

The Indians show remarkable skill as raftsmen. Four or five men will go out to our mountain forests and in a few weeks they will make a raft of 300 logs or more, some of immense size. These Tsimsheans are truly a skilful people. Every other man is very handy with carpenter's tools; others can do good work at the forge or in the tin shop, while others, if brought under the guiding hand of the skilled teacher of art, would excel as painters and draughtsmen. In vocal and instrumental music they take a good stand. They are an interesting people, but there is that other side.

The social evil is a scourge. It is the fell monster that is destroying the race. Think that in a community of about 200 people, not out of British Columbia, one-tenth died last year, the births numbering only one-fortieth of the population. This, and that other foe of the Indian, strong drink, should be grappled with, strangled and buried without a possible resurrection. On this coast, if there was a great united effort to abolish these foes of the aborigines, the hopes of their friends might soon be realized. Here we have a fine lot of young men and women, boys and girls, growing up. Nothing but the grace of God can save them from destruction. Christians, let us do our duty, lest the Indian race be swept from our land.

#### JAPAN.

**HAMAMATSU**, a large circuit under the superintendence of Rev. B. Hashimoto. It extends over a section of country about twenty-five miles each way, and includes twelve preaching stations, besides several villages not yet regularly opened. Associated with Bro. Hashimoto there is one probationer and five evangelists, all of whom are laboring on cheerfully in the face of difficulties. In five of the stations there are societies organized, most of which are prosperous. Some, indeed, are flourishing, while others require the faithful work of the pruner. On all this large circuit we have not a single church to worship in yet. Through the generosity of Amasa Wood, Esq., of St. Thomas, we hope to have a very comfortable church at the head of the circuit within a few months. We very much need a small church in each of the stations.

2. **FRIJEDA**.—This is a smaller circuit, including five preaching stations. At Frijeda a very neat church has been built and is now ready for opening. The people took hold of the work heartily, and with some help received from the missionaries have been able to provide for the whole cost. This will greatly strengthen the work and encourage the little flock. The circuit is worked by two evangelists, under the superintendence of the Shidzuoka pastor.

3. **SHIDZUOKA**.—As was announced last year, this society has become self-supporting. The cause seems to grow very steadily, and though many removals have taken place, a fair increase has been reported. The services are well attended, and these with the prayer-meetings and class-meetings (there are fourteen classes) indicate a good degree of spiritual life. The church building, enlarged eighteen months ago, is again too small for the congregation, and the further exten-

sion being impossible on the present site, steps are being taken to secure ground for a new, central, larger and more imposing edifice. Besides the church, there are two preaching places in the city, where weekly services are held. Six Bible-classes register 142 persons as students of the Word, and there are 243 scholars in four Sunday-schools. Other promising branches of the work are a Women's Society and a Young Men's Association. Outside of the self-support alluded to above, the Church paid into the Missionary Society (Japanese) the sum of fifty-three yen, and helped deserving poor to the extent of forty-five yen. On the whole there is cause for sincere thankfulness for the past, and reason for great hopefulness for the future.

The Girls' School, which was built last summer by the Shidzuoka people, and is placed at the disposal of our Women's Missionary Society to be carried on as a Christian school, is doing good work, and has met with a fair degree of success. It forms an important centre for work among the ladies of the city.

About seven miles from Shidzuoka, work has been opened at Shimizu and Ejiri. An evangelist has been planted there, and a persistent effort made to uphold the banner of our Master, but the persecution and opposition of the Buddhist priests have been unremitting. By deception and threats they have so intimidated the people, that it is difficult for us to get any place to preach in, but the evangelist is working away cheerfully in "an upper room," and from house to house, while the Shidzuoka friends are holding a special prayer-meeting for the opening of a door in some way or other.

The time has now come for opening up Okitsu and Kambara, respectively twelve and twenty miles west from Shidzuoka on the road to Numadzu, this completing the chain of the appointments along the Tokaido throughout the length of the Ken.

4. **YOSHIWARA** has four preaching stations, of which one has been quite recently opened. The head of the circuit is rather a difficult place, being somewhat under the influence of the Roman Catholic Mission. Two other places situated near the foot of Fujiyama are very prosperous. Particularly in Omeya the zeal of some of the members would remind one of the early-day Methodism of our own country. There are two evangelists on the circuit under the superintendence of the Shidzuoka pastor. The senior of these is a very excellent brother, Mr. Ebara, who entered the Church in Dr. Meacham's time at Numadzu. Formerly a brave and fearless warrior for his country, he is now a faithful and earnest soldier of the meek and lowly Jesus. On this circuit one or two small churches would be a great blessing to the work.

5. **NUMADZU**, next to Shidzuoka, is our oldest station on the Tokaido. Like most places, it has had its times of drowsiness. The love of some has waxed cold. The past year has been one of rejoicing, for a new church has been built and dedicated to Divine service. The little flock, after years of waiting, has now a comfortable home, and it is hoped that this is the beginning of better and brighter days. The building is 36 x 30 feet wide, with side and end galleries, and is well located. Bro. Kato, a probationer, is in charge under the superintendence of the Shidzuoka pastor.