

REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR 1895-96.

"Watchman, what of the night?" Are its dark dreary hours creeping away?

It is written, "Behold the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people."

Into this darkness we can hardly penetrate. There is so much light about us in Christian lands, that it is difficult to realize the ignorance and superstition, the deadness of conscience, the difficulty of apprehending spiritual truth that have to be overcome among pagan and Christless nations. When, however, He sends forth His Spirit and His Word, how the false beliefs drop off, the mind becomes instructed, the conscience quickened, the heart is made penitent and tender, the faith grows intelligent and firm; thus the soul is renewed, the heart filled with love to God and man, the life regulated, the home made clean and happy, and the community virtuous, peaceful and industrious. What has made the transformation? The Sun of Righteousness has arisen. The Light of the world has appeared. Thank God for a few more glimmerings in distant places. Since our last annual gathering the dawn has broken upon a goodly number of souls in our various fields.

JAPAN.

With a diminished band and severe illness among the workers, there has been considerable shadow and anxiety in this field. The return, however, after furlough of three of our missionaries, and the improved health of the suffering ones has been cause of rejoicing.

One very encouraging feature has been the increase of pupils in all our three boarding schools, Azabu (Tokyo), Shizuoka and Kofu. After the weary period of indifference to Christian education we hail this advance with great thankfulness, for the past has shown how invaluable is the influence exerted in these educational homes.

As in other years, several have become Christians; seven of these have been baptized, also a teacher.

Thirteen have graduated, most of them remaining in the work.

According to agreement the students supported by the Society give two years, after graduation, of service in the evangelistic or school work, and well do they repay the small outlay that has thus qualified them.

All must acknowledge that no finer work has been done for individuals, the Church or the community than the thorough Christian training of character and the enlightenment and development of true, helpful womanhood in these schools.

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