past year, and have been well satisfied with her sterling character.

We have so many things to be thankful for that if I were to begin to enumerate all, my letter would lengthen to weariness. We have nice, helpful Japanese teachers now.

One old man will soon be baptized. At the beginning of the term he asked that he might take his turn with the other teachers at morning prayers in the school room.

Miss Washington is making satisfactory progress in the language, and getting on well in the work. We are so glad to have her with us.

INDIAN WORK.

From Mrs. Raley.

KIT-A-MAAT, B.C., *Sept. 12th, 1898.*

This is my little son's birthday—two years old—and a dull one it is. We have had charming weather for two months, so must expect rain now.

Miss Long has had a siege with the measles and is tired out. While the "Home" was closed we had not the holiday we desired, as there was too much house-cleaning, etc., to attend to. We managed, however, to secure a few

days' camping a mile or less distant from our house. When the people returned from the country we reopened the Home. We discovered measles were prevalent, some of the smaller girls being affected when they reached the Home.

All summer I have had Grace and she has done splendidly, so when her parents returned we allowed her a holiday with them. In a fortnight she came to the Home one evening, and the next day was rather ill and went to bed. She had the measles dreadfully. Mr. Raley and Miss Long watched her night and day. Her pulse ran up to 120 and there were times when they could not see her breathe after the fever left. She is doing well now, but is weak.

Another girl, Nancy, was very ill also. Little May is the only sufferer now. We shall be real glad when the epidemic has passed.

I had both Mr. Raley and Miss Long in quarantine. Sometimes sent them their meals, and even now Miss Long has hers apart from the family. We do not wish to expose baby and the little half-caste girl I take care of.

I cannot have a "Home" girl, so depend on myself wholly for all work, cleaning floors and everything. For a month a civil engineer's wife has been with me. Her husband has been surveying in the valley. Of course, Mr. W—— has been in frequently, and sometimes has two assistants. You can imagine there is plenty to do.

Owing to measles and coughs there is not a girl in the Home fit for work. We have no school teacher yet, and Mr. Raley has tried to keep the school himself. There are a number of girls waiting to come to the Home, but they are all young, and Miss Long cannot take them until those there are stronger and able to work. The sick ones occupy her whole time. She has endless sewing on hand.

One of the difficulties in the present crisis is the lack of a separate room. There is only one dormitory; sick and well children have to be all together. We trust the Woman's Missionary Society may be able to assist us this year.

Mr. Raley has unbounded faith in the work among the children. The older ones are often very discouraging, but these Homes seem to be the "means to an end," the civilizing and the uplifting of the Indians.

A little thing comes to my mind. In the two months Grace was with us, though nothing was kept locked, we never knew her to take even the smallest thing, not as much as a bit of cake.

FRENCH WORK.

October, 1898.

The day schools in connection with our French mission work opened on September 1st. A new teacher has been secured in the person of Miss Beauchamp, to take the place of Miss Anderson, whose failing health prevented her from continuing the work longer. In the West-End, 73 pupils are enrolled, viz., 41 French-Canadians, 29 English, and 3 Irish Catholics. Already some of the French have had to leave, owing to the interference of the priests, but say they will come back a little later. In the East-End, 41 pupils are registered, of whom 19 are Roman Catholics.

In visiting, Miss Matthieu finds many of the parents have a good opinion of our school, and are glad to send their children, but in some cases are prevented because of the pressure brought to bear upon them by the nuns, and the opposition of their friends.

In September, Miss Matthieu made 79 visits, gave out 2 New Testaments and 97 tracts, many of them bearing on temperance. She writes: "In one of the homes I ventured to ask a young woman to attend our monthly temperance meeting, under the French Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She willingly consented, and came with me on the day appointed. As we parted she said, 'This is the first time I have ever been inside a Protestant church; I felt so happy while there I would like to go again, if I had some one to accompany me.'"

INCREASE.

Bay of Quinte Conference Branch.
Wesleyville, Cobourg District.

Manitoba Conference Branch.
Burnside Auxiliary. Kerfoot Auxiliary.

CHINA.

From Miss Foster.

CHENTU, *July 15th, 1898.*

Since sending our reports death has taken one of the little ones from the orphanage; the baby who came to us in the latter part of March. She had not been ill for a single day from the time she was brought in until about three weeks ago when she was taken sick with measles. She afterwards developed pneumonia and pleurisy, from which she died July 9th. She was a sweet baby, and had gained a warm place in our affections. Although we grieve to part with her, we know that the Lord has taken her to be with Him, which is far better than anything we could do for her. We hope that her death and burial will be an object-lesson to the people, for they despise these little ones. If a child dies before it is five years old, they buy an ugly pine box for a few cents and bury it. When asked why they do this the answer is, that children of this age were too young to love their parents, so they spend as little as possible for their burial. When some of our neighbors saw the coffin brought in, they were heard to say: "It is said that these foreigners eat our babies, but see what a nice coffin they have bought for a few months old baby; this is proof that they treat them better than we do."

Rev. G. E. Hartwell held a short service for the school children, after which we accompanied the body to the cemetery and gave it a Christian burial. The doctrine of the resurrection is "but as an idle tale to this people," but we hope that after awhile many will come to "know Christ and the power of his resurrection."

NOTICE.

Will Corresponding Secretaries who order Annual Reports and MONTHLY LETTERS please remember that, by direction of the Board of Managers, the remittance must accompany the order. Price of Annual Report, 10 cents.

Suggested Programme—January.

Subjects for Prayer and Study for the Month :

“That increased spiritual power may come into the Church at home and abroad, and that secret believers may be taught of the Spirit.”

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

- I. Opening Exercises : {
 Doxology.
 Scripture Lesson.
 Hymn.
 Members remain standing and
 repeat our Lord's Prayer.

II. Regular business.

III. Hymn.

IV. The Watch-Tower.

V. Reading and discussion of :

(1) Ninth By-law for Auxiliaries—“Each lady connected with this Society shall try to induce others to become members, and shall do what she can to add to the general interest, remembering in prayer daily the Society, its workers, missionaries, orphans, or other special interest.”

(2) No. 7. Order of Business for monthly meetings—
 “Reports from members of what they have done for the good of the Society during the past month.”

VI. Reading : “Thoughts on District Work.” *

VII. Devotional Exercises.

“Live more with Christ, catch more of His Spirit ; for the Spirit of Christ is the Spirit of Missions, and the nearer we get to Him the more intensely missionary we shall become.”—*Henry Martyn.*

See * LEAFLET. Price 1 cent, at Room 20. Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Suggested Programme for Mission Circles and Bands will no longer appear in MONTHLY LETTER; by decision of the Board of Managers it is to be published in *Palm Branch*—see Seventeenth Annual Report, page xiv.

Subscriptions for *Palm Branch* will be received by Miss S. E. Smith, 282 Princess Street, St. John, N.B. Price 15 cents per copy. 10 copies for \$1.00.

NOTICES TO AUXILIARIES.

New Leaflets.

The Literature Committee would draw attention to nine new leaflets recently added to the list, also Excell's "Songs for Young People," which contains some excellent missionary selections. Several of the leaflets have been brought to the notice of the Society through the Suggested Programmes, but others are now mentioned for the first time. The new additions are marked by an asterisk (*). A new leaflet, "The Importance of Mission Bands," by Mrs. Jackson, of the Manitoba Branch, is also being published, which organizers will find useful for circulation in places where it is desirable to form a Mission Band. This leaflet may be ordered from Room 20, and the branch depots. Price, 12 cents per dozen. Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.

The Mission Band Pin.

The Literature Committee regrets that it has been found necessary to increase the price of the silver Mission Band Pin to 15 cents each, \$1.50 per doz. Please enclose the usual 2 cents for postage and wrapping.

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, 80 cents. Subscriptions to this Magazine may begin at any time, but must continue till December and then end. Message and Deaconess World, 50 cents; The Double Cross and Medical Missionary Record, \$1.00—to missionaries and student volunteers, 50 cents.

Music and Recitations Suitable for the Christmas Season.

Gloria in Excelsis. Price 10 cents. A beautiful cantata of moderate difficulty. Selections could also be made from it for a miscellaneous programme for Christmas.

The Christmas Treasury, No. 5. Price, 15 cents. A collection of recitations, exercises and dialogues.

May be ordered from Room 20 and the Branch Depots.

LEAFLETS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

Please Send Remittance With Order.

Those Leaflets marked thus * have just been added to the list.

(A signifies Adult; J, Juvenile.)

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*Foot Binding in China01	.08
*How the Teacher Came for Tatchnee01	.10
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Metlakahla.....	.05	.25
Our Work Series—No. 2. Our Chinese Rescue Home; No. 3, Our Work in Japan; No. 4. Medical Work Among the Indians in B.C.; No. 5. Manners and Customs of the Indians of Simpson District, B.C.; No. 6, Manners, Customs and Religion of the French- Canadians; No. 7. Trials and Triumphs of Metho- dism in the North-West; No. 8, A Beacon-Light in Japan; No. 9, Present State of the Work Among the French-Canadians; No. 10. Some Facts About our French-Canadian Mission; No. 11, How the Gospel Came to Port Simpson; per 100, 75 cents01	.10
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{	Life Membership Certificate, Mission Band.....	free	
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ROOM 20, WESLEY BUILDINGS, RICHMOND ST. WEST, TORONTO, ONT.
Open every morning.

Also, MRS. C. STEWART, care of Rev. Dr. Stewart, Sackville, N.B.
Or, MRS. CALDER, 137 Smith Street, Winnipeg, Man.

St Please note that no Monthly Letters or Reports are to be ordered from the
Branch Depots. Write to Room 20, Wesley Buildings, Toronto, for them.