

years he was pastor of the Azabu church in Tokio, which had the largest membership of any of our churches in Japan, and was self-supporting.

On the founding of the Japanese scholarship in Victoria College, Mr. Takagi was selected by the Japanese Conference to hold it. He arrived at Victoria in October, 1895, and has been with us until now.

Of Mr. Takagi's record at Victoria College there is little need to speak. He has won the respect of all who know him, not only by exactness of scholarship and width of information but also by still higher characteristics—a justness and impartiality of judgment, found almost never in young men and not often in old—and a truly loyal and sincere Christian spirit. We earnestly hope that on his return to Japan, he will find a position and a support, which will afford adequate scope alike to his intellectual power and to his devoted Christian spirit.

G. J. BLEWETT.

Mr. Takagi is an active Campaigner, having in 1896 visited St. Thomas District with Mr. Blewett, in the summer of 1897, he visited Bradford District with the Rev. D. Norman, and during last Christmas holidays he did Campaign work in the Barrie District. The Leagues of the Barrie District have secured from the General Board of Missions the privilege of supporting Mr. Takagi in the work of our Church when he returns to Japan.

### Progressive Programme for March.

SUBJECT. JAPAN.  
(Use a map of Japan.)

#### SUGGESTED PROGRAMME.

Hymn 187.

Prayer (special prayer for Japan, our workers and work there).

#### BIBLE READING.

*Japan* Its geographical position, form of government, climate, products. (See school geography and map.)

OUR MISSION WORK IN JAPAN—When founded, its growth, number of missionaries, membership. (See Dr. Sutherland's article in March CAMPAIGNER.)

EDUCATIONAL—"Life-work of a Native Japanese Christian." Mr. H. Muramatzu, manager of our Anglo-Japanese College. (See October *Outlook*, 1897.)

"Historical Sketch of the Educational Work in Japan," by Rev. John Scott. (See January and February *Missionary Outlook*.)

Life sketch of Rev. Mizutaro Takagi, now at Victoria University. (See March CAMPAIGNER, page 2.)

School Work (report of the W.M.S.).

Hymn 184.

EVANGELISTICAL—"Hindrances to Christianity in Japan," by Rev. M. Takagi. (See *Guardian*, Jan. 26th, 1898).

The Methodist Church in Japan, its Work and Workers. (See Missionary Report, 1896-97.)

The Latest Missionary to Japan, Rev. D. Norman. (See letter March CAMPAIGNER, page 3.)

MEDICAL—Our Pioneer Medical Missionary in Japan. (Dec. 1897 CAMPAIGNER.) Ten minutes for questions and discussion regarding the work.

The Missionary Reports and *Outlook* may be had from the Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto.

The MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER may be had from F. C. Stephenson, 568 Parliament Street, Toronto.

Recommended Reading on Japan—"The Gist of Japan," by R. B. Peery, A.M., Ph.D. "Japan, Its People and Missions," by Jesse Page. Japan, "The Land of the Morning," by Saunby. Our Work Leaflet on Japan, and Monthly Missionary Letter. (Room 20, Wesley Buildings).

(Ask your Sunday School or Epworth League Librarian for books on Japan.)

### The Gist of Japan.\*

Old Japan is rapidly disappearing, the Japan of to day which is rising out of old superstitions and customs, is attracting the attention of the world from a political and national standpoint. The Church is trying to lay the true foundation of national strength and development by introducing that 'Righteousness which exalteth a nation,' whose God is the Lord.

Dr. Peery has told in a delightfully comprehensive way in his "Gist of Japan" the history, manners and customs of the people who, he says, from their politeness have been called "the Frenchmen of the Orient." The information given is reliable and accurate; the result of much faithful study and research.

To the student of missions the book is invaluable, as it is written out of a wide experience in mission work, and a keen perception of the needs of Japan and the outlook for its evangelization.

Those who are interested in Japan will find the book very entertaining and instructive and can hardly fail to recognize that Japan's need in her changing conditions is the Christ-life for her people.

### The Work in Japan.

Nearly a quarter of a century has passed since Canadian Methodism sent its first missionaries to Japan. In 1873 Drs Macdonald and Cochran set out for the Land of the Rising Sun, where, by the blessing of God, they were enabled to found a mission that developed steadily from the beginning. In some years the numerical increase was small, but there has been no retrograde movement. Every forward step was thoughtfully taken, and our missionaries in that country, while alert to adopt improved methods, have never found it necessary to retrace their steps, or undo anything that had once been done. Hence, there have been but slight vicissitudes in the history of the mission none of those rapid or violent changes which endanger stability. The missionaries were more concerned for the quality of converts than for mere numbers, and all possible care was taken to prevent the admission of unsuitable persons into the Church. This has had much to do with the peace that has always prevailed, and the steady growth that has characterized the work.

The most important epoch thus far was the organization of an Annual Conference during the visit of the General Secretary in 1889. This was felt to be a very important step. It gave a higher status to the work, and introduced new and more intimate relations between the native and foreign workers. It was felt that the undertaking was no longer an experiment. The Methodist Church has entered Japan to stay, and its policy was being shaped on the lines of coming autonomy so soon as the native Church would be in a position to assume that weighty responsibility.

Another important step, of more recent date, was the formation of a Home Missionary Society. This was chiefly the work of the native Church, though having the cordial concurrence of the foreign missionaries. For several years its work was to aid some of the missions already established, but at the Conference of 1896 the bold step of what might be called a foreign mission was taken. That is, the Japan Conference resolved, with the concurrence of the General Board, to establish a mission in the northern island of Yesso (also called Hokkaido), the expense to be

\* *The Gist of Japan*. By R. B. PEERY, A.M., Ph.D. Price \$1.25. Fleming H. Revell Company, or Methodist Book Room, Toronto, Ont.