

to visit that country—although he knew that for him to become a Christian, or to leave his native land, was to subject himself to the death penalty. Where there's a will there's a way. Not daring to attempt escaping from Yokohama, he went to Hakodate, on the other side of the country, where he found a vessel which would take him to China if he could but get on board. This he eventually managed to do, and from Shanghai he succeeded in getting passage on a merchant ship to Boston—as a sailor. For weeks after his arrival in Boston he remained on ship-board—working hard all the time. At length the captain mentioned his name and the circumstances which had brought him to America to Mr. Hardy, a well known citizen, who interested himself in the young Japanese. By his kindness he was enabled to pursue a curriculum of academic and theological study, in the course of which he won the respect and love of all who knew him. Having completed his studies at Andover Seminary, he was ordained to the office of the ministry on the 24th of September, 1874. During his stay of ten years in America, a great change had come over his native country. Japan had thrown her doors open to western civilization and to Christianity. A deputation headed by the minister of education and other leading Japanese came to Boston to enquire into the systems of national education in this country. Mr. Neesima was asked to accompany them for this purpose. After visiting some of the principal academies and universities of the United States and Canada, they travelled in Germany, France, Britain, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, and Russia. The result was that Mr. Neesima became more and more convinced that education is the foundation of western civilization, and that in order to make Japan a nation worthy to be counted among the enlightened countries of the world, the people must be trained up, not only as men of science and learning but men of conscientiousness and sincerity, and this he believed could only be done by a thorough education—based on the principles of Christianity.

With such sentiments, and with a heart filled with the love of God and faith in Jesus Christ as his Saviour, Mr. Neesima returned to his native country firmly re-

solved that his life should thenceforth be devoted to this grand object. He made choice of the sacred city of Kioto—the ancient capital of Japan, a city of 600,000 people, situated in a rich and populous valley, and connected with the cities of Kobe and Osaka by railway. There are in the city 3,500 Buddhists, and 2,500 Shinto temples, with 10,500 priests and keepers of the Shinto shrines. Kioto has long been considered the spiritual capital of the empire. This lent additional importance to Mr. Neesima's enterprize. Through the aid of friends in the government, five and a half acres of land were secured in the northern part of the city in 1875. In the following year a suitable building was erected and a training school was opened with 65 pupils, of whom more than forty were members of the Christian church and employed all their spare time in evangelistic work. A number of the most able missionaries in Japan are now associated with Dr. Neesima in this educational work which has also received the countenance and financial support of many of the leading men in the empire, and also of a number of friends in the United States, who have contributed very liberally towards the "Doshisha College," as it is called, in which there are at present a preparatory course, an English collegiate course, a theological course, a Girl's school, and a hospital and nurses' school. There are altogether 34 regular teachers, 23 assistant teachers, 899 pupils, with a list already of 309 graduates. So marked has been the success of the *Doshisha*, it is felt that the time has come to raise it to the rank of a fully equipped University. That is now Dr. Neesima's aim, and with what is known of his perseverance and administrative ability there seems no reason to doubt of its accomplishment in the near future.

We have left ourselves no room to enlarge upon Dr. Neesima's personal character. But there is no need to do so. Wherever he is known he is beloved and trusted. He stands out conspicuously as the leading philanthropist of Japan today, and at the same time is one of the most devout and able men in the empire. One of his most remarkable traits, and he has many, is his modesty. Both he and his friends are quite unwilling that any extended account