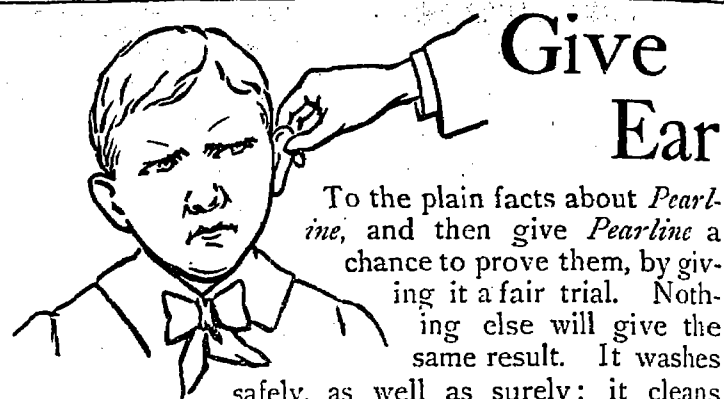
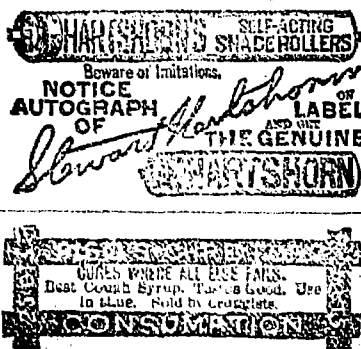


Mission Field.

JAPAN AS A MISSION FIELD.

The Lord Bishop of Exeter lately visited his son, the Bishop of Japan, and speaking at the annual meeting of the C. M. S. in London last month, his Lordship said that as he had just returned from Japan, he would limit his words to that field of mission labor. Though small compared with its gigantic neighbours, India and China, the Japanese Empire was large in itself, its area exceeding that of Great Britain and Ireland, while its population was more than 40,000,000. If they had been asked to sketch the ideal land most suitable for Christian missions, and which, when Christianised, would be most suited for Evangelistic work among the nations of the far East, perhaps the first characteristic that Englishmen or Irishmen would wish would be islands inseparably and for ever united—(loud applause)—which could hold their seagirt independence, and yet be near enough to the mainland to exert influence there. Such is Japan. It would also be said, "Give us a hardy race, trained in war by land and sea," for a nation of soldiers, when won for Christ, fights best under the banner of the cross. Such are the descendants of the old Danes. "Give us, too, an industrious race, not idle loungers, enervated by a luxurious climate, laborious husbandmen, persevering craftsmen, shrewd men of business." Such are the Japanese. "Give us men of culture, with noble traditions, yet not so wedded to the past that they will not grasp the present and salute the future." Such are the quick-witted, myriad-minded Japanese, who, with a marvellous power of imitation, contrive to engraft their own national character upon those of Western lands. "Give us a race whose women are home-spun, refined, courteous, and winsome, not tottering on tortured feet, not immured in zenanas and harems, but who freely mingle in social life and adorn all they touch." Such, without controversy, are the women of Japan. Above all it would be said, "Give us a religious people who are yet conscious that the religion of their fathers is unsatisfying and unreal, and who are therefore ready to welcome the Christ of God." Such are the men and women of Japan. The Gospel has dawned there. He himself was welcomed by 250 Christians in St. Andrew's House, in Tokio. In that vast city of 1,200,000 people, there are Christian stations worked by the brotherhood. Don't, said his Lordship, be afraid of the word "Brotherhood" or "Sisterhood." There are no monastic vows of any kind there. One of the Brothers has come to England, and returned again married. (Applause.) One Sunday he was permitted to preach in the American cathedral, and the same afternoon in the C. M. S. church. There is only one laborer there, and his son sorely craves three more. At one school there are 1,600 students from all parts of Japan. Many a village clubs together to send one young man up to that school to be trained. There one of the Brothers has a house. He is not permitted to teach Christianity in

college hours, but he has Bible classes, &c., outside, to which they throng, and God is giving him a message to those young men. At another college a Sisterhood has thirty girls from good families. There is a hospital connected with it, and five have been baptized who were patients there last year, and one is being trained as a mission woman. Eight days before the earthquake, at another town there was a confirmation at eight o'clock in the morning, and one old man of sixty and two young women were confirmed. Our brethren in Japan call upon us to come over and help them. It is a nobler crusade than Richard Cœur de Lion ever led. Oh, that men of all ranks may come forward! Oh, that kings may be nursing fathers and queens nursing mothers! There is an order of the Church Missionary Society that the office of Patron should be reserved for members of the Royal family. The position has been long vacant. May not a humble petition be presented from the Society to the Queen to become the Patron, and to many of her beloved children to become Vice-Presidents? (Applause.) What will conquer? Not Agnosticism, with its heartless no-creed; not Deism, with its icy distance between God and man; not Roman superstition, with its Mariolatry and priest-craft; not Plymouthism, with its molluscous kind of Christianity; not that nightmare of annihilation, or the baseless dream of Universalism, but the good old faith of the everlasting Gospel on Bible foundations, on apostolic lines. The order-loving Japanese love the reverence of our ritual. A man high in authority in Tokio said to him, "You will see Japan will become Christian on the lines of the Church of England." (Applause.) For a while the army of Evangelists must be officered by American and English leaders, but when the time is fully come, they are most ready to yield their posts to Japanese deacons, priests, and bishops, and that, as his son said to him, will be the happiest euthanasia of Western missions, when Japan is Christian from shore to shore. We can, and by God's grace we will accomplish it, only we must not offer to God that which costs us little or nothing. The master does not degrade us by asking cheap service at our hands. Fifty more men are sorely needed in the next two and a-half years. We trust no arm of flesh, for we know that nothing will or can prevail but masculine faith in God, nothing but the old heroism of primitive Christianity, nothing but the story of the Cross through the omnipotent grace of the Spirit of God. *Hoc signo vincant, et in eternum Laus Deo.* (Loud applause.)



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