

to be above the average, both as to their consecration and deep, heartfelt piety. Indeed, I owe the quickened and heightened spiritual life within me to the blessed associations of those years in Japan. Nor would I insinuate that all are tainted with unsanctified ambition, for there are many wholly consecrated; but it is the old story of the spoonful of tar in the barrel of honey—the mickle marring the muckle. But is there not a lesson for those of us in the vineyard at home in this? Can the stream rise higher than its fountain? A higher state of grace on the part of the church at home is absolutely essential to that of the “sent ones” of that church. Don’t expect too much of your missionaries!

But, now to the brighter and grander side of earnest toil and blessed reward in the service of the Master. I was designated for the evangelistic work, but at first, for the best part of a year, I taught as a supply in the Anglo-Japanese college. Much has been said, pro and con, concerning the advisability of missionary educational work in an enlightened and modernized country like Japan. I myself am a strong believer in it. We must educate our native ministry not only in theology, but in all the necessary branches of a secular education, a duty which cannot be entrusted to a government system wholly heathen, and consequently antagonistic. The work of educating our ministry cannot be accomplished without an equipment large enough to accommodate a much larger number of students; hence we throw open our doors and young men enter. Now for some of the results. During those seven months I taught there I saw upwards of twenty give their hearts to God. The whole senior class, one of whom, Count Hirosawa, is now a graduate of Cambridge University, and is filling a prominent place in the official circles of his own land, was converted. This, too, is but one of a hundred proofs that through the mission schools Christianity has made itself felt upon the very steps of the Imperial Throne.

Another very pleasing phase of this work is that it opens up an immediate

field of usefulness for the newly-arrived missionary. He cannot speak the language, but the boys can talk to him, and thus he has no small joy in pointing souls to Christ. One of the most blessed experiences of those early years was that of shedding the light of hope over the death-bed of one of our students, and to see him reach out and lay hold of the Saviour.

Our first move was ninety miles into the interior to Kofu, where I taught in the government school and superintended our work in that province. Of course, opportunities of evangelistic work in the government school were few indeed, and yet a Bible class on Sabbath sowed the seed, which resulted in the conversion of not less than a half-dozen of the students. The evangelistic work, however, offered large opportunity, even although as yet I could not preach in the language. It is with the native workers that one has his chance. He is the link between them and the outside missionary world and the home society. He has had a broader training and a lifelong experience in the Christian faith, and must, by the help of God, lead his native brethren out into a broader and stronger type of mental and spiritual life. He must be a teacher of preachers and a leader of men without seeming to be either.

For upwards of three years I remained in connection with the work in that prefecture. When I began work there was but one mission station, with two out appointments. The Kofu church was in a deplorable financial condition, and the whole aspect disheartening. In the course of a couple of years all was changed; the church took heart, the givings of the membership were trebled, congregations largely increased, and conversions were frequent. Soon our church building became too small, and by the help of God and my foreign brethren, I made a beautiful new church an accomplished fact.

Outside the city, also, things began to move. At the two outside preaching places, Inadzumi and Katsunuma, churches were erected, while we began to extend our work in every direction. Of course, names like Kusakabe, Ichikawa and Nir-