

‘keep silence in church,’ we used to go each month with heads and hearts brimful of the subject, and yet sit like so many wax figures, and watch our poor pastor carry the meeting along as best he could, helped (or hindered) only by two or three brethren who would rise, and solemnly read a ‘few extracts’ from the *Missionary Herald*. Now I readily admit that the *Herald* is one of the best of such magazines, and very instructive ; but I suppose the newspaper and the dictionary are equally so, yet we do not expect our gentlemen friends to read definitions or news items to ‘fill up the time’ in our social gatherings. We expect them to study the meanings of their words, and read their papers at home, and come to our houses prepared to talk entertainingly and intelligently upon matters of current interest. If they were trying to get a friend elected alderman, or mayor, do you suppose they would go to the preliminary meetings and wait solemnly for each other, rise with reluctance, and only after being urged to do so, and merely read a few ‘items’ from some political paper? Not much, I fancy ! Do you think the chairman would have to say : ‘Don’t wait for each other brethren. There are a few moments more. Don’t let the time be wasted ?’ No, indeed ! His trouble would be to secure for each his proper time, and each speaker’s words would come with all the eloquence of which he was capable, as he extolled the virtues of his favorite candidate. Why should not men show as much enthusiasm when they have met to plan for the enlargement of Christ’s kingdom on this earth ? Thinking these things over, we decided to try an experiment, and see if more interest could not be aroused. In this we were greatly helped by Mrs. Bright’s brother, a young man who had recently returned to this country after a five year’s residence in Japan, and who was now paying her a visit. Fortunately for us, he had brought home a number of pictures illustrating various phases of Japanese life, which, being adapted for use with his stereopticon, he kindly consented