

*A private letter from Miss Veazey to Miss Cartmell,  
Azabu, Tokyo, Japan.*

I WANT to tell you about the opening of the new University, the first one for women in Japan, as you doubtless know. It is situated in Koishikawa, near the residence of Count Okuma, about seven miles from here. The grounds are large and park-like, containing 5,000 tsubo, and were given to the University by the wealthy banker, Mizui family. It is under the patronage of Count Okuma and other of the nobility, and has had a great many liberal gifts of money to start with, though I do not know that it has any endowment as yet. The buildings are plain but good, giving accommodation for about six hundred students, though only 150 can board in the dormitories, and the great majority of the students as yet are not in the University at all, but in the preparatory departments in connection with it. There are, as you know, very few girls outside of the graduates of mission schools who are advanced enough to take up college work in either Japanese or English. The course at the Peeresess's school here in Tokyo is two years lower than ours, though that is higher than the regular Japanese Jo Gakko. The cause of advanced education for girls seems to be very popular at present, however, and if there is no reaction the University will probably develop in a few years into an institution befitting its name, as that for men has already done. The opening exercises were very interesting, and were followed by a "go chiso" for the specially invited guests, among whom were included the Principals of the Mission schools. None of our girls here have been able to enter, though several of them would have liked to do so. Miyake Fiyuji San from Kofu has entered, and Kosugi San, from Shizuoka, will do so as soon as there is a vacancy.

Our Miss Green has a position on the University staff, and teaches the higher English classes. We were sorry to part with her, but are thankful to have had her help so long, and Miss Preston's timely arrival has made it all right, as she has taken the evangelistic work, and Miss Blackmore is thus left free to help in the teaching, and by giving more of the music and lower English to the Japanese graduates, we were able to supply Miss Greene's place without difficulty. I cannot tell you what a relief it was to us all to have Miss Preston come. We had almost given up hope of having anyone before September as her coming, and that of the others, had been so often deferred, and when she walked in on us unannounced it seemed almost too good to be true. Miss Blackmore has done finely with the evangelistic work in the limited time at her disposal for it, but it is impossible for any one person to fill the office of Secretary-Treasurer and have the full care of the evangelistic work at the same time, as you can well imagine, and Miss Blackmore was feeling the burden of it more and more as the months went by. As it is now, we are all very busy but are not overworked. I would like to see Miss Howie have more time for the language, and hope she may be able to get it next year, as she has not been left as free for it in her first year as a new-comer ought to be. Our school is fuller than it has been for ten years, there being now 115 in actual attendance. The proportion of daily students is larger than we like to have it, but they usually drop off during the year while the number of boarders has been steadily increasing, so that I hope we may, before long, reach our desired proportions, which are eighty boarders to forty dailies. Including the teachers who live in the school, we have now seventy-three in the boarding department, so that we still have a good "back bone" to the school, even though our daily students now number upwards of fifty.

Among the new girls there are many who are bright and attractive, and give promise of developing into womanly women, as many of the former ones have done, but unless they come in very young and take up English from the beginning, we will not be able to hold them to graduation in both English and Japanese, as formerly. So many of the new pupils are at least three years in advance of their English, in their Japanese classes, and with some there is more difference than that. The other mission schools are all finding the same difficulty, and I suppose it cannot be

helped; it is one of the necessary accompaniments of the popularity of English just at present, and all we can do is to give the girls as much as possible during the two or three years that they may remain with us, and trust the care of the seed thus sown to the Master who has sent these girls to us. That they are getting a good training in Bible truths we know, both in the English and Japanese classes, and it is a great pleasure to watch the new girls, about forty in number, who at first appeared like a flock of frightened sheep when gathered for morning prayers or a Bible lesson or church service, as they gradually become familiar enough with their new text-book, called the Bible, to find the place for the responsive reading in the morning, and then after a few weeks to join in repeating the Lord's prayer and attempt the singing of hymns with the others. Then another step brings them to bowing their heads for a moment with the Christian girls as they enter church, and I sometimes wonder what the prayer may be that goes up from these young hearts so little used to prayer of any kind. The little girls who come in as boarders very soon learn to pray night and morning, just as children do at home, for there is a Christian girl in charge of each dormitory, and it seems so nice to see the girls growing up into a Christian life. During this last year about a dozen of the younger girls who have been for several years in the school have expressed their desire to become Christians and are attending class-meeting.

Mrs. Borden also helps among the women, being entirely responsible for the weekly meeting, and has also given us grand help here in the school by teaching our senior Bible class three times a week, for the past two years or more. There is one innovation in the church that you would be pleased to see, and that is the taking up of a collection on Sunday morning. The Japanese generally consider it very rude to ask people publicly for money, or to pass it out where it can be seen, so the collection plate is not at all a popular thing here, and was considerably opposed when first suggested. The trustees finally consented to it, however, and two neat little trays are passed around now at the close of the sermon, while our school girls sing a hymn, and although many of the people still consider it polite to wrap their offering in white paper and make a little bow to the collector before depositing it on the plate, still it is deposited, and then the two collectors walk quietly up the aisle and stand with bowed heads while the pastor in a brief prayer asks a blessing upon the money given, and I think it is quite an education for the people. The church has had quite a struggle to meet its expenses since the ten yen a month from the Missionary Society was cut off, but the people agreed to raise their subscriptions where possible and now the church is really self-supporting, which is a great satisfaction in many ways.

There is a general spirit of enquiry and interest reported from several of the districts outside of Tokyo, and in some of the churches of other denominations in Tokyo, where the "Twentieth Century Forward Movement" meetings are being held, and a number of conversions are reported. We are praying and hoping that the revival may extend to our churches also. The evangelistic workers throughout the city also report easy access to homes where formerly they were not welcome, and a spirit of awakening among the women in many places. Miss Preston is deep into the work here, and it is grand to see the way she takes hold of it and how much she is accomplishing. If only we had more Bible women to assist her we would be so glad.

Old Mrs. Sabashi, as you probably know, has had to be supprannuated during the past year. She is just at present quite ill, and some doubts are entertained of her recovery. Shimada San is working away as usual, full of energy and doing lots of good, and she has been cheered this year by seeing several people brought to Christ through her direct teaching, which has made her very happy. Do you remember our sewing teacher, Kamo San? She became a Christian not long after you left and is still with us as matron and head sewing teacher. She was enquiring for you the other day, and wished to send you her "yoroshiku," and to say that she often thinks of you as the one who first taught her about Christ. She is a fine woman and a great help to us.