

borne by the native Missionary Society. This project was carried out at the Conference of 1897, by stationing a native missionary at an important centre in the new territory.

Another forward step will shortly be taken, namely, the construction of a discipline for the native Church. This work will engage the attention of the coming Annual Conference, and will be greatly aided by the presence of the General Superintendent. At the recent session of the General Board of Missions, a resolution of the Japan Conference was read requesting that a deputation from the Board might visit them in 1898. The chief reasons assigned were that a discipline for the native Church was being formulated; also, that matters touching the future of the work in Japan would come before the next General Conference, and hence it was most important that consultation should be had with representatives of the home Church, so that in all matters respecting discipline or future movements, there might be full understanding in advance of General Conference action. The Board concurred very heartily in the request of the Japanese brethren, and the Rev. Dr. Carman was unanimously chosen to visit the Japan Conference in 1898. His thorough knowledge of Methodist discipline and Church usage will be of great value at the present stage of our work in Japan, and we anticipate many beneficial results from his official visit.

As far back as 1884 a school was opened in Tokyo, chiefly with a view to the training of a native ministry, and has been carried on ever since. The difficulties to be overcome were neither few nor small, and the attendance fluctuated from time to time, but under present management an era of unusual prosperity has dawned, and there is now an attendance of nearly 300 students. The importance of this institution as a training school for the native ministry can hardly be overestimated. A time will come, sooner perhaps than we expect, when the work of evangelizing Japan will devolve entirely upon a native ministry, as it is most important that the religious guides and teachers of the future be thoroughly and wisely trained. The Methodist Church in Japan consists, at the present time, of one Annual Conference, comprising five Districts and twenty five Circuits or Missions. The working force is as follows:

Foreign missionaries	-	-	-	-	7
Native missionaries (ordained)	-	-	-	-	21
" " (probationers)	-	-	-	-	6
" evangelists and helpers	-	-	-	-	41
Membership	-	-	-	-	2260
Sunday Schools	-	-	-	-	68
Teachers	-	-	-	-	147
Scholars	-	-	-	-	2180

Besides the foregoing, the Woman's Missionary Society has fifteen missionaries in Japan, with important and successful schools at Tokyo, Shidzuoka, and Kofu.

Many of the young people are interested in knowing what it costs to support a native or foreign missionary in Japan. For the information of such, we would say that all the native workers are paid in Japanese currency, which is worth about half the same amount in gold. Evangelists, who, for the most part, are students in training, receive from 72 yen upwards. Probationers for the ministry (if single men), from 150 yen. Ordained missionaries (married men), from 300 to 600 yen. Within the past half-dozen years the yen has fallen in value from 75 cents to about 50 cents, while the price of most of the necessities of life has risen more than 50 per cent. It may be necessary, therefore, in the near future, to increase the stipends of native workers very considerably.

A. SUTHERLAND.

To the Epworth Leaguers of the Bradford District.

TOKIO, JAPAN, Dec. 2nd, 1897.

DEAR FELLOW-WORKERS,—In answer to the request that I made in my letter written three months ago, some of you have sent to me reports of the conditions and work of your Leagues, which have been very encouraging and helpful to me. I was glad to know that in some of the Leagues the Associate members spoke in the consecration meeting and that in some about 75 per cent. of the entire membership were using the *Cycle of Prayer* daily; why should not 100 per cent. use it? From some I learned that Leaguers who were Christians years ago when I first had the privilege of preaching to them have not yet grown out of the Associate ranks. I would say to them, "Wherefore let us cease to speak of the first principles of Christ and press on unto perfection." Let us all, both as Associate and Active, say with St. Paul, "One thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the good unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." From some of the Leagues I learned nothing, for their letters have not reached me yet.

I suppose that most of you will know before this reaches you that I have been appointed by the Council here to Kanazawa, a city on the west coast of Japan. Sometime in January, perhaps about the middle, I expect to go there. My address will be Kanazawa, Kaga, Japan. In the meantime I am studying the language here in Tokio under the direction of one of the best Japanese teachers obtainable.

I find it possible to do personal work among young men even though I can speak very little of the language as yet.

Students in particular are very anxious to improve their English and come to see me two or three times a week and I improve my Japanese and they their English while we talk on Christianity and other things. I have a Bible-class which meets at nine o'clock on Sunday morning in one of our churches over three miles from here. I began with five, it has increased to eight. Some of them know very little English, and I, needless to say, know very little Japanese, but I supplied them with both English and Japanese Testaments, and sometimes when some of them do not understand me the others will interject a translation of what I have said. Their questions would seem strange to you no doubt. One, a very bright fellow, who has been a worshipper of idols, asked me one day in class if I believed that the true God was in heaven. I told him that I did. "Well, is it really true?" he asked. I did my best to explain the relation of God our heavenly Father to mankind. Then I inquired of him why he had asked, and he said that he had heard a Japanese gentleman say so, but he wanted to know from some one who understood Christianity. I trust that some seed is going into good ground such as shall bring forth an abundant harvest.

In regard to our missionary work in Japan, I would like to say a few words. On the steamer there were several missionaries of other denominations returning to their work in Japan. They have known something of our work here for years and told me that our missionary work in Japan has been and is one of the most successful in the land. I was congratulated on being a member of the Canadian Methodist Mission. I take it for granted that those who spoke in that way meant something. I have heard from outsiders since I came to Tokio very encouraging things about our work. What I have heard at the