

dressed the Sabbath morning meeting three times, and in order that you may know the nature of the discourse, I send you a copy of one of his addresses.

Twenty-two of those who have been baptized are students of the day-school. At nearly every service there are others present besides the students, but they are somewhat irregular. A book-seller, who attends occasionally, has lately, in a quiet way, commenced the sale of religious books. I also distribute books and tracts, and thus the seed of truth is being sown, which I hope will yield fruit in due time.

Those who become Christians have many temptations in regard to the Sabbath, as Japan has no Sabbath as yet. A few months since a young man who was much interested in the study of the Scriptures found employment in a neighbouring town. Shortly after leaving here, he wrote me:—"Japanese society is so constituted that I find it impossible to obey the law of the Sabbath." This I suppose means that he was obliged to attend to *business on the Sabbath*, and that his becoming a Christian must be deferred until a more convenient season.

One who has been studying the Bible for some months past is sick of consumption. He seems to be an earnest inquirer after truth, and I trust through faith in Christ he may secure that life which the ravages of disease and death cannot destroy.

What the Master may have for me to do here the coming year, I cannot tell. The fields, however, are white unto the harvest, and I hope that I may be permitted to gather, at least, a few sheaves. Hitherto I have not met with any opposition to my work. If the authorities felt disposed to interfere, they could easily shut the castle gates, and, as we live within the castle, no one could come to our house; but such a disposition has not been manifested. I do not wish to convey the idea that misconception of Christianity and prejudice against it do not

exist. Some believe, having received it by tradition from their fathers, that the Bible is an evil book and that Christianity is a corrupt religion. Others think that as Jesus Christ was crucified, He must have been a criminal; and others regard missionaries as magicians, who, by magic arts, delude the people; moreover, human nature is the same here as elsewhere, and there are the evil heart of unbelief and the carnal mind which is enmity against God.

My day-school, at present, is in a Buddhist temple. There is a notice in the temple that *gozen* (food) will be given to the gods at eleven o'clock each day, with the explanation that if it were given earlier, it might be eaten by cats or rats. One day when the priest was bringing in the food, several of the school-boys were within the altar of the gods. He called them out, and as he had his eyes upon the boys, he stumbled and dropped several of the little trays of food upon the mats. He gathered it up very carefully, but took it away and brought clean food and placed it *before the idols*.

In the temple stands a large box with grating over the top, into which the people throw their offerings. I have seen many come to pray, but I never saw one pray without first putting an offering into the box. The offering may have been very small, perhaps as little as the one-tenth of a cent, and sometimes, when the worshipper was very poor, only a few grains of rice, but invariably the offering was made before prayer was addressed to the idols.

When shall these idols be abolished? When the gospel shall prevail over these islands, and the people know the Lord, then the idols shall be overthrown, and Christ shall be exalted and shall have the heathen for His inheritance. May the coming of Christ's kingdom be hastened.

I write this appendix to my letter in order to give you a few details. In regard to my remaining after this year I am not now prepared to speak