



A STREET SCENE DURING A FIRE IN TOKYO.

ability not inferior to any of the great men who have given their lives for Africa. With the Uganda Mission his name, alongside of those of Shergold Smith, and Hannington and Parker, will ever be identified. Very touching was his last response, received since the news of his death came, to the suggestion that he should come home and enlist recruits for the Mission himself:

"What is this you write? *"Come home!"* Surely, now, in our terrible dearth of workers, it is not the time for anyone to desert his post. Send us only our first twenty men and I may be tempted to come and help you to find the second twenty."

"Oh, for a thousand missionaries like Alexander MacKay to man the Mission fields of the Church which are now so wonderfully promising."

### A TOKYO FIRE.

By Rev. J. G. WALLER, CANADIAN MISSIONARY IN JAPAN.

(Concluded.)

**T**HE most effectual method of checking a large fire is, in their mind, the old device of pulling down the houses in front. The frail one-storey structures make this more easy.

Many of the people, with very good reason, put little reliance on either drains or firemen. They build a fireproof storehouse, called by the Japanese a *kura*, but better known among foreigners, both in China and Japan, as a "godown." Most of your readers are probably aware of the origin of this term. How that when some Chinese came to buy goods from one of

the first English merchants in Hong Kong, where the offices were built at the top of the storehouses, the Englishman, ignorant of the Chinese language but desiring to show his customers his goods, which were below, pointed downward and said, "go down." But the Chinese thought he referred to the storehouse to which he was pointing. And from this the term "godown" became in the East almost synonymous with "warehouse" in the West. A few of these godowns in the large Treaty Ports of Japan are of stone. The others are all built in the same way. A light framework inside is lathed and plastered. Then a mixture of mud, sand and bamboograss is formed around this from the roof to the ground, making the walls about two and a-half feet thick. Hollow sheet iron doors and blinds of the same thickness are also filled with mud. The roof is covered with brick tile set in mud or sometimes plaster, and the godown is usually two stories high. A merchant's most valuable treasures leave the godown only to be exhibited for a few moments to a customer and then, if not sold, are returned. In private life, also, should a man possess a valuable collection of curios you will see only two or three of the least valuable, if you call at his house. Owing to the dread of fire all the others are kept in the godown. When a fire breaks out in the neighbourhood what can be quickly put in the godown, which is often situated at the back of the shop, is hastened thither, and the doors and windows closed. Mud with a slight mixture of lime is then plastered over the cracks where the doors and windows meet. A box of mud is always kept ready for use. As may be imagined, the temptation to remain a few moments longer in order to make the godown more secure has cost the loss of many