

privileges, that the home church constitution will be violated, and that some one church will lose its identity in the union. But there are very few missionaries in Japan who are opposing the union. While it is exclusively among the Pedobaptists the Baptists hope to see it triumph; for it will hasten the day of a union of them too. Looking at this rich field in the light of the Saviour's prayer, and considering what has been accomplished towards its fulfillment, who can doubt that we have rightly interpreted that prayer, or lift an opposing voice against the progress made?

"Faternally, E. SNODGRASS.

"SHONAI, JAPAN, May 6, 1889."

Another letter from Japan.

[A hopeful sign and further news respecting Col. Olcott's mission.—
EDS.]

"The following editorial appeared recently in the local paper published here:

"'Buddhist,' where are you? I want to call your attention to some facts, and rally a thousand of the brethren who have grown indifferent to our religion. Don't you see the water dripping through the roofs and soiling the clothes of our idols? Don't you see the priests going about the streets caring only for their beautiful robes, wine and money? Can't we reform these priests and restore the religion that has done so much for our country? I was surprised when I saw the earnestness of the missionaries, and I was also very sorry, because they are establishing the foreign religion in our country. The students in our schools are believing in their religion. Do you know what that means? The very ones who will soon be the leaders of our nation are believing and accepting the teachings of these foreign missionaries. See how they establish schools, and work diligently every day, and then take warning. You have read how our Buddhists have been persecuted in the Eastern countries by those foreigners."

"This man only gives us a picture of the decay of Buddhism. They are in the throes of death, and we may expect to hear such groans. Col. Olcott, an American, is trying to revive their cause in Japan. He tells them in his addresses to retain their native religion and not be found accepting the religion of another country; but the Colonel doesn't practice what he preaches. A town near us offered \$500 to get a few lectures from him, but the amount was not sufficient, which shows that he is a rather expensive assistance. Many revivals are going on in the Christian work and most all the churches are enjoying a healthy and steady growth.

"SAM'L H. WAINRIGHT.

"OTA, April, 14, 1889."

Syria.—Missionary Experience.—Miss Mary P. Eddy sends us the following:

AMERICAN MISSION, BEIRUT, March 18, 1889.
DEAR DR. SHERWOOD: My brother and brother-in-law have been touring in the southern part of the Sidon field. I enclose part of a private journal kept by the latter during the trip. It will give a good idea of the experience of missionaries.

A year ago Beirut became the seat of a new "Warhjat" or province and a Governor-General, Ali Pasha, was appointed. After a year's residence here he has been removed by death. Long a resident in Paris and Berlin, he had liberal views and was affable and personally friendly to the representatives of foreign powers resident, and as far as lay in his power he aided rather than opposed our work in this province."

Journal. After passing Ras el Ain beyond Tyre, I was on new ground, and everything became more interesting. Two and a half hours along the sea brought us to a famous headland, Ras el Abyad, over which the road is cut deep into the white chalky rock. At places it is very smooth and steep, while the cliff drops sheer away for 200 ft. into the blue sea. Beyond this along the shore for miles is a sample of Turkish mismanagement. They forced the surrounding population to come and labor upon a new carriage road, which begins nowhere and ends nowhere, crosses no ravines, is straight where it ought to be crooked, and crooked where it ought to be straight, is double the width needed, and though continuing for many miles is nowhere finished. It is a perfect type of the scale on which such works are often projected, and the way in which they are abandoned after some one in money or muscle has paid out enough to complete two such roads.

We visited several rockhewn tombs, of which there are thousands in Phœnicia, and below Alexander's fountain we left the sea and began to climb the mountain slope, visiting some ancient ruins, acres of pillars, columns and blocks lying all over the top of the slope. It is saddening to think of how hard these unknown people must have labored to erect such buildings and then to pass away, thus leaving nothing behind them, not even a name. Then for an hour more we pulled up the mountain, rugged and stony, with a scrubby oak, thorns and coarse grasses, finally reaching our destination. Alma, on the top of the ridge, surrounded by mulberry and olive trees, is very pretty from a distance, but, like Constantinople, a closer acquaintance discloses something of first impressions. The people are desperately poor—poorer than any village I have yet visited. For years they have suffered from oppression and robbery; murders and fights have been of frequent occurrence, and this whole region until quite recently was unsafe. Yet a nice new church was finished and dedicated a year ago, and the communicants number nearly thirty. We came to the room of the resident teacher. It is a curious old place, a large yard in front in which cattle are tethered by day. On the ground floor are three large