

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

Wednesday night was time for our regular business meeting, therefore the regular exercises were shorter than usual. Tho' there were not very many of the members present, but more than usually attend, we had a good spiritual meeting. Rev. B. J. Earp was leader, reading for our consideration the twelfth chapter of Acts. After impressing upon our minds what real prayer, prayer that comes from those that have real faith in God, can do, the religious meeting was closed and the transaction of business was begun.

By motion a committee of two was appointed to talk to those that do not attend and try to get them interested in their association.

Mr. Surratt is leader for next Wednesday evening. We are sure we will have a good meeting. Come and you will enjoy it.

Corresponding Secretary.

Y. W. C. A.

Our first meeting this year was led by Miss Viola Frazier, who conducted it in a reverential manner. The subject for study was "Glory." The scripture lesson was taken from the third chapter of first Corinthians. The leader had a well prepared paper in which she discussed glory in several phases. There are those who glory in fashion, (in) society, (in) politics, wealth, art, eloquence, and literature. She showed us where these earthly things would not stand unless they were sought with reference to heavenly things. The consequence is that no permanent bliss is found. This is the result of all those who seek their chief enjoyment in the things of this world. In the end it proves them a broken cistern which can hold no water. Such is the result of all attempts to find pleasure in the things of this world apart from the Creator. God is the fountain of living water at which man may supply all his wants, while still the supply is inexhausted. His gospel meets the cravings of the heart for happiness. Faith in the great atoning sacrifice of Christ gives grace to the troubled conscience. Let each one of us ask ourselves "what is the great object of our life." What ever it may be let us seek it with reference to the glory of God, otherwise, sooner or later in eternity if not in time, they will be found to have been but vanity and vexation of spirit.

A selection entitled "The Man of Literature" was read by Miss Minnie Riedell, which was taken from the life of Sir Walter Scott, who sought glory alone in literature and in the end he found that his life was lacking in that which counted most in life.

Now at the beginning of the year let us put more vigor into our meetings, and strive earnestly to make these five months the most helpful that have ever been known in the organization. It has been said that we never get more of any thing than we put into it. The subject next Sunday is "anger."

Lillian Johnson.

Education should lead and guide man to clearness concerning himself and in himself, to peace with nature and to unity with God; hence it should lift him to a knowledge of himself and of mankind, to

a knowledge of God and of nature, and to the pure and holy life to which such knowledge leads.—Froebel.

PROGRESS OF THE PUBLISHING HOUSE.

Mr. C. W. Montgomery, Troy, Ohio, the superintendent of the office work for the Christian Publishing Association, has just arrived in town to take up his duties in the above mentioned capacity.

The new superintendent has had abundant experience in this line and comes highly recommended and assurance is universally felt for the success of the concern.

The new plant, a handsome \$15,000.00 equipment, is being rapidly rounded into shape and the management hope to have their press running and the plant in full operation within the next ninety days.

The printing equipment will include presses of the most modern type, with linotype machines and such other improved machinery and accessories as are found in well-managed institutions of the sort.

This project is backed principally by local capital and while representing the constituency of the Southern Christian Convention is at the same time a distinctly home institution and hopes for patronage as such. After the formal opening, rates for work will be gladly given and prices quoted cheerfully on any matter which may be handled by a modern, up-to-date print-shop.

CHANGES I HAVE SEEN.

By Mary E. Andrews.

The result of our missionary work in the uplift of womanhood in North China is a large one. It would fill a volume to tell of what I have seen of such uplift, of the changes in homes and lives when the light of God's love shines into these dark hearts.

Their faces show the change. One of the things which most impressed me when first I came to China was the vacant look on the faces of so many of the women; and the reason was soon manifest. Living a life of utter ignorance, never from childhood having been taught anything beyond the common duties of home, to prepare food and make the clothes and to embroider her shoes, how could any woman's mind and heart be otherwise than empty? Ignorant mothers had nothing to teach their little children. The boys might later go to school and a somewhat larger life be open for them, but for the girls there was no outlook beyond the same narrow lives which their mothers and grandmothers had lived before them. To be well married was the one thing to which to look forward; but marriage brought no broadening of the life. No man thought of his wife as a helpmeet. Love and companionship had no place in married life. How could they have, when husband and wife had never seen each other until after the marriage ceremony? Of course a man must have a wife to care for the home and bear children. That was what all women were good for. No man, even though educated himself, would for a moment think of teaching his wife to read. Why should he? I remember well the joy with which I learned, during my first year in China, that my personal teacher who had just become a Christian, had begun to teach his wife. It seemed

to me a long step upward, as indeed it was. As for the women themselves, for the most part they simply accepted their position as something from which there was no escape. Never having known a different state of things, they had no desire to learn to read or to have their little girls taught. We were continually met by the question, "What is to be gained by it? Women cannot hold office. Why should they learn to read?" If a woman had a husband who did not beat her, if she had enough to eat and to wear, especially if she were the mother of sons, what more could a woman ask? Living in the narrow circle of her home, for, only under exceptional circumstances would any respectable woman be seen in the streets, knowing nothing outside, how could a woman have anything to think of or talk of, except the veriest trifles? No wonder that minds were vacant or that faces showed the vacancy.

The change came only gradually and slowly, but it has been a very great change. As the gospel found its way into hearts, those who received it felt a new desire stirring within. They began to want to learn to read and especially to sing, "but" they say "we are so stupid we can never learn." And indeed it was no light task for an old woman, or even one in middle life, who never had tried to learn anything, to attempt to recognize and remember enough of these complicated Chinese characters to be able to read even the simplest book. However, we always encouraged every woman, no matter how old or how stupid, to make the attempt and often the success far exceeded their brightest hopes. It was such a delightful experience to find that they could learn to read. Many were the hours we spent in those early days, when we had no Bible women to help, sitting beside some old woman on her "kang," going patiently over and over and over again some Bible verse or line of a hymn, until at last the words found lodgment in her mind, and something of truth, a place in her heart. It was the very drudgery of missionary work, if anything in such work could be called drudgery, but it paid. I think of one woman, Mrs. Chang, Mrs. Chapin's nurse, with whom I worked daily, week after week and month after month, wondering many times whether she would ever learn to read. But later she became one of our Bible readers and for years did faithful work in many homes.

But many of the Chinese women are very bright and quick to learn. One of the first women whom I taught in Tung-chou was Mrs. T., a woman who came into Mrs. Chapin's home occasionally to sew or help with the housework, and so had learned something of Christian truth. Her home adjoined ours, and I used to go every day to teach her and her son's wife. Both were bright women and eager to learn, and in their hearts the gospel seed found fertile soil. The elder woman seemed a lovable woman even before she became a Christian and she brought all that was lovable into her Christian life. She was the first woman received by our Tung-chou church, and our first Bible reader. I gave a good deal of time for several years to teaching and training her for that work, and she became a very dear and valued helper. Notwithstanding her closely bound feet, (for in those days no respec-

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table women in Tung-chou had unbound feet), she went here and there, into all the homes that were open to her, telling of the Savior's love and everywhere her refined face and winning ways and loving spirit won a way for the truth she taught. Later she became matron of the boys' boarding school, bringing the same faithful loving spirit to this new work, and having a strong influence for good over all the boys she mothered.

It is interesting to see the eager desire of the mothers, who have not had the opportunity themselves for school training, that their children should have what they have missed. The consequence is that our primary schools are crowded, and many of the girls look forward to the higher education of the Bridgman Academy and Woman's Union College. In these primary and preparatory schools, some of our best educated young women find scope for their powers. One of these, Mrs. Si, is the daughter of a serving woman in one of our missionary families. The mother, a Christian woman, but with little education herself, wanted her children educated, and this daughter, Shu Shan, after passing through the lower schools, went to Peking, took the full course of study and was graduated, but before the school had reached a complete college grade Shu Shan came home and was married and now makes a happy home for her husband, his old mother, and her own little one, and at the same time occupies the responsible position of head teacher in our girls' boarding school, of which Miss Browne has charge, her husband occupying the same position in the boys' boarding school. Miss Browne finds her a faithful and efficient helper, one in whom she has the utmost confidence.

All of our Christian women can read, more or less, though some of them were too old when the truth first reached them, to make large advances in learning. Many are quite equal to the work of teaching others, and of leading meetings, and some can conduct station classes in the country, with very little superintendence or help from the missionary women. And it is not only those who are in our employ as teachers or Bible women, but many of our other women, besides making happy Christian homes, are doing some kind of Christian work. Our little Missionary Society, which first opened the eyes of our women to a world outside of themselves, developed later into a Woman's Christian Association, and still later became a Christian Endeavor Society in which all of the offices are held by the native women, and most of the work is done by them, though we have a place on some of the committees. They visit the hospital and dispensary to teach the women there; they go out on Sabbath afternoon to visit our "shut-ins" and hold little meetings with them, or to heathen homes to tell the Glad Tidings; they have charge of their own and of the children's meetings; they teach Sunday-school classes; and some of the older ones go out, now and then, at the invitation of