

eration of the union question. At a subsequent stage a committee of native brethren was appointed to draw up a letter to the General Missionary Board, which they did in the following terms:

*To the General Mission Board and the Church in Canada.*

BELOVED BRETHREN,—Although we cannot understand fully your circumstances and surroundings in a land so far away and so different from our own, we still do pray that grace, mercy, and peace may abound upon you all. We thank you for your constant sympathy, shown to us so practically by the sending of missionaries for years, and by their constant work of love in preaching Jesus to us who were afar off. Through their earnest work, more than a thousand have become children of God, who were formerly stiff-necked and rebellious against the truth as it is in Jesus. We are like boys and girls who have not yet learned geography, but we have learned most thoroughly that there is such a place as Canada, and that the people there are rich in love and great in good works.

We thank you that at this special juncture, you sent to visit us our beloved brother, Dr. Sutherland, clothed with authority to erect our Church in Japan into an Annual Conference. Under his kind management, and with the co-operation of the other brethren, this has become an accomplished fact, and the first session has been held with tokens of the Divine blessing. This will be an epoch in the history of Japan Methodism worthy of special record and grateful remembrance. Besides this, Dr. Sutherland delivered lectures and sermons, both in the capital and during an extended visit through Yamanashi and Shidzuoka prefectures. These addresses, characterized by earnestness and eloquence, leave behind them an incalculable benefit, for which we thank both him and you. Permit us also to express our gratitude for another signal mark of your favor. In 1887, you extended an invitation to our brother Hiraiwa to visit you, and while he was with you made him forget the fact that he was among strangers, by the fulness of your hospitality. The benefits of his visit were not a few, and were not confined to himself, but extended to us also.

We esteem it an honor to place this short expression of our gratitude in Dr. Sutherland's hands, as he now leaves our shores, to be conveyed to you. We pray continually that upon you all may rest the richest benediction of God in temporal and spiritual matters.

We remain,

Honored and beloved brethren,

On behalf of the Japan Conference,

TOYAMA KOHEI,  
YAMANAKA EMU,  
EBARA SOROKU.

The above is a free but true translation of Japanese letter.

C. S. EBY.

On Friday evening, the usual reception service was held. There was but one candidate—Brother Harano—who had fulfilled his probation, and was eligible for ordination. This service took place in the Conference church at Tsukiji, and was full of interest. Mr. Harano's relation of his Christian experience and call to the ministry, was said by those who understood the language, to be very impressive. His reception into full connexion, and to ordination, was moved by Dr. Cochran, in a few well chosen remarks; Mr. Hiraiwa seconded, in an earnest address; and I followed with an address to the candidate, which was interpreted

in three or four sections by Mr. Sato. On the following Sunday, service was held in the school buildings at Azabu, beginning at nine o'clock and continuing till a quarter past twelve. First came devotional services and the ordination sermon, which I had the honor of preaching. Mr. Hiraiwa interpreted; and the brethren say he did splendidly. Then followed the ordination, conducted by the President; then the baptism of Brother Large's infant daughter, and after that the Lord's Supper, in which some 200 persons participated. The entire congregation aggregated, I should say, fully 400 persons. The day closed with a service in the Tsukiji church, where I preached, Brother Hiraiwa interpreting. Stopping at frequent intervals made tedious work, and half the sermon was omitted. On Tuesday afternoon the Conference closed, after a very harmonious and profitable session. Among the resolutions submitted was one by a Japanese layman, requesting that all my sermons and addresses delivered in Japan be published in Japanese! We finally compromised on the ordination sermon and Friday evening address.

An evening flower-show is one of the "institutions" of Japan, and is a novel and interesting sight. The one I attended was held at night in one of the principal streets of Tokyo. The street for a considerable distance was lined on both sides with flowers and shrubs of all sorts and sizes, and was lit up with numerous torches burning fish-oil. Here, as elsewhere, the courtesy of the Japanese was apparent. There was no rudeness, no jostling, no obtrusive pushing of sales. Every voice seemed to be pitched in a gentle key, and everywhere the utmost good humor prevailed. One vendor had a stand something like a chest of drawers, full of little wicker cages, containing locusts and similar insects, who kept up a perpetual chirping like so many "crickets on the hearth." I was offered a very fine "bug," cage and all, for ten *sen*, but declined on the ground that by the time I reached home it would be called a *hum*-bug, supposing any hum was left.

An hour or two was spent in a visit to the Meji Gakuin, the educational institution of the Presbyterians. They have a beautiful site of about eight acres, with a number of good, substantial buildings. Pupils graduating from the academy can pursue a post-graduate course in an advanced school lately established. The dwellings of the professors are large and look well. One was the gift of the venerable Dr. Hepburn, who has done much for this mission. The same afternoon a couple of hours were spent in Shiba Park. Here we saw the temple or shrine of the second Shogun. It is a wonderfully beautiful structure internally, and its rich adornments must have cost a vast amount of