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Report
of
The Japan Mission
of the
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

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HOKKAIDO

Miss Carrie H. McCrory

Last year we numbered six, but this year from September on, when Miss Davidson joined our force, we number seven : Miss S. C. Smith, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. G. P. Pierson, the Misses Alice M. Monk, Elizabeth M. Evans, Frances E. Davidson and Carrie H. McCrory.

EVANGELISTIC

Miss Smith writes of her work :—“ Besides teaching in the school, I am responsible for a Sunday School, a Christian Endeavor circle, distributing tracts, making calls, and an evangelistic service once a fortnight in the Toyohira suburb of Sapporo, about two miles from our school.

“ The average attendance on the Sunday School last year was eighty. This year we hope to make it one hundred ; all that our little

rented rooms can hold with the children sitting as close as two sparrows on a limb.

The evening service is as well attended as might be expected where there are no Christian homes, and the people have a temple in their midst with a faithful priest to frighten them away from Christian service. The average attendance is fourteen, men and women ; the services being for adults only.

There are nine girls of academic grade in the Christian Endeavor circle. They attend various schools and only one is a Christian.

Miss Monk reports :—“ For part of the year I had charge of the Sunday School and bi-monthly evening meeting at Zenibako, now taken over by Miss Davidson, and for three months of Miss Evan’s [*sic*] Sunday School.

“ The Sapporo Student Y.W.C.A. has also been near to my heart. We rejoice in fresh signs of life there, in enlarged membership and increased interest. Some of our Hokusei day pupils have recently entered the Association.

“ To take part in the Christmas cantana, written by Prof. Rowland, conducted by Dr. Rowland (our Congregational missionary), and sung by teachers from the various Sapporo Sunday Schools, was a pleasure. Still greater, that of participating even in a slight degree in the wonderful series of union evangelistic meetings held here in September, 1916, by the Rev. S. Kanamori.”

Miss Evans writes of her work during the year :—“ I returned from my intermediate furlough last September, feeling ready for anything. The change and rest of two months of speaking and visiting and five months at home did me world’s [*sic*] of good. Let me recommend the short intermediate furlough.

“ I landed in the midst of a great revival in Sapporo and and [*sic*] was so glad I did not miss it. Mr. Kanamori, of the Salvation Army, was conducting the week’s meetings and the Holy Spirit was there in great power. I had never seen anything like it before. They had to beg Christians to stay away so that there would be room for non-Christians. Often they would bring their unsaved friends to the meeting, and then leave. Everything was perfectly quiet and orderly, and Mr. Kanamori would speak his message in his simplest language.

“ After the sermon, the workers of the five churches, who had been scattered through the audience from the beginning of the service, passed around the decision cards and answered questions. There was no undue excitement or urging. All the Christians were

quietly and earnestly praying, both there and at home. An average of 150 each night handed in their decision cards with their names and addresses and what church they wished to be connected with. These names were given to the workers of these different churches, and the following day all of these 150 were called on and talked with personally by some of the Christian workers. At the end of the week, 1207 decision cards had been received. This more than doubled the church membership of Sapporo.

“ Mr. Kanamori said that he had been praying for a thousand souls and now he could go to other places with greater faith and courage. There have been all winter and are now Bible classes all over the city for these new seekers. One Sunday before Christmas, eighty of these were brought into our church and baptized, and since then others have joined amounting to about 120.

“ Fifty of our own school girls signed the decision cards, but not nearly all have been baptized yet. However, we hope to get them all soon. We have heard of many families who have all become Christians, and in many stores practically all the clerks are among the new seekers. A business man who had become a Christian some time ago, and who had been trying to get gradually out of the brewery part of his business, finding that most of his clerks had become Christians, said, ‘ Another visit from Mr. Kanamori would finish up that business.’

“ These new seekers have been introducing their friends to the missionaries and native Christians, and we hope that the door has not only been opened, but will stay wide open.

“ Sapporo was very glad this year to receive the Sunday School banner for increased attendance. The Sapporo Sunday School Union only includes the church Sunday Schools, and there are something, like eight other Sunday Schools run by the missionaries, mostly in the poorer districts. The average attendance of my Gospel Hall Sunday School last year was 170 and during November and December we reached the 300 mark.

“ At the Gospel Hall, the evening meetings since Christmas, have not been so well attended, only an average of ten ; but during the fall we often had twenty-five. Now the number will increase again as warm weather comes an [*sic*].

“ The members of the Sapporo Y.W.C.A. are increasing. At the monthly religious meetings, we have been having an attendance of thirty and over. This year the pupils of one of the new sewing

schools asked if they might have a Bible class and a teacher like the other schools. One was joyfully provided. There are three such Bible classes meeting every week for the government school girls.”

Miss Davidson writes:—“ During a part of the year, I have had the privilege of going each week to Zenibako, a small fishing village, where the two Japanese teachers accompanying me teach the Sunday School lesson to a group children, varying in number from twenty-five in summer to nearly a hundred before Christmas. Each alternate week, we go from house to house, distributing tracts and inviting people to the evening meeting conducted by an evangelist from Sapporo. Although there is not a single Christian resident in the village, we are generally received kindly, if not enthusiastically.

“ For several months, I lived in Otaru with Miss McCrory, and the weekly journey to Sapporo afforded opportunity for giving out many tracts. On the train you have the satisfaction of seeing most of the tracts read while you are praying for the fulfillment of the promise, ‘ My Word shall not return unto me void.’”

“ During the past year, the evangelistic work in Otaru has had its ups and downs.

“ Early in October, Rev. Hikaru, the much loved and honored pastor of the independent church, suddenly resigned and left us within a month. As he had been pastor here for twenty-four years, his going left a vacancy that was much felt. His church people made him pastor emeritus ; so they feel that he is still strongly linked with them in spirit, though not present.

“ Since Christmas the Sunday School work has experienced several set backs, due to having to find new homes and to sickness [*sic*] and death in one home where we have a Sunday School.

“ The factory meetings have been held regularly through out the year. Since March, as the demand for fish nets was small, the working force at the factory has been cut down about two thirds, consequently the attendance at the meeting has dropped likewise.

“ The attendance at the kindergarten mothers’ meetings varies. This year it has fluctuated between three in the cold month of January to twenty-three in the balmy month of May.”

EDUCATIONAL

Hokusei Girls’ School Sapporo.

Hokusei Girls' School is no longer in its infancy, but is soon to celebrate its thirtieth anniversary.

Concerning the work of the school, Miss Monk reports as follows:—" The last year has been full of blessings. Four teachers with government certificates have been added to the staff. Miss Davidson came from Shimonoseki, dividing her time between Otaru and Sapporo until the double duty became too much for her strength. Two others are from Christian homes, while the fourth (who also teaches in the Government High School) is favorably disposed towards Christianity. Miss Evan's [*sic*] return from furlough in September also brought us joy.

" An increased enrollment is encouraging. To our surprise, all but three or four of the new students already had some knowledge of Christianity, chiefly through Sunday Schools. On the other hand, one girl was withdrawn after a single day's work, because of the Christian teaching in the school. How had her parents escaped knowing that before ?

" A start has been made in securing equipment. We have to thank the alumnae for gymnastic apparatus, with promises of more, while various small gifts and balances have swelled the fund. A Cincinnati Sunday School has also given substantial aid. The heating plant is installed, although not in working order.

" The number of baptisms in the school has been normal—twenty-one during the year. Several students left school because of our lack of government recognition. One especially promising girl, an only daughter, died the last of June, of pneumonia. Several of us accompanied the funeral procession to the cemetery where a brief (Buddhist) service was held, at one end of a gloomy hall. The ceremony was hurried through, to be ready for the next funeral group, which had followed close after. One wondered what comfort there could be to the mother and brothers in the meaningless Sanscrit words.

" With a longer term, the Japanese school year has more holidays than our American schools. The Emperor's birthday (October 31) and the accession of Jimmu Tenno (February 11) we celebrate by prayer-meetings. The alumnae use September 24 for a special gathering. October 17, we took the first year class to Maruyama (" Round Hill,") about two and a half miles away. November 23 and March 23, we were content simply to have a day off. So also on

June fifteenth,—Sapporo Day. The seniors this spring visited the new Otaru water works.

“ The fall excursion of the school took us to a beautiful valley, some four hours distant from Sapporo by rail. Coalmining is done here, but we saw only the yawning mouths [*sic*] of the shafts, and an overhead wire-carrier, by which huge buckets of coal were transported by gravity across the river.

“ The two great days, of course, are Christmas and Commencement.

“ At Christmas, a cantana was used, while [*sic*] had been sung in our Shimonoseki School the year before. Dr. John Batchelor, the well-known C.M.S. missionary, gave a graphic description of Botticelli's allegorical painting, ‘ The Birth of Christ.’ Following the program, the Japanese dinner together was an unusually merry time, which we were glad to have our new ethics teacher enjoy with us.

“ At Commencement, the music is always a special feature. Our speaker this year, the pastor of the independent church, gave a most inspiring address, urging upon all the beauty and power of fragrant lives. The principal tried to emphasize the importance of strong womanhood. A representative of the city educational department also read a congratulatory address.

“ The class graduated was unusual in two respects : first and best, in that every girl was a baptized Christian ; and second, in that four of the twelve have since gone to higher schools,—one each for Bible, kindergarten, music and preparation for the Higher Normal School.

“ At the request of the students, the Shin Toku Kwai, or Society for the Encouragement of Virtue, has been launched, offered by the Seniors. It has monthly cabinet meetings (with faculty advisers present), and open meetings once a term. Six departments are concerned respectively with religion, manners, hygiene, order, literary exercises and society,—meaning by the last term, relation to the home and the world at large.

“ Our prospects : 1. In the immediate future (June 9) a celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the school. This will include congratulatory addresses, a pantomime of selected scenes from Hiawatha, and a flower cantana. 2. In the not distant future, the first application for government recognition. 3. The return of Miss Kunii in time for the opening of the fall term.

“ We do not know how to express our thanks for all the kindness shown to her during her five years in America ; nor for the equal kindness to Miss Takahashi, more especially since her serious illness in January. Frequent prayers are offered for blessings upon our many benefactors and well-wishers in America.

“ More and more we look for large numbers to train, and for an increasingly higher standard to be set in teaching staff, in equipment, and in all teaching facilities, while we seek to attain ever higher levels in character building and in Christian nurture. For the fulfilment of these hopes and desires, your continued gifts and prayers are indispensable. Paul may plant, and Apollos water, but only God can give the increase.”

Miss Davidson writes:—“ Since writing my last report I have moved from Sturges Seminary, (Baiko Jo Gakuin) Shimoseki, to Hokusei Girls’ School, Sapporo ; from our most southern school to our most northern one ; from a school three years old to one thirty years old; from a missionary community of five (all in our own household), to one of sixteen ; from plum blossom to six-foot snow drifts in January ; from cherry-blossoms to snow drifts and green grass in April; from a marvelous panorama of mountain and valley and sail-whitened blue water, to a broad plain encircled by distant mountains, still snow clad in May.

“But contrasts end and similarities begin. The schools are of about the same size, with the same number in the dormitories, and the same number of foreign teachers ; even the names, Plum Light and Northern Star, represent the same purpose of shedding forth the light of the Gospel into the surrounding darkness of sin and ignorance.”