

## Mission Field.

## JAPAN.

[Continued from last issue.]

"Meanwhile, I went on with Niya to Tanaka and Fukura, and then to Kusaka, at each of which places we held Holy Communion with the Christians, and gave addresses to those who came. It is some sign of progress to find five places where there are Christians to assemble at our Lord's table, but what I long for now, in Awaji especially, is the advance of the Church, and increase of the number of Christian men and women. God grant it in His good time."

In Kobe itself a site for the new permanent church of the headquarters of the Mission has been acquired, and this Mr. Foss regards of high importance.

"We have now actually purchased and entered into possession of the new lot that has been decided on for the church. Land is so expensive in Kobe that our funds in hand are almost all expended in the purchase of ground; but I am now asking some of the foreigners for assistance, and as soon as I know what we may be likely to get, I hope to set about building, and the native Christians are stirring themselves up again to subscribe and collect and work as they can for this object. I hope I may be able to get sufficient funds to raise a handsome church on so good a site, and that God may make it a centre of much strong and healthy Church work to His honor and glory. Evidently Kobe is still increasing; building is going on again everywhere, and the opening of the port of Hyogo, as well as that of Kobe, to foreign shipping has also roused up the mercantile community to more sanguine hopes and greater efforts.

"I had a very interesting visit the other day to a merchant captain to whom I had an introduction from Nagasaki. He spoke English very fluently, and told me that, being interested in Christianity, he often asked the catechist in Nagasaki to come and speak to himself and officers and crew when they were in that harbor. He also said that several of his officers were seeking after Christianity, and that his wife and his chief engineer's wife were both wishing to be taught. They both live now in Kobe. I trust that there are many such seeking after God for themselves, though very rarely able to come under Christian influence or to have instruction. May God bless our dealings with them."

Mr. Foss has also been engaged in translation work, including a translation of the *Imitatio Christi*, and a share in the production of the Church Hymnal with tunes.

Of course Tokyo, the capital, is the residence of the Bishop and the centre of the whole work in Japan; and there, under the Bishop's eye, is the Shiba, St. Andrew's Divinity School. The number of its present and former students is twenty-four.

Of this institution the Rev. A. F. King, the Principal, writes:

"The time will surely come, as our sphere of choice widens, when we shall have more applicants to choose from. In the meantime (as I suppose) our wisdom is to train as thoroughly as may be those sent to us, for the work of catechists, even if only a small proportion of them prove fitted for the ministry itself. It is worthy of note in this connection that there is a remarkable possibility in Japanese students; it is astonishing how some of them, in many respects apparently quite unfitted to be evangelists, make, if docile and single-minded, singularly rapid progress, both in the study of theology and in the development of the needful character.

"We have at present eight students in residence, and, in addition, two former students, who are working in neighboring districts of Tokyo, attend some of the lectures. Four of these are studying Greek, and the two out students have just begun Hebrew."

The Bishop has now reached England, having come home by way of India, and visited his old friends and colleagues at Delhi.

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