

Every missionary has reason to thank to God for the profound change that has come over Japan in these last years.

Tuesday was devoted to a consideration of the "Special Obstacles to the Reception of the Gospel in Japan," and Wednesday to "Education." The feeling of the Conference was strongly in favor of a high grade of schools. The fact is, if we are to have schools at all, they must be well manned and well equipped, otherwise they can exert no influence in progressive Japan. Thursday we had a good debate on the self-support of the Native Church, and, finally, the Conference unanimously voted a series of resolutions declaring that the use of foreign aid to churches is abnormal and fraught with danger to the Church; that aid should be regarded as exceptional and temporary, and that the duty of self-support should be taught from the start. Friday and Saturday evangelistic subjects were considered. The proceedings are to be printed during the coming Autumn. The devotional services were delightful. Dependence upon the Holy Spirit and desire for His presence was the prevailing thought of the week.

It was resolved that "a large increase of missionary force should be asked for Japan." Here the time is short; the need of foreign missionaries will pass away; the more clear the duty, then, of the Church to do this work with her might. Let these branches of work—educational, literary, and evangelistic—be pushed with vigor and success.

The Conference was full of hope. Missions in Japan are fighting a winning battle. What story of success shall the next ten years have to tell?

II.—The Conference of Japanese Christians in Tokijo.

God works beyond our faith. Our most sanguine hopes did not anticipate the blessing God had in store for us. The third conference of Japanese Christians, with delegates from all denominations and all parts of Japan was a gathering such as we never had before. Since the week of prayer in January the churches in the neighboring city, Yokohama, have been blessed with a great outpouring of God's spirit. The Christians have been greatly revived, and many have been added to the Church. During April and the first week in May, our Tokijo churches were feeling the same gracious influence, and reports came of a great revival in some of the country churches. When the Conference met it was evident that God's

spirit was in the advance and filled all with thanksgiving. A spirit of prayer—of thanksgiving for blessings and of earnest supplication for the speedy conversion of Japan—filled the meetings. Japan for Christ was the key note. On Friday, hundreds of believers met together to celebrate the Lords Supper. Who would look on that scene unmoved?—the chapel crowded, many in tears, the voice of the preacher full of emotion, 800 Japanese testifying to the power of the cross of Christ in these ends of the earth.

In the evening of the same day, we had a prayer meeting in the same place. Again the room was full, and the utmost solemnity prevailed. Japanese and foreigners drew together as never before. There was confession of sins, and fervent prayer that we all may be one—one body, in one spirit, with one Lord—all differences forgotten in our common end, that Japan may bow to Christ. The Conference ended, but the work could not end.

On the following Sunday was a preaching service to the heathen, and on Friday and Saturday a theatre was hired. It was crowded to the very doors. From 1 o'clock till 6 the audience listened to the presentation of Gospel truth. The sermons were direct, practical, full of point, and full of the Gospel. Some of the Japanese spoke most admirably. Could you only have heard those men and known their spirit! They have "the swing of victory." Who knows the history of Japan knows what it means when the Samurai of Japan fight under the banner of our Lord. All that is best in Japan finds expression in these men. Many of them have already given evidence of their spirit—giving up family, home, property, official position, for their Master's sake. In these meetings, with it all, a humbleness of spirit, a clearness of faith, a dependence in prayer, were shown. While the meeting was in progress, a little prayer meeting was held, back behind the stage of the theatre, that God's spirit would apply His truth. Saturday evening, at the close, twenty-five unconverted persons came forward for the prayers of Christians, and prayers were offered until sunset, the pastors afterward meeting together to pray until almost midnight.

III.—The State of Religion.

Our Christians have received a new measure of faith. Backsliders confess their sins and return to duty. The people have a mind to work, talk, preach, bring their friends to church and Sunday-