

*Japan.*—Changes have been taking place in the Eastern Empire, but these have been, in the whole, favorable to the introduction of Christianity. The edict imposing death on the nations that embrace the religion of Christ has been annulled, and Missionaries are allowed to pursue their evangelistic labors throughout the Empire: nor is this all, the gratifying intelligence is now communicated that a native Christian Church composed of 30 members, with 2 native teachers, has been openly organized at Yokohama. Surely the East is giving up and the isles waiting for his law. In addition, the report states that steps are being taken for obtaining and printing a translation of the Holy Scriptures, into the Japanese language. Some progress has been already made and a plan of joint action drawn up and submitted to the two great Bible Societies of England and America for approval and acceptance. This plan was initiated at Yokohama last September a year, and is fully explained by the following minutes, adopted at a convention of Protestant Missionaries. We quote several of the resolutions.

*Resolved*, That this Convention recommend the appointment of a Committee for the translation of the Sacred Scriptures into the Japanese language, in accordance with the following plan:

1st.—That the Committee consist of one member from each Mission desirous of co-operating in this work.

2nd.—That the members of this Committee be appointed by the Missions to which they severally belong, and that each mission shall be competent to supply the place of its representative by another whenever it may so desire.

3rd.—That it shall be the duty of this Committee, aside from its own work of translating, to carefully examine and give an opinion upon any translations of portions of the Word of God which may be presented to them for this purpose.

The secretaries of the Convention were instructed to communicate with the American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society, informing them of the action of this Convention and transmitting to them a copy of the above resolutions.

It is almost needless to add that our Parent Society rejoices at such resolutions and will be glad to aid in imparting to Japan the best possible version of the Scriptures and in the shortest period of time. In fact, before ever these resolutions had reached the Committee, the Society was far advanced in printing an edition of the Gospel of St. John at Vienna. It may be remembered that a distinguished embassy from Japan had visited Europe this last year and had been for some time in England and Scotland acquiring information as to the institutions and customs of the country. While in London, it was the desire of the Society to present a copy of St. John's Gospel, in the Japanese language to the distinguished foreigners, but as the printing was not finished this couldn't then be done; however, a few weeks later, copies were sent to their agent, Mr.