

after making some enquiry from the interpreters attached to his residence, found out it was a copy of the Christian's Bible; and having ascertained that there was a translation of the book in Chinese, he sent to Shanghai for a copy. Then with five or six of his companions, and with a distinguished scholar as his teacher, they gathered together in a Bible-class for its study. While they could understand much, there were many things they could not understand; and hearing that a missionary at Nagasaki could speak the Dutch language, he sent a messenger to the missionary to get answers to difficult questions, and in this way, through the messenger carrying a question and getting a reply, in due time the head man, with a large retinue of retainers, made his way to the missionary's house and presented themselves for baptism. What was his statement? I copy it from an address delivered by Rev. Dr. Ferris, of the Reformed Church Mission, delivered at the Mildmay Conference of Missions, held in England, October, 1878:

"Sir, I cannot tell you my feelings when, for the first time in my life I read the account of the character and work of Jesus Christ. I had never seen, or heard, or read of, or dreamed of, or imagined such a person. I was filled with admiration, overwhelmed with emotion, and taken captive by the nature and life of Jesus Christ! We can imagine somewhat the impression that would in such circumstances be produced on such a man, fifty years of age, in the maturity of his powers, a man of education and special sagacity. He sought baptism for himself and two of his friends who were with him. Within a year three others of the same company were also baptised by Mr. Verbeek. Thus an example is furnished of how the truth has been over and over again conveyed providentially to men and women, who, uninfluenced by a missionary, or foreigners, or Christians, have been brought to feel it to be the word of God."

This emphasizes the declaration of the last speaker, that there can be no character to transcend the character of Jesus; there can be no religion of the future that will make this Bible effete and antiquated. That is one advantage which the missionary, my brethren, has over his brethren settled in Christian lands. He is brought back into contact with the same stage of civilization that existed when the inspired page was written. Not one word of it is effete or obsolete. The same controversy exists now as did then between Jehovah and the idols. And then, in addition, the missionary appreciates the special promises to every portion of the globe; and peculiarly precious to me, labouring in an island empire, is the special promise that the isles shall wait for his law. This declaration, brethren, is verily to be fulfilled. The dawn is already upon us. The first ten years were years of sowing, painful waiting and labour to remove prejudice, but the last ten years are years of reaping and gathering; and now, brethren, the full harvest is upon us, and the reapers are not adequate to gather in the golden sheaves into the garner of our Lord.

By way of contrast with what we have just heard of Turkey, I could set forth the particularly favourable and superior characteristics of the Japanese. By the blessing of God, Mohammedanism never entered that island empire. I thank God for it. Better polytheism than intolerant Islamism and its warlike character. The idols are easily swept away. They have no sacred language or book; they have no deep-seated affection for their idols. You can address any Japanese audience and speak of the absurdity of idolatry without any offence being taken.

Then, too, another advantage is the superior state of woman; it is next to that of a Christian country. Polygamy exists, but it is not lawful. Woman's position is all that you can wish. She needs more enlightenment; but this is fast being given by the great impetus to female education. The time is drawing on apace when the full light of the sun of righteousness is to beam upon that land.

But, Mr. President, I have been struck by your statistics and some facts growing out of them, and the congratulatory feeling expressed in relation to