

[1896 title page]

WOMAN'S WORK FOR WOMAN.

A UNION ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

BY THE

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETIES

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

VOLUME XI.—1896.

PRESBYTERIAN BUILDING, 156 FIFTH AVENUE,

NEW YORK.

[pp. 47-48]

JAPAN.

SUCH IDLE MISSIONARIES !

MISS SARAH SMITH wrote from SAPPORO, November 13, 1895 :

We had a holiday on the 8th on account of the death of one of the princes. As the public schools were ordered closed we thought best to follow suit. I sat down to write, the first thing after morning prayers, and was just about to say that this extra holiday gave me the time I had been wishing for to write you a long letter ; but the first sentence was not written before one of the teachers came on business and occupied my time until noon. The afternoon I had promised to the senior class, some of whom wanted to learn to make jelly, as grapes are now raised here in large quantities for the

manufacture of wine. So my holiday, like all others, was full to the brim.

A LITTLE HEROINE.

But I want to tell you about one of our little girls. Her younger sister is very pretty—therefore, as the family was poor, she was sold as a dancing girl. The older one, not being so pretty, was sent to us as day scholar to learn knitting, sewing, etc., until she could go out to service. Finding her faithful, industrious and anxious to learn, I obtained permission to keep and educate her. She became a Christian, and, as the truth grew in her mind and heart, began to feel badly about her sister ; but what could she do ? Her father had great sympathy with her and was anxious to get the child back, but he has dropsy and cannot work, the mother did not care, the older brother had gone to the war, the two younger were only apprentices. But our little girl was very brave. She went to the master of the house where her sister was, and tried to get her free. She was only laughed at and told that her sister had learned to dance very well ; to let her alone and in a little while she would be earning a great deal of money and could help them all—could give her new dresses and pay for her food at the school. She told them she would never eat the rice that her sister's money paid for, nor wear the clothes. They said the child could not go unless she paid forty dollars. Our little girl's ideas of forty dollars were very vague, but she was not daunted. She got her younger brothers to save all they could. Now, her sister's master threatened to give the girl away as a concubine if the money was not paid at once. This was heart-breaking to our little girl, who had been able to save but ten dollars of the needed money, and added to this are the tears and entreaties of the little sister who begs to be saved from the life which she has now learned is bad.

All this I hear from our young Japanese teacher, who has learned it, little by little, from the sad-hearted girl, who found it impossible to give her usual good attention in class. I am glad to conclude by telling you that all needed money has been furnished and the child will soon be placed in a respectable home. If you could only see the change in our little girl ! The look of care gone—joy and glad tears in its place.

MISS CARRIE ROSE also wrote from SAPPORO :

Our school continues to grow, not only in numbers but, we hope, in spirituality. A soul-refreshing teacher's prayer-meeting is held once a week, where we carry our burdens to the Savior, for our unconverted pupils are upon our hearts. It is such a comfort to have *Christian* teachers ! All in this school are such except three, and there are twelve of us. I have great confidence in them, and it is wonderful how well they will do if trusted.

The new post-graduate course consists of higher studies in Japanese and Chinese, scientific lectures, English literature, and *koto* and organ music. Please pray at your Wednesday meetings that with all this outward prosperity we may keep within us the vital warmth of the Christian life.

The senior class consists of five Christian young ladies. In our daily Bible class we are studying the Life of Christ, using Stalker's as a guide. One of the New York ladies kindly sent it to me. I am also using it in my Bible class of young men over in Otaru, and talking it over with my Sapporo Bible class of young men, who are allowed to come once a week to talk about Christianity. One more of them told me, last week, that he has decided to be baptized next Communion. I had lent him religious books which some of you ladies kindly sent me for that purpose ; he has read, understood and believed. I am keeping these books circulating among English-speaking students.

EVANGELISTIC BRANCH.

Work in Otaru was begun last summer vacation, and grows. I am fascinated with it, so much so that I do not mind getting up at four o'clock and taking a long, cold walk to the station, while the stars are still shining, every Monday morning, that I may arrive in Sapporo in time to breakfast with Miss Smith and open school here. Friday, when my week's work is finished, I go over to Otaru and remain until Monday. Once a month we have a woman's meeting there on Saturday ; every Friday a large class in English conversation (pupils outside the school) ; two Sunday-schools, and a Bible class of young men. Four trusty helpers have charge of the school. My heart is filled with gratitude when I think how the Lord led me to take an interest in those needy ones. The little organ which Mrs. B— sent is faithful all the week and does not rest Sunday.

It is a great help in our slums Sabbath-school. It has a sweet tone, being an Estey.