

helps. Clogs take the place of shoes, and anything that comes handy will do for a hat. In fine weather the head is generally uncovered. In character the people are gentle, curious, cheerful and sociable.

As to missionary work, there are five of us in the city. Three unmarried ladies occupy one house, and Mrs. Pedley and myself the other. The houses are about half a mile from each other, so that it is just a pleasant walk between. In Nagaoka, a city about fifty miles up the river, the Rev. Mr. Newell and wife hold the fort. This makes in the whole province of Echigo, with a population of one and a half millions, just seven missionaries; so that comparatively we are very weak. In Niigata the work embraces a church, with a membership of 125; a boys' school, attended by 160 pupils; and a girls' school with an attendance of 60. As far as the church is concerned, we missionaries have, as yet, very little to do. We have all come but recently; can't speak the language, and therefore we simply attend church, understand what we can of the service, give a little advice when we are consulted by English-speaking natives, and contribute a little money. I find it is just as easy to contribute in Japanese as in English! Our chief work at present is in the schools. In the boys' school, I have the pleasure of working at both ends—the highest and the lowest. During one hour of each day, I teach, "It is an ox," etc.; and during the next, I endeavor to lead the highest class through the beauties of English Literature. This elementary work gets a little tedious at times, but I value it as giving me the opportunity of getting well acquainted with the boys; and thus surrounding them with what of Christian influence I may possess. I rejoice to be able to say, that now I have both of these classes one hour a week for Bible study, and they take to it with eagerness.

Mrs. Pedley is also doing her share of teaching, in addition to her household duties. Her pupils, three influential young women in the city, come to her almost every day, for an hour's study in English; and one, at least, is making rapid progress. She hopes some day to act as interpreter in mission work among the women, and this hope is a great stimulus to her in her study. And now I must bring this rambling letter to a close as it is getting long, and bed-time has come.

Why have no College Items appeared in the INDEPENDENT of January and February? I long for these as for my dinner, and have been greatly disappointed at their non-appearance. Mr. Editor, please explain. This letter will reach you just at the close of your College year. My best wishes go with it for the success of all our boys in their McGill Exams. I hope none of them will be "gripped," either by Russia or the University Professors! Hoping this will find you, dear Editor, and all the other students, happy in the work, I remain, sincerely yours,
HILTON PEDLEY.

Mr. W. S. Pritchard, whose ready help we are glad to receive, sends a cheerful report. He has begun his summer campaign with good congregations and inspiring services. Preferring to give the particulars of his work later, he sends for this month's column the following contribution:

"A SUITABLE PASTOR."

Every student has heard some of his people say at some time or other, "This church would grow and become strong if we only had a 'suitable pastor.'" Our Missionary Superintendent too, has felt this need of 'suitable pastors;' as churches have applied to him from time to time for that most sought for, but seldom found person, "a suitable pastor."

I have thought that "suitable pastors" would not be so hard to find, if it were a "suitable people" that were looking for them. The reason that many churches do not grow, is not because of the inefficiency of the pastor, but more frequently because of the want of union among the church-members themselves; or even among the deacons. Instead of heartily helping their pastor, they spend their forces tugging at each other. Among the difficulties of a pastor, very frequently is that of drawing the Christians together and getting them to work in harmony. Is it any wonder that a people cannot find a suitable pastor, when they cannot agree among themselves? Another reason is because of the indifference and inactivity of the individual members of the church. Some church members, after they have secured the services of a pastor, seem to think that all they have to do then is to pay him; (as little as possible to), for they seem to work on the principle, that "the leaner the dog is, the better will he run") and they seem to forget that they still have an active work to do in church work.

Let the people unite, (I speak now of church members, and professing Christians) to help their pastor. Let them help him in visiting the sick, in looking after non-church-goers; in his Bible class, and in his prayer meetings; and above all, help him always by your earnest prayers; and he will more frequently prove a "suitable pastor."

NOTES

Mr. R. Adams has gone to Melbourne, Quebec.

Let every student remember the hour of prayer, Saturday evening, at 7 o'clock.

Do not forget to send circular letters on their travels before the last of June.

The missionary box was opened in the Common Room of the College, by the remaining students; and its contents were devoted to the work in W. Central Africa.

Following close upon the death of Mrs. Mason, comes the sad news of the death of Mrs. Bessey, who became the wife of the Rev. W. N. Bessey, of Lanark, Ont., only six months ago. This is the second of our former students to suffer this affliction, within the last two months. Mr. Bessey has our deepest sympathy. We unite in prayer, that he may now realize the sufficiency of the grace of God, and that thus he may be able to say; "Thy will, not mine, O Lord, be done."

COIN OF THE REALM.

"The blast of temptation struck down the leaves, but the root stood fast."—*Theophylact*.

"He who fails to prevent a sin, having the power to do so, sanctions its commission."—*Seneca*.

"We have three great enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. But we have also three great friends: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost."—*Moody*.

"I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air,
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care."—*Whittier*.

Alton, Ont.

W. F. Colcough.