

were baptized before Christmas. So, counting in my household, the number of our congregation is altogether seven. There is one Christian who was baptized at the Methodist church and wants to join us. He lives eight ri south from Matsumoto, and comes to our Sunday service once or twice a month. I am preparing him for confirmation. There are also eight people who are seeking after the truth at present. I hope I shall be able before long, by God's help, to admit two of them as catechumens.

I am of opinion that Matsumoto will become in future an important place, as the centre of missionary work in the southern Shinano. This town has a population of seventeen thousand, and is now the seat of the county office of Higashi Chikuma.

There are five highways going out from Matsumoto: in the north one to Nagano and Uyida, and one to Yechigo through Omachi; in the west, one to Hida; and in the south one to Gifu, and one to Suwa and Nagoya. So, if we first found a strong church at the town and go out to the neighboring villages and towns on missionary tours, it will serve as a convenient centre; much more so when the two proposed railways, the Shinonoi line and the Central line, shall be completed.

There are three denominations of the Christian Church, besides us, represented at Matsumoto. They are the Romans, the Methodists, and the Presbyterians, and their number varies from one hundred to twenty, the Roman Church leading the list. There are also a few Baptists in the neighboring villages of Matsumoto.

Our work here is chiefly among the Shizoku caste, for they are educated more or less, and have more inclination to listen to the new doctrine than other classes. But the missionary work here is slow. This is chiefly because of the indifference of people to religious matters. Their religious ideas received a violent shock soon after the restoration, when the governor of Chikuma Ken issued a proclamation abolishing Buddhist temples and monasteries, and ordering to substitute the Shinto ceremony for the Buddhist funerals which were then prevalent. And there still remains in the people's mind old prejudices against Christianity, such as that it has been a forbidden religion, or that Christians play magical tricks to deceive other people. Schoolmasters, and those who have studied Japanese and Chinese classics, think that Christianity is against the national principle, and that one cannot be a Christian and a loyal subject of the emperor at the same time. I know one instance of a schoolmaster's dismissal on account of his embracing Christianity. The schoolmasters' influence upon the pupils can be seen from the fact that the attendance of Sunday-schools is very small, and that the schoolboys behave very badly to the

churches and preaching stations, sometimes throwing stones at them and shouting loud outside. I have lately started work among the officials of the post office, near which my house stands. The man who was baptized lately is one of the staff. Several of the seekers who come to me are from the post office. The other day I called on the head of the office. He is himself a strong opponent of Christianity, but he does not seem to have any objection to his under officials adopting the new faith.

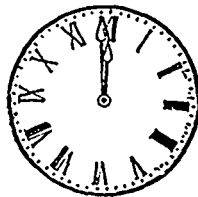
I hold morning service on Sundays, and on Sunday and Wednesday evenings I preach for the heathen. I generally speak to the Christians on the Christian morals and devotion, and to the heathen on the Christian doctrine and its fruits, but now and then I put in apologetical sermons. The attendance was very fair in the summer time, varying from 25 to 10. But the most of them stood outdoors, being afraid to get into the inside of the house. So, as it gets cold, the audience has strikingly decreased, and at present I have those only that are Christians and seekers.

According to my experience, visiting is more effective in the conversion of people than sermons.

This is a brief account of my work for the last ten months at Matsumoto; praying God for more blessings upon my work and myself for another year.

Woman's Auxiliary Department.

"The love of Christ constraineth us."—II. Cor. v. 14.
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Remember daily the mid-day prayer for missions.

"Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost part of the earth for thy possession": Ps. ii. 8.

TRIENNIAL MEETING.

The fourth triennial meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary is to be held in Montreal next September, at the same time as the Provincial Synod meets. Each diocesan branch has the privilege of sending its president (who is vice-president of the Provincial W. A.), the three diocesan officers who are members of the Provincial Board of Management, and four delegates, to the triennial meeting, making, in all, eight votes from each diocese. It is earnestly hoped that not only the above mentioned, but as many members as can, will arrange their summer outings so as to find themselves in Montreal for the meeting, to which all will be cordially welcomed.