

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY NOTICES,

AUGUST, 1874.

JAPAN.

IN forwarding the following communication from Yokohama, dated April 22nd, 1874, the Rev. GEORGE COCHRAN justly says it is in "hope it may not be without interest to those who projected and support the FIRST CANADIAN MISSION TO JAPAN." It has rarely been our privilege to insert a letter of such value and importance. We render thanks to God for the tokens of his presence as seen in the first-fruits of this Mission, and in the providential guidance vouchsafed to the brethren in Japan. We also give a short letter from Dr. McDONALD, of later date, containing a pleasing account of his present position and work at Shidzuooka.

CLIMATE.

WE have been here a little over nine months, and have seen the Summer, Autumn, and Winter of this part of the country. July and August were excessively hot, with a peculiar moisture in the atmosphere which rendered it almost impossible to keep articles of clothing, books, etc., from spoiling by mildew. And though there was scarcely any rain during the intense heat, vegetation seemed in no wise to suffer; the beautiful green of field and forest never in the least appeared to fade. All this time the mosquitoes were exceedingly troublesome, and appeared to prefer fresh blood, as recent arrivals suffered more than those who had been years in the country. We had no rest at night from these intolerable bores, except within the protection of net curtains.

In September, we had occasional refreshing showers, and the heat began to abate. The whole face of the country was exceedingly beautiful. The uplands and hills were covered with vegetable gardens, and the valleys were continuous rice-fields. Through the latter part of September and the be-

ginning of October, high winds, bordering sometimes on the character of the *Typhoon*, rendered the weather disagreeable; especially so to those who dwelt in houses poorly constructed to resist the fury of the elements, as most of the houses seem to be in this land. From about the middle of October, however, we had a season of clear, cool, bracing weather, which lasted all through November, that would be esteemed pleasant in any country. Indeed it quite reminded us of our own Canadian *Indian Summer*. During this period the cotton was gathered and the rice harvested.

From the beginning of November to the present time—a period of over five months—we have required artificial heat in our houses, which very much increases the cost of living, as fuel is exceedingly dear. Coal averaged from \$12 to \$18 a ton; and wood cut into stove lengths, and tied up in small bundles of five to ten sticks in each, with straw ropes, costs about \$10 to \$15 a cord, according to quality.

December was on the whole a crisp, pleasant month. New Year's day