

mission. We will then have the four great strategic points manned, and then will come the work of getting a firm hold and working out into the big towns round about. Of course, in order to do this we will need many Japanese workers; but we hope that by the blessing of God many will be raised up right here to spread the work among their own people, and we hope by that time to have our little school in such a shape that we will be able to give them no little help in the study of the Bible. Of course, all this takes a long time; but we have come here to stay, and we expect to have just the same struggle as the fathers of our mission had when they first came, and we hope to succeed just as well as they did, by the help of God.

The people in these coast provinces are just where the people of the east were ten or fifteen years ago; they have not yet recovered from the overthrow of the Feudal System. Everything wears the appearance of being thoroughly threadbare, and it will take some years before trade will prosper as it does over yonder. This does not refer to Nagano in the least, for it is one of the most lively places in the whole of the Empire. I have seen no place in Japan which presents the appearance of a young city "out West" as it does; streets are being cut right through the virgin rice fields and new houses are going up everywhere. But evangelistically it is going to be an extremely hard place, because of the presence of one of the most famous temples in the whole of the Empire, and to which pilgrims come in crowds from every point of the compass. And really it is worth a pilgrimage to see it; it is such a grand old spot. The very surroundings in all their quaint beauty seem to throw a solemn spell over the visitor, while the immensity of the temple, with all its rich ornamentations, adds powerfully to the effect. But we remember that it is the weak things that are to overthrow the mighty, and the things that are not which are to bring to naught the things that are, and so we begin work in faith, knowing that the unseen Presence, who surpasses in glory the most sublime creation among the things that are seen, is with us and will help us to lead His lost children to Himself.

We are getting to know this country better all the time, and the more we see of it the more are we impressed with the fact of how little is really done towards the evangelizing of it. I am speaking now of the west coast, of course. Away to the south-east and north-west of us there are great stretches of territory as populous as this is, in which scarcely anything has been done, so that there is unlimited room for expansion before us. And in carefully considering the matter, it seems to me it is the peculiar duty of our Church to do so. In the first place, our territory up to date has been very small, and the amount of money our Board has expended in this country has been comparatively small; while on the other hand, this is the only foreign mission we have, so it seems to me we ought to be able to put man for man and dollar for dollar with the Methodist Episcopal Church into the work here, when we consider that Japan is only one of their chain of missions which belt the globe. It may seem bold to say so, and yet I cannot avoid the conviction that our great Church is not doing its rightful share in the work of evangelizing

the world. Yes, certainly, we ought to go to China, and also to any other country where the sound of the Gospel is not heard; but if we can do no more for Japan than what we are doing now, we have no business in going to any other country and establishing a wee little organization which can play no important part in the religious reformation in the life of these great nations.

Now, the land is before us in Japan, and we who are at work here will promise to plant out in the interior all the men you can send us for the next five years, and that in such a manner as to give us possession of a large territory, in which our Church will have a chance in the future to grow into national importance

INFANT-MARRIAGES.—An important event has recently occurred in India, and one that will have a most favorable bearing upon the social condition of the people of that vast empire. The Princes of Rajpootana have voluntarily abolished throughout their dominions the custom of infant-marrriages. This custom is one of the saddest and most productive of misery of any prevailing in India, and the present regulation is that in the future no girls shall be married under the age of fourteen, and no boy under the age of eighteen, unless, prior to the adoption of this law, a contract of marriage had been entered into. These Princes of Rajpootana hold the highest rank in Hindu society, and apart from the authority which they have in their own dominions, the example set by them will have wide influence throughout the whole of India.

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The Missionary Outlook

Is published monthly at the Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto. Single copy, 40 cents per annum. Clubs of eight or more copies (separately if desired), 25 cents per copy. The Club Rate does not apply to the City of Toronto where, owing to local postage, the ordinary rate of 40 cents has to be charged.

Address orders to **REV. A. SUTHERLAND,**
Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto.