

would surrender the child, willing or unwilling. The knowledge of these facts only deepened the feeling of responsibility we had with regard to the girl.

So, with no other hope, Miss Leake, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Chan and Tom Chue, in the shades of evening, prudently avoiding observation, wended their way to that dark abode—dark in more senses than one. Faithfully they impressed upon all the one thing—the girl's liberty, in this land, to decide for herself. She was told that if now she did not believe we sought her welfare in the future, when those she now thought her best counsellors were proved mistaken and she was oppressed and troubled, she was to remember the Home would be open to receive her. She knew its regulations, and now she knew her own freedom. Committing her case into the hands of Him who numbers the very hairs of her head and considers her of more value than the many sparrows for which He expends infinite care, our hearts were resting.

Note, this visit was made Monday night, March 9th.  
(To be continued.)

#### JAPAN.

26 HIROSAKI DORI, KANAZAWA, KAGA,  
September 8, 1890.

To the Corresponding Secretary of the Ladies' Mission Council, 14, Toriizaka Azabu, Tokyo.

DEAR MISS LUND,—Of course, I do not anticipate that your Home Board, which is rich in good works, if not in ready cash, will be able or willing to take up this work during this year, but we send it with the hope that it will come before them as soon as possible, with the understanding that we are ready to move when they deem that the time has come.

That of which I speak is a scheme for the development of your woman's work here in Kanazawa. There is no opportunity for the establishing of a girls' school, the Presbyterians have pre-empted the ground along that line, so that we must look for some other line of work. Of course, evangelistic work among the women is always open to us, and I am delighted that we are soon to have a worker with us, in the person of Miss Cunningham. This alone offers us a fine field of work, but I have found another pressing need here in Kanazawa, the supplying of which would be truly Christ-like and philanthropic. In this city there are this summer, no less than four thousand destitute persons, which, of course, is very abnormal, on account of the almost famine prices to which scarcity has brought the price of rice; but it points to a fact, namely, that this is one of the poorest cities in the Empire. The fall of the feudal system, left the great Maeda clan in a deplorable condition, and then, just as the leading men were getting a foothold on the new basis, along came a banking scheme, launched by some sharpers, which fairly cleaned out the place, and left it ten times worse than it was before. And even to this day, Kanazawa is one of the most stagnant, along commercial lines, in the whole Empire. So that when we take into consideration, its large population, of nearly a hundred thousand, it will be easy to understand that under even normal circumstances, there are a great number of poor people.

Now, what I think to be a very profitable line of work, is an Orphan's Home and a little school in connection with it for really poor children. I have been led to this conclusion by the knowledge that there are very many little ones who cannot pay even the low fees of the Government schools, and also by the utterances of one who has been in the town a great deal longer than I have, who said that he thought an Orphan's Home was one of the most pressing

needs in the mission work of Kanazawa. Then from this I was led to ask the opinion of many Japanese friends, and they, one and all, were unanimous in the opinion that this was a most necessary line of work for Kanazawa. Then I began to hunt up reliable statistics, and after a long search found a man who is a philanthropist in his own way, although not a believer in Christianity. His name is Ono Tasaburo, and he alone gives aid to no less than thirty orphans, besides a great many poor people. He says that there are no less than 200 orphans in this city who are thrown on charity for support; and knowing what I do of the city, I should judge that this estimate is within the bounds of truth. Mr. Ono expressed himself as very delighted that we thought of taking up this line of work, and promised to give us any help that would be in his power.

Now as to ways and means, if a home were started, the initial expense would be the salary of one foreign lady, who would oversee the work, the rent of a suitable building, and repairs and refittings that might be thought necessary. This, it seems to me, might be all the expense the Society would have to bear at any time, if the following plan were adopted, namely: let the Society supply the foreign matron and open the Home, if certain private members and Sunday-schools in our Church would volunteer to support, each one, a little orphan for a given length of time. I would suggest that the fixed number in order to start should be fifteen, and that the length of time be placed at ten years. That is, in other words, when fifteen private individuals or organizations promise to support each an orphan, for the period of ten years, the school be opened by the Society.

The cost of each child, for board, clothing and tuition, I have found, would range between two and a half and three yen per month. This is largely owing to the fact that living is much cheaper than it is in Tokyo. If only young children, say between the ages of five and seven were taken, I do not think that more than one Japanese would be needed to do the teaching and look after the children, and while at first, there would be the need, perhaps, of a couple of servants to prepare food and take care of them, yet, in time, this could all be done by the inmates, as they got old enough to do it. Then, too, the school would not be complete without some kind of an industrial department, suitable to the class of students in the Home, which, I presume, would all be girls. I think that this industrial department could be made to pay its own way eventually.

I should think that if the amount were set at \$2.50 a month for each child, which would make \$30 a year to be provided by the supporter of the child, then I am sure the Home would not be a great burden on the Society.

Of course, I do not know whether your Board will think this or any other scheme feasible for the establishing of such an institution. I am sure there is nothing in the line of true mission work, more truly necessary in this great city, than an institution of this kind. I have yet to meet the person who does not approve of it. Then, too, it is a work for the truly helpless, and it would mean the rescuing of many a little soul from a life of sin, and also of destitution. We missionaries are doing much for those who can help themselves, but so little for those who are destitute.

But there is no doubt that the lower one goes down in the scale to work, the more difficulties there are, and the oftener one is deceived, so that should work of this kind be undertaken the greatest care must be exercised in getting only those who are truly destitute, and also young enough to be as yet uncontaminated with the vices that would make them a great trouble. I think, however, our Japanese friends and workers would help us in this particular, and by making a slow start we could, by the blessing of God, get hold of only those to whom we would be a blessing, and who would be a blessing to us.