

## The Junior Epworth Era

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### Weekly Topics

OCT. 18.—DEPUTATION TO JAPAN  
AND OUR MISSIONS THERE.

SUGGESTED PROGRAMME.  
(Canadian Hymnal Used.)

Hymn 433.

Prayer—That Japan may speedily become a Christian nation.

Scripture Lesson—Psalm 24.

Hymn 453.

Address—Our Church's Missionary Work in Japan, by the Superintendent.

Hymn 319.

Report from Deputation—Reporters 1, 2, and 3.

Hymn 303.

Report from Deputation—Reporters 4, 5, and 6.

Mitzpah Benediction.

References: The Heart of Japan, 35 cents; The Story of a Pot of Rice, 2 cents; The Story of the Japanese Orphanage, 10 cents; Japan for Juniors, 20 cents; The Missionary Bulletin, 75 cents a year, 25 cents single copy; The Christian Guardian; The Missionary Outlook; Object Lessons on Japan, \$1.50.

Use a large map of Japan, and point out the different mission stations as they are visited.

Pictures of Japanese scenes, and descriptions of the manners and customs of the people, particularly through the Object Lessons, will add very materially to the interest of this meeting.

"We are all very much interested in Japan, because it is the oldest foreign mission of our church," said our superintendent the day we were appointing our deputation to visit Japan. "In 1873—just thirty-five years ago—Rev. Dr. Cochran and Rev. Dr. Macdonald, who was a physician as well as a minister, were sent by our church to begin missionary work in the Sunrise Kingdom, as Japan is sometimes called. Ever since, we have had missionaries there. Last year three of the missionary societies which were working in Japan united to form the new Methodist Church of Japan, under Bishop Honda, who is really the General Superintendent of the Japanese Church, just as Dr. Carman is of our church. As our mission was one of those uniting, our missionaries are all members of the Japan Conferences. Though the new church is established, it is still weak, and it will be some years yet before it can get along without help in men and money from us. Wonderful work has been done since the first Protestant missionaries went to Japan, about fifty years ago, but there is a great deal to do still before this will be a Christian country."

#### REPORTER NO. 1.

We had a very nice trip to Japan. It was the first time that I had ever been on the ocean, and I was afraid that I might be frightened. But as soon as we were on the beautiful "Empress" steamer, I forgot all about being afraid. It was such a fine steamer, and everything was so new and strange that the trip was very interesting. At last one day we got our first sight of Japan. As we came nearer, our superintendent pointed out

Fujiyama, the beautiful sacred mountain of Japan. We did not wonder that the Japanese all love it. Then at last our steamer dropped her anchor, we went ashore, and felt that we were really in Japan. It was all very strange and different from what we were accustomed to. The people were clattering around on wooden shoes, and talking away in a language we could not understand. While we were trying to get used to everything, Dr. Coates, who had come down from Tokyo to Yokohama to meet us, came up and gave us a very warm welcome to Japan.

#### REPORTER NO. 2.

We got on the train, and in a little while we were in Tokyo. Dr. Coates called jinrickshas—funny little carriages drawn by men—and took us for a ride around the city. Afterward we came back to the Central Tabernacle, which is really the centre of our church's work in Tokyo. Dr. Coates told us a great deal about the work that is being done there—about the Bible classes and the Sunday and week-day services, and how the missionaries are trying to win the Japanese for Christ. We were all interested in hearing about the college in which Dr. Coates is professor, in which young men are being trained to enter the ministry. While we were being shown another of our missionaries, came in. He said he was very glad indeed to see anyone from Canada, and he was sure that we would have a splendid report to make to our League. We were glad, too, to meet Mr. Ozawa, who was converted in Vancouver, where our deputation visited last month.

#### REPORTER NO. 3.

At Kofu, Mr. Bates has a great work among the young men. Twenty of them live in his dormitory, and we were glad to meet them at prayers one day in the missionary's home. Like most of the other missionaries, Mr. Bates does a great deal of teaching, and in this way he reaches and interests a great many young men. At Shizuoka, Mr. Embersson had just returned from his furlough, and was busy getting hold of his work again, but he was not too busy to show us what was being done at his mission station. There is work among the young men here, too, and there are quite a number of children in the orphanage. Several Christian Japanese gentlemen in the city are doing a great deal to help the missionary in his work. Mr. Embersson told us about one of these, a tea merchant, Mr. Harazaki. He is a friend to the little apprentice boys of the city. While Mr. Embersson was in Canada, Mr. Holmes had charge of the work here.

#### REPORTER NO. 4.

Mr. Hennigar gave us a very warm welcome to Fukui. This is a city where Buddhism, a non-Christian religion, is very strong. The people have been very much opposed to Christianity, but they are gradually turning to God. Mr. Hennigar is very hopeful about the work in Fukui, and is very proud of his church and mission house, which have just lately been built. Mr. Armstrong is the missionary at Hamamatsu, and he, too, said that the work was very encouraging. He

told us a great many interesting stories about his work in Japan. "We hope that you will come and see us again," Mr. Armstrong said as we were leaving. "We are always glad to have visitors from Canada. But we hope to welcome some of you out here as missionaries by-and-by."

#### REPORTER NO. 5.

I think I was more interested in Kanazawa than in any other place in Japan. You see, I had been collecting money for the orphanage work, and had read all Dr. McKenzie has written about it. I was so glad to have a chance to see the boys and girls in the new orphanage. There were about one hundred of them in all. Some attend school, and there are kindergarten classes for the tiny tots. Before we left Kanazawa, we went out to see the cottages by the sea, where all the boys and girls had such a happy time one summer. Dr. McKenzie says this orphanage work was very important because the boys and girls are being brought up in a Christian home, and are being taught of Jesus Christ. We are going to do all we can to help.

#### REPORTER NO. 6.

At Toyama we met Mr. Wilkinson, and learned about his work. Here, Mr. Prudham, who is now in Canada, was the missionary for a long time, and Mr. Wilkinson has been in charge since his absence. Like the other missionaries, Mr. Wilkinson does a great deal of teaching, and in this way reaches many students. Our last visit in Japan was to Nagano. Here we found Mr. Norman, whom some of us met in Canada while he was on furlough last year. Mr. Norman is very much interested in his Sunday School work, and told us about it. He said that the hope of Japan is in her boys and girls, and it is very important that they should be trained to grow up as Christians. We all felt that we had learned very much in our trip to Japan, and are anxious to do what we can to help in the work there.

OCT. 25.—MISSIONARY MEETING.—  
OUR NATIONAL THANKSGIVING.  
Psalm 65.

Our psalm vividly reminds us of our continued dependence on God. He is the gracious Provider for all his creatures. From Him all physical abundance comes. Verse 11 is especially suggestive in the autumn season. Thanksgiving Day is not only a holiday in the common sense; but ought to be a holy day in the true meaning of the word. "The danger with most of us is just about the same that Moses feared for the people long ago, when he said, 'Beware lest thou forget the Lord.' Forgetting is easy, and only as we continually remind ourselves of God's great goodness and mercy, can we avoid the sad results that follow a poor memory. It is a good exercise to count our daily mercies. There is much truth in the hymn: 'It will surprise you that the Lord has done.' But the best way to give thanks is not by simply speaking them. Deeds are better than mere words at any time. That is why our meeting is a missionary one. How much are we thankful? How can we show our gratitude? If we consider such questions we