

Methodist system in which he had received his early training. He discarded the common missionary practice of keeping on his roll of membership all who had once been baptized, regardless of their subsequent religious or irreligious life. The class meeting was the means of maintaining a pure and spiritual church membership, and those who have visited the mission field in Japan can bear testimony as to how efficient that instrument has been in maintaining a remarkably high standard and tone of spiritual life among the native membership.

For twenty years Dr. Macdonald was, with one brief intermission, the administrative head of the mission and stood, especially before the native mind, as its representative. It will be seen from the statistics which we have given that his administration naturally divides itself into two periods of equal length, that of the District and that of the Conference. The first of these was the period of wonderful growth, the membership of the church thoroughly organized along spiritual methods; the five great missionary centres planted, which constitute now Districts of the Eastern Conference of Japanese Methodism; important educational institutions founded in Tokyo; and a native ministry becoming a strong feature of the work. Hindrances had disappeared; the native mind was responsive and receptive, and it had seemed as if Christianity were soon to become the national religion of Japan. It would be a great injustice to Dr. Macdonald even to suggest that he arrogated to himself the success of this period. No