

Mission Field.

SOMETHING ABOUT JAPAN.

We take the following brief account of this little known, but very interesting country, and of our Missionary operations therein from 'The Church in Japan' a magazine published in Tokyo. The section relating to the religion of Japan is from the pen of Bishop McKim:

The population of Japan is forty millions. Of this number sixteen millions are in the Missionary Jurisdiction of Tokyo.

The remaining twenty-four millions are in the territory assigned to the three English Bishops.

The Missionary Jurisdiction of Tokyo is more than 700 miles in length and three hundred in breadth. It is divided into two Convocations, known as the North Tokyo and the Kyoto Convocations.

These two Convocations are separated by a district 300 miles in length, which is under the jurisdiction of the Right Rev. Bishop Bickersteth, of the Church of England.

The present territorial division is very awkward for Episcopal supervision. At present, re-arrangement of Jurisdictional lines seems almost impossible, if the interests of the Missionary Societies are to be conserved.

Four Missionary Societies of the Church of England, each independent of the other and of English convocational authority are at work in the district, lying between the two convocations of North Tokyo and Kyoto.

These various Missions of the Church of England unite with the Mission of the American Church in forming the *Nippon Sei Kwo Kwai*—'The Holy Catholic Church in Japan.' This Japanese Church has a Constitution and Canons and Missionary Society of its own. Its Prayer Book is a translation of the English and American Books. The Japanese Church has divided the Empire for Synodical convenience into four districts, each of which has an annual synod with clerical and lay representatives. The whole Church meets triennially in General Synod.

The Constitution provides that the Bishops shall vote separately from the Clergy and Lay representatives, and no resolution shall be deemed to have been carried unless a majority of the Bishops and of the clerical and lay representatives, voting conjointly or by orders, vote in its favor.

The American Church Mission is doing work in the largest three cities of the Empire—Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto.

Tokyo, the Capital and the official and educational centre of the Empire, has a population of more than 1,200,000.

Osaka, the second city and the commercial capital of Japan, has a population of more than 500,000. It is the best centre in Japan for evangelistic work.

Kyoto, the third city and the capital of Japan until 1870, has a population of 300,000. It is the stronghold of Buddhism.

We have also in the North Tokyo Convocation, clerical missionaries residing at Sendai and Maebashi, and lady Missionaries at Fukushima and Aomori.

In the Kyoto Convocation, in addition to the Missionaries living in Osaka and Kyoto, we have a clergyman and a lay-worker, sent by St. Andrew's Brotherhood, stationed at Nara.

In addition to our Mission staff of twelve clergy, three laymen and nine lady workers we have seven Japanese clergy, thirty-five catechists and a number of Bible women.

THE RELIGIONS OF JAPAN.

The religions, if one may so call them, of Japan, are two—Shintoism and Buddhism.

I. *Shintoism*.—This is a native cult whose origin is veiled in mythological mist.

Shintoism has a pantheon of eight million gods: it deifies the powers of nature; there are fire gods, thunder gods, good gods and evil gods, kitchen gods, *et cetera ad infinitum*.

Local divinities are supposed to guard the interests of each village.

Shintoism's great hold upon the mass of the people is its apotheosis of patriotism; it has a Walhalla for all departed Emperors and heroes.

Shintoism has no system of theology. Its code of ethics consists chiefly in teaching loyalty to the Emperor and love of country.

[To be continued.]

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