

It was nine o'clock when they left Saturday night, we were both tired, and Sunday's work is never light. I remarked to Miss Wigle, "Some people would say we ought to have been resting and not spending our strength on boys." But where there is no man missionary how can you say "no" when so many opportunities come for helping them such as we had that night, and such as we often have? Again, when you think of how very difficult it is for our Christian girls to find suitable Christian husbands, you realize how great the privilege of having an opportunity to speak a word to boys who are just at the formative age, and who gladly and earnestly take up the temperance pledge for themselves, and try to get their friends also to join. This is the first step in the right direction, they listen to "the old, old story," and by and by, we trust, will receive it also.

I gave up my English work at the post office the last of January. About the 20th February a request came from the principal of the Boys' Higher Middle School asking that I consent to teach English conversation for at least two hours a week to their highest class. Will you understand when I say I felt "weak" when I had to consider my reply? It was an opportunity I could not refuse, and yet my hands were full, and I had just begun to enjoy the relief of not having three hours English at the post office.

I knew accepting would give me a fine chance to help the students, especially in connection with temperance work, and with our own educational work it would give me a position before the people that ought not to be despised. After looking at my time-table and deciding on a few things I might cut off in order to take up this greater opportunity, I wrote to Miss Blackmore and Dr. Scott, stating the case, and saying if there were any certain probability of a missionary from the General Society being sent to Nagano I would accept and do the teaching until the end of July at least, and thus keep the position for our new missionary. The matter is not yet decided, but it is probable that your representative will be teaching in a Japanese Government boys' school, as well as in our own Christian girls' school. I hope you will rejoice with us that our Great Leader has opened up so many ways by which we can make friends among this people. My heart is more than full for all His wise, kind leading, when I think of how I came to this city less than three years ago (two years and five months), a perfect stranger, and hated because I was a Christian, and then look at the circle we have round us now. He is good, oh, so good, to all who trust in Him.

Last Sunday, I wish you could have seen the picture, in our