

tainly seems one of the providential coincidences with which history abounds that the opening up of that vast continent by Livingstone should be heralded by a great religious and social revolution in Madagascar.—*Sunday Magazine*.

Communication from Japan.

WE give part of a letter from the Rev. S. R. Brown, a missionary in Yokohama:

One year and five months ago—says Dr. Brown—a Union Church was formed here out of materials from Baptist, Methodist, Independent, Presbyterian, Reformed, and Episcopal Churches. There is but one other Protestant Church in this place, viz., the Church of England Establishment, partly supported by the British Government. The Union Church members are not required to sever their connection with the Churches at home when they join it. All controverted points that divide the Protestant world are left undiscussed in its pulpit, and the largest freedom of opinion, consistent with the universally accepted cardinal doctrines of the gospel, is accorded to all its members. It was impossible to form a Church here, at present, upon any narrower basis. Though I am a minister in the Reformed (once Dutch) Church in America, and sincerely attached to its creed and symbols, still, I confess that the experience of twenty-three years in China and Japan, where I have been brought into fellowship with men from a great variety of Protestant Churches, has led me to enjoy the Christian communion of Union Churches in the East, and to care less for denominational distinctions, and more for the one great feature of faith in the Lord our Saviour.

A large majority of the Protestant missionaries now in Japan, chiefly Presbyterians, Reformed Church missionaries and American Congregationalists, are of one mind in respect to the great desirability of keeping denominational distinctions out of the country, and are endeavouring to form one Church here as catholic as the Church of Jesus Christ. We regard it as a great evil to introduce into this country the divisions that mar the seamliness of the Church in Christendom, and long to see one Church in Japan possessing the characteristic unity that Jesus prayed for in behalf of His

followers. The first and only native Church is at Yokohama, and now numbers 44 in all. It is Presbyterian in that it is under the government of elders and deacons. The native Christians have gone to the Bible for the constitution of their Church organization, and this is the result.

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