

which we hold our residences outside the Treaty Ports. We can only hope to remain out and work so long as it may be possible and right to do so, and we should always be prepared for such an emergency as sudden notice to withdraw within treaty limits.

The bearing of this upon our two out-stations you will readily perceive. Dr. McDonald's contract continues to the 31st of December next. When he came up to the District Meeting, he looked upon it as so far secure, and with the possibility of renewal for another term. But on returning home he was surprised to find that the local government had changed hands (no uncommon thing in Japan) and his employers were dismissed from the offices they held in the school, so that at this moment it is quite uncertain whether he will be permitted to finish his term. This uncertainty is increased by the fact that the newly-appointed officers are quite opposed to the Gospel, and may take a special pleasure in bringing the missionary's residence amongst them to a speedy termination. According to present indications, therefore, Dr. McDonald is likely to return to Tokio about the beginning of January next,* if not earlier. There is not, at present, any prospect that he would be able to renew his contract, and, so far as we can judge, it would not be well for him to try to do so under the circumstances. It is far better for our work there that Dr. McDonald should withdraw rather than be dismissed. His reputation amongst the people is all that we could wish, and if he retires at the end of his present term he will always be a welcome guest in Shidzuoka whenever he may choose to visit it.

METHODIST CHURCH, SHIDZUOKA.

You will, of course, ask, what about the work in Shidzuoka? How is it to be cared for and carried on? I have a few words to say in answer

to these questions which, I trust, will quite relieve the darker shades of the preceding picture. Dr. McDonald has been greatly prospered in his work, and, by the blessing of God, a large and well-organised church has been raised up. There are now several classes, with leaders, stewards, and local preachers, all in a hopeful condition of prosperity. Amongst the local preachers there is one, Mr. Yamanaka, at present a candidate for the native ministry, a man of good education, sound judgment, fair address, undoubted piety, and earnest zeal. He has the confidence of the Church, and a good reputation of them that are without. This man, whom the Lord has raised up and called into His service, is ready to take charge of the church as pastor and preacher, and we feel quite certain the cause will not suffer in his hands. Nor is this our only encouragement in view of the removal of Dr. McDonald. There is, at present, a very good passport system in Japan, by which a foreigner, on application to his consul, can procure a permit to travel in the interior of the country. By means of a passport Dr. McDonald or myself can, once in a while, visit Shidzuoka and remain a few days, preaching, baptizing candidates ready for admission into the Church, dispensing the sacrament of the Lord's supper, and building up the church. So that although we may be precluded from residence amongst the people, we cannot be hindered from visiting them whenever it may be desirable or necessary.

TOKIO.

You may ask, what will so many be able to do in Tokio? For an answer to this question let me refer you to the remarks on Tokio as a field for evangelistic enterprise, contained in the document forwarded to you last month. There is, in Tokio, an immense population and area tolerably open to us. I am only just getting into the use of the native tongue in our services, having

* Since this was written we are informed Dr. McDonald continues in Shidzuoka.