

the centre of a populous and prospering country. The three cities, Kanazawa, Toyama and Fukui, seem at least fifteen or twenty years behind the cities on the east coast; and you can hardly imagine what changes fifteen or twenty years *can* work in this land when once free scope is offered. The western country, except where it has been tapped by the railway, as in the case of Nagano, seems never to have recovered from the stupor into which centuries of feudalism had crushed it. Griffis, in his "Mikado's Empire," which I'd advise you to read, if you haven't already, graphically describes the disbanding of the clans in 1870, in obedience to an Imperial ordinance. Dr. Griffis was at that time teaching English and Science in the school at Fukui, where they refused to take me last spring because I was a Christian. D. R. McKenzie, who is now teaching in a government school at Kanazawa, is likely to be sent to Fukui by our Board next spring; Kanazawa is already occupied by Rev. J. W. Saunby; Toyama is to have Rev. Eber Crummy, if the Board appoints him this winter, as it most likely will; and I'm to begin in Nagano—well, as soon as I can, next month some time. It is the most fascinating Japanese city I have ever visited. Both as a field of work and a place of residence it is most inviting, and I expect many happy days there, as well as many hard, discouraging ones. It has one of the most popular temples in Japan, and is probably the most thoroughly Buddhist city in the Empire, visited yearly by thousands of pilgrims from every part of the country. They come into town, drag themselves up the hill to the cliff on which the great temple is built, fall down on the mats before the altar, and there remain, eating, drinking, sleeping, praying, and joking, till they are in some measure rested. As I saw it all a few weeks ago for the first time—the magnificence of the temple and grounds, the scores of priests and hundreds of worshippers, and the whole city given over to heathenism—I felt the majesty and power of our King more, I think, than ever before, for I hadn't a doubt that even in this citadel of Lord Shaka (Buddha), the Lord Jesus would some day be crowned and many tongues would rejoice to confess that HE is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

THE FRENCH WORK.

Montreal West.—This mission is now in a prosperous state and promises fair to take a foremost place among our French missions. I have received three families this year, all from the house of bondage. Our meetings are well attended, and we are abundantly blest. Last Sabbath, although a very wet day, I administered the holy sacrament to thirty-five persons. The power of God was present with us. Our class and prayer-meetings are full of life and power, because the Master is present with us. I have now, in day and Sabbath-school, between sixty and seventy children, and my little church and school-room are in nice order. Everything is working well, save that some of my late converts are suffering persecution from their near relatives. One old lady went to the house of her daughter, and tried every way she could devise to bring her and her husband back to the Church of Rome, but to no purpose. The old lady cursed her daughter, and said she would never enter

her door again. The daughter threw herself on her mother's neck, weeping, saying, "Dear mother, Jesus says, that 'Whosoever loveth father or mother more than Me, is not worthy of Me.'" With many other loving words did she try to pacify her enraged parent. The scene was a very trying one, so trying, indeed, that the father, who is a very intelligent man (a blacksmith by trade), decided to join our little band. He now attends regularly, and has given me his name. Thus God often makes the wrath of man to praise Him, and the remainder of wrath will He restrain.

"WHOSE work are we doing? Surely it is not for the sake of ourselves that we collect money, out for our Lord and Master. It is His work, and let us do it unto Him. I think if we go about our missionary work in this spirit, glad to do anything for Him who laid down His life for us, and looking up to Him for strength and blessing, difficulties will vanish away, and we shall feel ashamed that we should ever, even for a moment, have been tempted to think anything hard or unpleasant in His dear service."

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