

JAPAN.

From the Rev. G. M. MEACHAM, M.A., dated Numadzu, Feb. 26, 1878.

When I last wrote it was very doubtful whether I could remain here more than a few weeks, but though there has been a stampede from the school, which came almost to the point of breaking down, or of being removed to Shidzuoka, it is still in existence. However, my connection with it terminates in July next, even if it survives. There was no academy six months before I came. A splendid building, a new institution, and a foreign teacher draw together a large number of lads and young men, who, when the building was burned, had to board and attend classes in buildings no better than those from which they came in their own villages. Utterly dissatisfied they went home. At first it was intended to rebuild, but the poverty of the place and the hard times prevented. Probably next September, if the school continues to exist, it will be kept in the building we now occupy. But our work is not all done in Numadzu. Since September last we have received into the Church, by baptism, six persons, and in a village in another province, near whose boundary Numadzu is situated, I have baptized and formed into a Methodist class five gentlemen, to whom we preach as often as possible. It is a village where the Gospel was never preached till I went there on an invitation of an old man, eighty years of age, "whose poor old legs," the messenger said, "could not carry him to this place." As those who have been baptized there are among the most respectable people of the place, we have reason to hope that the work will extend. In that village resides an ex-governor of that province, who, I have it on the best authority, is receiving instruction, but "secretly for fear of the" Japanese, in the English Bible from a lad who knows

a little of English but is not a christian.

Here where we live we have a Sabbath-school in connection with our Sabbath-morning service, conducted by Mr. Satow who teaches the adults, and principal Yebara who has the care of the children. It is certainly an interesting and profitable part of our work. Usually the whole congregation remains to the class-meeting and then to the Sunday-school.

I wish we could extend our operations, but we seem shut up to the two appointments, Numadzu and Netta, where, however, we have unquestionable evidences of the presence and blessing of God. On Sabbath last we had our Quarterly Meeting, and it would have done your heart good to hear what even our latest converts had to say touching heart-experience. One of them teaches sixteen of his poor neighbours what he knows about the Gospel, from 7 to 10 o'clock every night, and he says their conversations and discussions often last till after midnight. If testimony with the lips, correctness of life, the practice of self-denial, conflicts with the devil, and victory over him, and peace with God, evince true christian experience then we have genuine conversions here.

The Roman Catholics have built at large expense, a school, church, &c., four English miles away, are giving free education to the Japanese, lavishing money freely on the poor and have established thirteen appointments. They state that the Pope will furnish them with all the funds that will be needed. They are permitted by the authorities to work with no restrictions upon their movements, and are welcomed by the poor with open arms. Mr. Yebara says that while their converts are