

Articles Selected.

Japan.

The following extracts from the American Mission Home at Yokohama, furnish a very encouraging view of the state and prospects of the Lord's work in Japan, and exhibit the practical results already following on the relaxation by the Government of its edicts against the Christian religion :

EIGHTEEN BIBLE STUDENTS.

'Some months ago, Mr. Thompson received a letter from a man in the north, who had been a former pupil of his in Yokohama, urging him to go up there and teach, assuring him of entire liberty in teaching the Bible, and of a very generous support. It was not practicable for Mr. Thompson to go, nor was there any one here to take the place; so he was obliged, after a time, most reluctantly to write a refusal.

'A few weeks ago that man came to this place (Yokohama), over two hundred miles, bringing with him eighteen young men to study the Bible. And now, twice a day, all these earnest seekers for truth are gathered to study God's own precious word.

'Just try to realize what this means. One of the most remarkable features of the Spirit's work here, is the fact that so large a majority of those who desire a knowledge of the gospel, and those who profess their faith in it, are *young men*, the very ones who will soon be the ruling spirits of the nation.'

A NATIVE PREACHING IN YEDO.

Referring to the conversion, a short time ago, of Okono, the teacher of one of the missionaries, it is said : 'He is a wonderful and most interesting man . . . of a most lowly Christian spirit. Last week his brother died in Yedo, and he went up to the funeral . . . The body was taken to a Buddhist temple, to have prayers said and offerings made for his soul. There was a large attendance; and while the services were going on, the noble man's heart was so moved with grief for their delusions, and desire for their conversion, that he got up, and there and then, in that heathen temple, in the presence of the priests, and of all

assembled, he told them of their idolatry and of the true God. "He preached unto them Jesus and Him crucified."

'And this was in Yedo, where it has been considered so dangerous to confess Christ! Was it not truly apostolic courage?'

SCHOOL WORK.

Of school work it is said : 'I could tell you of so many gracious and precious evidences of God's power in the hearts of the scholars and those who attend the Japanese services, that I fear you would think me carried away with enthusiasm. We are feeling it necessary to exercise the greatest caution, and rather restrain the desire for baptism; and therefore know that it is very far from being merely our own imagination, or magnified ideas of the work.'

The following is a translation of a letter written to a teacher by a Sunday scholar, young in years, and "who," the writer states, "a year ago knew nothing but sin"—

'My dear Teacher,—God made the Earth and all things. But the earth is only our present home. Therefore I must love the bible, and obey the Lord Jesus, that I may go Heaven, the Eternal home, and I will tell all my friends about Jesus, that they may love Him too, I hope my people will learn about Him, and worship Him. Will you kindly teach me more of the bible.—

Your scholar,

'RIYO YOSHIMAS.

We have given exactly as written; there are but few errors,—one in spelling, one or two inconsiderable ones in punctuation and the use of capitals,—the latter a puzzling thing to a Japanese child.

FAMILY WORSHIP.

We must close with some touching notices of the happy effect of the family worship of the Home upon the servants attending it. One of these Too-ki-chi, had been in the habit of taking part in the exercise by reading a portion of the Scriptures, and repeating the Lord's Prayer. On one occasion, Mrs. Pruyn says, 'He seemed deeply affected; and when it was concluded, he continued in tones that betrayed great earnestness and feeling, and offered a long prayer, asking blessing for us, for our household, for