

At the close of the last lesson one of the men spoke out in the presence of the others, and said he had a brother who had been in a mission school, and that he had heard a little about Christianity from him; that as much as he had heard he believed to be good, and he wished to know more. He has been to church every Sunday since. We have always found the police very ready to give assistance; but now, when we appear in the streets, we are greeted as special friends by each of the twenty members of the class.

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From Miss Alcorn.

SHIZUOKA, *Nov. 29th, 1897.*

Ten years ago an attempt was made to open Christian work in Shimada. The opposition to Christianity, however, being so great, a house could not be rented for the purpose.

About eight years ago one of the pupils of the Shizuoka school, after returning to Shimada (her home), received permission from her father to have a woman's meeting in her own house. As this father was one of the first men in the town, his action did much to overcome the prejudice of the people, and for a short time Miss Hargrave and her interpreter held a woman's meeting twice a month. A preaching place was then procured, and an evangelist was sent to work among the people. A children's meeting was also held.

The work seemed so hopeful one of the native pastors went to preach in the theatre, but the old opposition again appeared, and he had to flee for his life, closely followed by hundreds of people. The evangelist then wrote to Miss Cunningham—who was the evangelistic worker from our Society—not to come again, as it was unsafe. She went, however, and continued the children's meeting, having sometimes an attendance of one hundred.

In the meantime, one of the leading men of the town was converted. He asked to have Christianity taught to his wife, and Miss Cunningham, accompanied by her interpreter, went to the home for the purpose of teaching her. This was the nucleus of our present woman's meeting,