



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, CHATHAM, ONTARIO.

combination of both is considered the right thing in the pulpit or on the platform; while the words and idiom which should be used in writing a letter are quite distinct from any of the former three. There are thousands of Japanese who can write an English letter so as to be understood; if there is a foreigner who can write a Japanese letter with the customary Chinese characters, I have not yet heard of him. Moreover, the language is being gradually, but constantly, changed. Not only do the many changes, importations, developments, institutions, and movements of modern Japan each require a new word, but old words are being discarded and replaced by new ones. Almost everything has a Japanese name and also a classical Chinese name. These latter are the bane of the average native Christian catechist. Probably, in order to convey to his hearers a high sense of his literary accomplishments, he will use these Chinese terms, with the result that the great majority of his hearers, including the women, the children, and the lower or working classes, understand little more of what he is saying to them than if he were talking Greek. Bishop Nicolai, of the Greek Church, has been in Japan thirty-two years,

and gives an address in Japanese with more fluency than any other foreigner whom I have heard. He is an earnest student, a man of unusual ability, and speaks several languages. Yet in a conversation with him a few months ago he told me that Japanese is so difficult that he had never found time to study any but what might be directly used in sermons or in conversations about religion; that whenever he attempted a conversation with a Japanese upon commerce, law, politics, or science in the language appropriate to these subjects, he found himself altogether at sea. Since I heard this I have taken less to heart the backwardness which I had hitherto regarded as peculiarly mine.

(To be continued.)

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 90. HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, CHATHAM.

UNTIL the year 1875 the town of Chatham formed the boundary of Christ Church parish; but owing to the rapid growth of the town it was thought expedient to divide the parish, which was done in the same year; the dividing line