

less in accordance with human nature, but notwithstanding their denunciations the people came in greater numbers than ever.

Our service last evening was as follows : 1. Singing ; 2. Scripture lesson, with comment,—Luke vi. from 27th verse ; 3. Music, singing ; 4. Address—Joshua xxiv. 15, by myself ; 5. Address by Mr. Tszuki, class-leader, on the goodness of God ; 6. Address by Mr. Tamanaka, assistant-leader, on the Commandments ; 7. Singing and prayer.

At the close of the service a man said that he wished to become a Christian, and was received as a candidate for baptism. Another person told one of the young men that he heard at the temple that Christianity was a bad religion, and that he must not hear the preaching of the Gospel, but he said that as he did not know about Christianity he had come to hear. His comment at the close of the service was, "This is good, I'll come again."

It is said that some of the Buddhist priests who come to the preaching are not opposed to Christianity. Certainly some of them appear interested.

There is a story circulating in town that I give each person who comes to the services an *ichibu* (25c.), but that no man is able to keep the money, because, just as he is about starting to go home, I, by magic art, cause the money to return to my own pocket.

One Sabbath morning, a short time since, we had quite a ghastly sight. A man whose wife remained from home a little longer than he thought was proper, and concerning whose fidelity there was some room for doubt, determined that he would kill her when she returned. On her return he proceeded to carry out his purpose, and succeeded in giving her a mortal wound. At this juncture the police arrived and the man fled. He came into the castle near our house, and by means of two short pieces of rope managed to hang him-

self. As the foxes have holes in the castle, some of the people say that when he ventured into it, the foxes bewitched him and he therefore hanged himself. There is a superstition that the man's spirit lingers upon the limb of the tree, and at night calls to persons passing and begs that, as he is lonesome, they will come and die with him. Lest the spirit should lure any one to death, the limb has been removed, and as the tree is thus disenchanting it is now deemed safe to pass the spot after nightfall. The poor fellow, however, is not alone, for since he hanged himself, three others have delivered themselves from this world's troubles by the same means.

I should like to follow the will of Providence, and I feel that we should remain here if the way opens. At present the way seems to be opening, but it may soon close, as affairs in Japan often take sudden turns. The priests may bring some influence to bear, or the authorities may fear some difficulty on account of Christianity, and I may be told with much politeness, and many regrets, that it is impossible to get my permit renewed.

At present the authorities here are very friendly. They intimated that they would like to become better acquainted with us, and about a month ago, the Governor of the Province, Vice-Governor, Provincial Secretary, and three others dined with us and spent the evening. I have reason to believe that they will take no measures in opposition to Christianity, unless they feel that they are obliged by some pressure to do so.

The police could easily prevent the people from coming here, in so quiet a way that perhaps I would never know what influence was at work. Some think that the people will soon tire of coming. It may be so, but if the Lord should favour us with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, it will not be so. Thirty-five persons in all have been baptized. Mr. Tszuki and Mr. Tamanaka are excellent helpers.