

METHODIST MISSIONARY NOTICES,

MARCH, 1876.

JAPAN.

THE Rev. Dr. McDonald writes from Shidzuoka, November 22nd, 1875, the following cheering letter. Let earnest and ceaseless prayer be made that God may raise up among the converted Japanese able ministers of His truth, who may go forth as "burning luminaries" amongst that dense and interesting population, and win souls for Christ by thousands. "He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass, as showers *that* water the earth."

A few things have occurred since I wrote last that may perhaps interest you. I mentioned that a gentleman had offered to open his house for preaching. I concluded to accept the invitation, but as the time drew near I learned that a good deal of uneasiness was felt concerning the matter, and I deemed it prudent to delay for a time.

The invitation has been repeated, and again this evening the gentleman told me that his rooms were at our service for preaching at any time. The talk about opening a service in his house caused the people to think about Christianity, and the result has been seen in the coming of the people, both men and women, in such numbers, that the available space in the upper part of our house was too limited. We, however, have a large dining-room and kitchen. The partition between the two rooms has a large sliding window, which, when removed, has something of the effect of throwing the two rooms into one.

We commenced holding evening

service in the dining-room, 7th November. Two hundred and twenty were present. On Sabbath evening 14th, two hundred and sixty were present, and last Sabbath the rooms were packed again. Twenty-eight Buddhist priests were present the evening of the 14th, and last evening there were twelve present.

The priests, (Shintoo priests especially) have been somewhat stirred by the movement amongst the people, and have taken measures to check it, if possible. Last Monday, 15th, they therefore assembled the people and warned them against hearing the preaching of the Gospel. They also told the people that Christianity is a corrupt religion, and required them to affix their names and seals to a solemn declaration in writing that they would not go to hear the preaching of the Gospel, and that they would not become Christians. They were also informed that if any one became a Christian, he should not any longer be regarded as a citizen.

The action of the priests was doubt-