

azaki have no meaning to the reader of these lines, but to one who was there at the very inception of the work, these and a half-dozen others, represent an evangelistic effort which is in operation well nigh all over that mountain-encircled plain. Then, too, from among our converts God gave us evangelists, and these, with others which were sent to us from other parts of the work, made it possible not only to man the work already taken in hand, but to reach out over the mountains to the Yamura plain. It was my joy to settle the first evangelist there, and now to-day we have a circuit right on that ground. All this work is still well sustained with a little band of converts at the different preaching places. Instead of one circuit, there are four, of which Kofu is now a wholly self-supporting station.

The story of the formation of the Kofu girls' school affords also a striking example of how God leads on his workmen. The time had come when the ladies of our W. M. S. were ready to open work in Kofu, but the trouble was to get Japanese of sufficient means and influence to inaugurate the scheme, a move which is absolutely essential to success. However, the Lord was at work opening the way for us, and it is wonderful to see what little things at long intervals from each other become important factors in the consummation of some of our Lord's designs. When I first went to Kofu I was requested by a number of the judges and official prosecutors of the local court to form a class for the study of English. This soon grew in numbers and in influence until I was able to conduct a Bible class on the Sabbath and explain the word of life to men in high position, many of whom never darkened a church door. Among these men was one Christian called Miyakoshi, a man of influence, to whom our church owes much for his quiet, unselfish work, even while not a member of our communion. Then, in the providence of God, it happened that just at the time we were feeling for an open door for our school enterprise, a Mr. Shinkai, one of the wealthiest men in the prefecture, was converted and baptized. It was our quar-

terly meeting Sunday, and in the afternoon we held an open meeting of our Sabbath school out in a beautiful grove, near the city. On our way back I outlined our desire and purpose concerning our school work to my friend Miyakoshi, who in turn laid it before Mr. Shiukai, with the result that within a week a meeting of the leading men of the prefecture was held and the scheme launched in a request being sent for missionary co-operation and a foreign teacher, with the promise that a building would be provided all ready for school work. Since then a fine school building has been built and the school is doing glorious work for God.

Our next sphere of toil was on the west coast of the main island, whither I was sent as the pioneer missionary of Methodism. By this time I was beginning to preach in the language and to get in thorough touch with the work. We began in Kanazawa, the largest city on the west coast, ancient and celebrated in Japanese history. Here, of course, we had to begin without a single Christian, except the teacher we brought with us; but here the Providential Hand was very manifest. We were able to secure, for a mere song, one of the finest pieces of property in the whole city as a centre for our work. There was a fine building on the property, and here we began school work, and at the same time were looking for an opening for a preaching place somewhere in the middle of the dense population of the city. Well do I remember the first time two of us, perfect strangers, started out seeking for a house to rent for preaching in a certain section of the city. This is often a long and trying process, but on this occasion the Lord was especially good in leading us right to the very spot and giving us a building without any trouble; and, what is more remarkable still, that although six years have passed, we still retain the old Shin Tatemachi preaching place, which has become the birth-place of many souls. As to results, inside of two years we had a church membership of between thirty and forty, with several preaching places scattered throughout the city. During this time also mission sta-