

On the 14th of May, 1866, a messenger came to Dr. Verbeck and announced that some high officials from the province of Iizen had arrived and desired him to appoint a day and hour for an interview. To his great joy and surprise these men proved to be Wakasa with his brother and Molino.

At the time appointed Wakasa and his train appeared. He was then one of the Ministers of State, or governors of the province. In appearance he was tall and dignified, with a most pleasing expression. He said to Dr. Verbeck, "I have long known you in my mind, and desired to converse with you, and I am very happy that in God's providence I am at last permitted this privilege." Two of his sons were also with him. These men had evidently received the Word with all readiness of mind, and now sought only for some additional light in reference to Christian character and customs.

In the course of their conversation Wakasa said, "Sir, I cannot tell you my feelings when for the first time I read the account of the character and work of Jesus Christ. I had never seen or heard or imagined such a person. I was filled with admiration, overwhelmed with emotion, and taken captive by the record of His nature and life." He showed great familiarity with the Bible, made several pertinent quotations, and was prepared to believe all that Jesus said and to do whatever He required.

After a long conversation on the power and love of Christ, Dr. Verbeck was taken quite by surprise at the request from Wakasa that he and his brother should be baptised. It was well known that such an act would be attended with great peril, as the law of the land strictly prohibited the Christian religion. Molino also wished for baptism.

Dr. Verbeck warned them not to entertain any superstitious notions in regard to the efficacy and importance of baptism, and told them of the sacred obligations of those who received it. After explaining the form, they were asked to decide as in the presence of God. Without hesitation the request was repeated, with the simple provision that it should not be made public, as it would not only endanger their own lives, but their families' also. Further examination showed that their experience had been thorough. They felt their sins to be great, and realised the need of a Saviour. Recognising the insufficiency of all other systems, they joyfully received Christ as their hope for time and for eternity.

The following Sabbath evening was appointed for the ceremony, and at the appointed hour the three men appeared. Their retainers had been dismissed with orders to return in an hour. The shutters were closed, and after some words of exhortation they were baptised and partook of the sacrament. "Now," said Wakasa, "I have that which I have long been heartily wishing for." He then told the story of the book found twelve years before in the harbour of Nagasaki, and all that it had led to.

Wakasa returned home (like the eunuch who had

met Philip) rejoicing in the love of God and presence of the Holy Spirit. Dr. Verbeck removed to Tokio, and the account sent to America was carefully preserved and known to but few.

In April, 1880, Rev. Mr. Booth, of Nagasaki, was surprised one Sabbath morning to see in his audience two strangers, one of whom was evidently a lady of rank, and her attendant. They sat in front, and not only gave the most strict attention, but often during the service would wipe the tears from their eyes. After preaching they were introduced as the daughter of Wakasa and her former nurse, who were anxious to have an interview at once, but were requested to wait until the next day.

Early the next morning they appeared and told how faithfully they had been taught about the true God and Jesus Christ the Saviour. They had learned the Lord's Prayer and a few portions of the Scriptures, which Wakasa had written out in simple characters for their special use. Wakasa had died eight years before, with a firm hope of eternal life through the Redeemer. The daughter had married a man named Kumashiro, and was now living with her family in Nagasaki.

Since the removal of Dr. Verbeck she knew of no Christian or missionary to whom she could go for sympathy or instruction. As her husband was soon to remove to Osaka, she did not wish to leave until she had received baptism. So she sent to Saga for her old friend and nurse, and together they set out to find a missionary.

After wandering about for some days they chanced to find a store where Scriptures of the American Bible Society were kept for sale. They saw on the covers some familiar characters, and so they went in and began to examine the books. On opening the Gospel of Matthew they saw the Sermon on the Mount, and recognised it as the same they had already learned, and their joy was unbounded. They purchased a full supply of Scriptures at once, and talked with the bookseller until midnight. This was on Saturday, and it was the next day they appeared at the service, and both desired baptism at once.

Mr. Booth asked why they were so desirous of receiving this rite. They replied, "'Whosoever believeth and is baptised shall be saved.'" And when he said, "How can I know that you are a true believer?" the young woman replied, "It has been my custom for years to go into my husband's storehouse every day for the purpose of private meditation and prayer to God and the Father of Jesus Christ." To the question, "How do you know that this salvation is for you?" they replied, "It is written, 'Whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.'" With tearful eyes they begged that they might not be denied the sacred ordinance.

A time was fixed for the ceremony, and the intervening days were spent in careful Christian instruction. At the appointed time the lady was accompanied by her husband, who listened with close attention to all