

formance is very poor." Just think of a Canadian or American waiter talking that way.

Nagoya is evidently a live town. Many of the streets are broad and well kept; the shops are good, and the people generally have a pushing, wide-awake air, that tells of enterprise. But if reports can be relied upon, the morals of the place are low, even for Japan. Toward this city our brethren have been turning their eyes for some time. Several other missions are already established, but as the place contains a population of over 200,000, there is abundant room for more Christian workers. Moreover, Nagoya seems to be regarded, by tacit consent, as a place which any missionary society is at liberty to enter without being regarded as an intruder.

This ends our exploring tour, as to-morrow we shall be among the missions of the Shidzuoka District. There are fields in this southern country that are white unto harvest, and if the union of the Methodist Churches in Japan should be accomplished, they will be able to work to better advantage in supplying these destitute fields.

#### THE GENERAL BOARD AND ITS WORK.

THOSE who have never attended a meeting of the General Board of Missions can form but a very imperfect idea of the amount of work that is done. When crystallized into "Minutes," the record occupies comparatively small space, but the scope of the work itself is very large, and many of the subjects treated are of great importance. From the carefully prepared records of the Journal Secretary, A. J. Donly Esq., we make a number of extracts, which will keep our readers informed of the results of the Board's deliberations, although they give little or no idea of the time and care bestowed upon the various questions submitted.

#### JAPAN AFFAIRS.

A Report was presented by a sub-committee of the Board, and after careful consideration and some amendments, was adopted as follows:—

1. We recommend that the Rev. H. Johnston, D.D., be requested to prepare a suitable reply to the letter addressed to the Board by the native members of the Japan Conference, and that the reply be signed by the Secretary of the Board, and forwarded by the General Secretary.

2. In reference to the appointment of an additional Professor for the Theological College, and a Science Teacher for the Academy, inasmuch as your Committee are informed that these appointments may be deferred for a time without embarrassment to the Educational work, we recommend that this matter be referred to the Committee of Consultation and Finance with the suggestion that competent persons be secured, if possible, as soon as needed; provided that

no appointment be made to the Theological College during the present year, unless an efficient man can be obtained from those now laboring in Japan.

3. Touching the question of the Union of the Mission work of the several Methodist Churches in Japan, your Committee, believing that the accomplishment of the union proposed would conduce to the progress of the work of God in that land, recommend the adoption of the basis of union as agreed upon by the Joint Committee of the three Methodist bodies in Japan. We recommend also that the officers of the Missionary Board be instructed to place themselves in communication with the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in order to facilitate as far as practicable the accomplishment of the union.

4. We recommend the adoption of the full and interesting report of the General Secretary touching his recent official visit to Japan. We rejoice in the results of his mission, in cheering and strengthening the hearts of our brethren in Japan by his kindly sympathy, and in directing affairs at this somewhat critical period in the history of the mission by his wise counsel—especially in the organization of the new Conference, and in regard to the proposed scheme of union with other Methodist laborers in that field. We rejoice in the Providential mercies which attended him throughout his long and eventful journey, and have brought him back in the fulness of the blessings of the Gospel of Peace to resume his important work at home.

5. In view of the marked success which has attended our mission work in Japan, and the bright prospect opening up for the extension of pure Christianity in that distant field of missions, your Committee with profound gratitude to God, desire to express their warm appreciation of the earnest toil, wisdom and devotion of our brethren, through whose instrumentality these results have been accomplished, and to assure them of our continued confidence, sympathy, and prayers for increased success.

#### MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

The Committee on Miscellaneous Business presented the following report, which was adopted:

#### METHODS FOR INCREASING THE INTEREST IN MISSIONS IN OUR SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

We recommend that, inasmuch as no one method can be said to be the best for all schools, owing to the great diversity which exist among them, we advise the adoption of one of the following plans in every case. (a) Juvenile Cards. (b) Monthly offerings by the School. (c) The Blake System.

We would urge the pastors on every circuit to give special attention to the matter, and to see that in each school some one of these plans of systematic giving for missionary objects be adopted throughout our entire work.

2. Memorial from the Newfoundland Conference in reference to their Parsonage Aid Fund, asking a grant, in view of the abolition of appropriations for rent by this Board.