

Along the Line.

JAPAN.

Letter from REV. C. S. EBY, D.D., dated 16 TATSUOKA CHO, HONGO, TOKYO, JAPAN, April 22nd, 1891.

WE are greatly encouraged by the work at the Tabernacle, although from lack of experienced workers and sufficient funds, only a fraction of my plans can be carried out. Besides excellent public meetings, we have flourishing woman's meetings and children's meetings under Miss Cushing's care, large Bible-classes in Mr. Brown's hands, and a Sunday-school which is the wonder of the city, in the present condition of the churches. Best of all, there are conversions, almost every week I have applications for baptism. One attributing his first impressions to an apologetical lecture, another to an open-air service, another to the Bible-class, and others to illustrated sermons. Thus far *forty* candidates have come forward, ten have been baptized. Of course, everything is in a formative state, so that there will be need of great care and patience. I am trying to make up for the want of a church with experienced workers, by turning new converts into organized recruits, on the lines of Christian Endeavor Societies. But Rome wasn't built in a day. Considering the reactionary state of affairs in Japan, I think we may look upon the enterprise as a gratifying success, with great possibilities before us if we are properly sustained.

Letter from REV. JOHN W SAUNBY, B.A., dated 14 NAKA TAKAJO MACHI, KANAZAWA, KAGA, JAPAN, May 27th, 1891.

THE last letter I wrote you was concerning the beginning of our work in this city, and while I have often thought of writing you since then to let you know how the work was progressing, yet I always felt like delaying until I had something definite to tell you concerning results, because they alone tell the real story after all.

As you know, our real systematic work began with this Conference year. Of course, during last year, we opened our little school and began preaching, but all this was simply preparatory to the work of this year. And now that Conference is at hand, we can take a retrospect of the work done, and perhaps to some extent forecast the future. It goes without saying that the experiences of the year have been very checkered; for who among the workers in Japan or any other mission field find a smooth path for their feet? One feature of the work, however, has brought us no little encouragement, namely, our congregations have not dwindled, but rather increased; and even when the snow was literally piled as high as the second story of the houses, only on one or two occasions did we find ourselves without a congregation, and only then because the weather was exceedingly stormy. But, on the other hand, the number of those who have attended regularly from the beginning is comparatively small; and in this we have met some of our deepest discouragements. Many have come regularly for a

time, and listened very attentively, and then have disappeared to return no more—way-side hearers and nothing more. Then, too, it was not long after we started that three persons asked for baptism, much to our joy, but two of them disappeared in like manner, and the other, while still attending irregularly, is very far from a spiritual knowledge of the truth, and I am afraid that he will never be any nearer. These, the stony-ground hearers, haven't had root enough to stand the scorings of persecution, which any one in this land must endure if they follow Christ with all their hearts.

That such persecution exists we know beyond a peradventure, and but one instance will suffice to show the method of operation. Almost from the beginning of our work here the services were attended by a lady who seemed deeply in earnest, and who seemed to grasp the spiritual meaning of the truth very readily indeed. She told us that she had been religious all her life, and had worshipped the Kami and Hotoke of Budhists and Shintooism, but could not get satisfaction for her soul, and therefore wished to study Christianity. But lo! and behold! she also disappeared just as suddenly as the rest, and we wondered what had become of her. However, Bro. Kato hunted her up, and learned that she was a widow living in the house of her brother, who was bitterly opposed to Christianity, and who threatened that if she did not cease attending Christian meetings, he would turn her out of the house. Still we felt that hers was not an ordinary case, and so Miss Cunningham and Shimada San, our Bible-woman, visited her and dropped a word as they had opportunity, and she also came to see them. Then about a month ago she surprised us by again attending the meetings, saying that her brother had gone away from home for a little; while he was gone she would thus improve her opportunity; and this she did with such an effect that when her brother came back she told him that she would not be put under such restraint any longer, but would take her mother and daughter and move to another house. This she has done, and now she is a candidate for baptism, and gives every evidence of a clear comprehension of the truth as far as it has been made known to her. She is an exceedingly intelligent woman, and will, therefore, under God, be of great use to us in the work here. One other instance I cannot forbear mentioning, although it belongs to the work of the Presbyterian brethren.

In the town of Komatsu, work has been carried on for some time, but with very indifferent success. But about six months ago a high official in the town became interested, and eventually embraced the truth with all his heart, as the sequel will show. We have many apparent believers, who settle down as soon as they are baptized into a very comfortable state of inactivity, just like some of the good brethren and sisters at home, who ought to know better; but this gentleman was not one of these; the fire was burning in his soul, and he had to tell it, so he opened another preaching place, where he tried to gather in men of his own standing. But this was not allowed to continue long; in a little while he was removed by the authorities to another town to fill a lower position, but even there he still continued to witness for the Master. Even here he was not left to work, for soon he was moved again,