

ever, on account of the treaties, is not an easy matter, because one must be employed in some way by the Japanese before a resident passport can be secured. There are several ways in which this is accomplished, among which the principal are: first, obtaining a position in a Government school; second, starting a private school in the name of a Japanese; and thirdly, becoming private tutor to some Japanese who may be found willing to nominally employ one. As far as my experience goes, the first is, under ordinary circumstances, inexpedient, because if one is engaged in Government work he generally finds his hands so tied in one way or another, that it is impossible to engage in active, aggressive evangelistic work. The third is not desirable either, except as a last resort, because it does not bring one sufficiently into contact with the Japanese, and one therefore gains nothing by it except a residence. The second method is to me the best, because, while leaving one's hands as free as is possible under the circumstances, it brings one into contact with the youth of the land and, through them, with the parents. Now by this I do not mean the starting of a regular Mission school such as we have in Tokyo, because that is out of the question; but one which costs very little and yet has a sphere of influence which, if rightly developed, is by no means small, and which has another thing to recommend it, namely, that it does not come into competition with any Japanese school. With this object in view, I secured the co-operation of a young man who is a splendid English scholar, and one whom, during over three years' acquaintanceship, I have learned to trust. With him I entered into an arrangement by which he should open a little school to teach English alone, and hire me as teacher. In this it was not my purpose to simply get a resident passport, but to strike a line of work by which we might draw around us a number of young men whom we might lead in the way of truth. We, therefore, very providentially secured a fine old building right in the centre of the city, and surrounded by the different Government buildings and schools. In this we have fitted up three school-rooms, a reading-room, a waiting-room, and a large audience room that will hold a hundred and fifty people. Financially, we put in the building and the school fittings, and the school pays all the rest of the expenses, besides paying Mr. Hosaka for the time he devotes to it. The line of work we have adopted is the teaching of English in all its branches, at such a time in the day as will suit officials and school teachers. We therefore begin at four in the afternoon and continue until six. Then on Sundays we have Bible-classes in both Japanese and English, and in these Messrs. Benton and McKenzie join us, bringing their students from the Government school, so that every Sunday morning we have a little congregation of about twenty-five young men, who seem to be very much interested in the study of the Bible. In addition to this, we have held occasional lectures on Sunday evenings in English, and the congregations having been large, we intend to have a regular English service from the beginning of the next term. We intend also to give an occasional lecture on a week evening on English literature. Our reason for adopting this line of operation is the certain knowledge that there are a goodly number who under-

stand English and who are eager to hear English speeches, and who could not be persuaded to attend a Japanese service. We want to use every method available to bring men under religious influences. Messrs. Benton and McKenzie have joined me in the work of keeping up a first-class reading-room, and through the kindness of our friends, both in Japan and America, we have succeeded in establishing one which cannot help but draw all classes of young men.

Now as to the success of the school, on account of the amount of red tape that has to be unwound, we did not get started until January of this year. Of course, at first the attendance was small, because the people are suspicious of little English schools, which are generally started by some adventurer, who stays long enough to collect a month's fees and then levants. But gradually the numbers increased, and finally reached as high as thirty, so that our attendance from the very first up to the holidays averaged over fifteen, and the prospects are that we will have at least between thirty and forty during the coming year. Our students are mostly common school teachers, and are fine, intelligent fellows, who come to get all the English they can and as quickly as possible. We have also several who are preparing themselves in English to enter the higher Middle School, two of whom entered at the last examination. The best of it is, that when they enter the Government School we do not lose our hold on them, because they still attend the Bible-classes and frequent the reading-room.

Our evangelistic work is just taking shape, although as yet no Japanese minister or evangelist has been appointed to help me, so Mr. Hosaka, who, though not a preacher, enters heartily into our evangelistic work, and myself have to do the best we can. And I am very glad we are thrown on our own resources, because it gives me plenty of practice in Japanese, and although I make numberless mistakes, yet the people listen attentively and they do not laugh at me, so I am encouraged. We succeeded in renting three rooms in a house in a very thickly populated part of the city, and there every week we hold a preaching service and a Bible-class, both of which are well attended, and there are several who are studying the Bible very earnestly. As Mr. Kato is with me now for a little while before starting work in Toyama, we are searching for another preaching place in still another part of the city, and if I can get an evangelist, soon we intend to open still another in another locality. Thus we intend to start work in three important parts of the city, which we hope will result, by the blessing of God, in the founding of three living Churches, which I am sure is not too much to expect in a city of this size.

Now, a word as to the general work in other places along the coast; we are following closely the policy laid down in the proposals we sent home. At the last Conference a District was formed; Mr. Dunlop was appointed to Nagano, and Mr. Kato was appointed to Toyama, in order to prepare the way for Mr. Crummy, whom we have every reason to expect will be appointed to the mission at the next meeting of the Board. Fukui seems to be Mr. McKenzie's objective point, and, seeing the thing as I do, he is anxious to get there as soon as possible, if he too is appointed to the