

would subsequently be brought up in the Christian faith. But this year, in addition to births in Christian families, there were two cases in which the whole family, parents and children, were received together into the fold. When we consider the millions of Japanese who are yet heathen, this progress may seem trifling, yet not only are these few souls precious, but they are here a beginning, which is always as important as it is difficult. So we lift up grateful hearts to Him who first prepared the minds of these few for the reception of His Gospel, and then permitted us to lead them to the Light.

While there have been many disappointments in the case of those who have begun to prepare for baptism and then faltered and stopped, it is pleasant to report that thus far no baptized member has fallen away. A number are very zealous, others not so much so, but all, so far as we are aware, are leading good and holy lives.

The present hope and object of foreign missions is to lay in every heathen land the foundations whereon will be built the future church. And as by far the most important stone in this foundation is the native ministry, it is gratifying to be able to report that of those who have applied in the last year to be trained for evangelistic work, four have been considered suitable to be taken on trial. The first of these candidates was received last January, and we were well pleased with him. He was to have entered the divinity school in Tokyo in September, but as he had formerly been a non-commissioned officer in the army, and then passed into the first land Reserve, when the war broke out between Japan and China last summer he had to join his old regiment again. We constantly hear from him and are full of hope that when the war is over he will be found fighting for his Lord in Nagano not less valiantly than he would for his country in China. Two others who were taken on later, entered the divinity school in the autumn, while the fourth is still with us in Nagano. Probably of the many little Christian remembrances with which dear friends delighted Nagano mission this year, none gave more pleasure than the receipt of a letter just before Christmas from the warden of the school, speaking in high terms of the diligence, ability, and progress of our two students.

The greater number of our baptisms took place in the spring—ten on Easter day, thirteen on Whitsunday, besides six at other times previous to the visit of the Bishop and Mrs. Bickersteth, towards the end of May, when twenty-five were confirmed. Later on, the war seemed to be a serious hindrance. The minds of all appeared to be so engrossed with it that they had no time or thought for anything else.

Among the most happy things to be noted during the year is the addition to our foreign

mission force. Miss Paterson reached Yokohama towards evening on October 2nd, and Nagano four days later. Rev. F. W. Kennedy and family arrived in Yokohama on October 29th, and after a short stay in Tokyo, to procure furniture and other things not to be bought in the interior, joined us in November. They are now working hard at the language. We had hoped to have begun a school in Nagano immediately on Miss Paterson's arrival, but partly through our having no building and partly through our failure to procure a suitable native teacher to assist, this hope has not yet been realized.

There is no cause for complaint at the number we have lost during the year by removals, for they have been almost, or quite, balanced by arrivals from other places. In four instances those who left us went to some other town or village in this same province, and although we cannot look after them so well, yet this gives us an excellent opportunity for opening work in these new fields. The Rev. Masazo Kakuzen began work in Matsumoto in April, and there were two adults baptized there in December. In connection with Nakano, where a catechist, Taguchi San, has been at work just a year, there have been seven adults baptized. We regularly make journeys from each of these three centres, Nagano, Matsumoto, and Nakano, to the surrounding towns and villages, preaching publicly, distributing tracts, visiting and teaching catechumens, or those who seem likely to become such, and ministering to the few Christians scattered here and there throughout the district. Three of our number have removed to the adjoining province of Echigo, where we now have a total of four, who, although so near to Nagano, are yet in the American diocese, and the American Church has no worker of any kind in any part of this province. Three of the four can be reached from Nagano in less than three hours, and as they are in the midst of a populous district with two large towns, it is greatly to be regretted that we are at present debarred from beginning work there.

After many vexatious delays caused by legal technicalities, the lot for our future church has been purchased and paid for, the whole sum of \$385 (silver), with the exception of \$73 contributed by Trinity University, Toronto, having been procured in Japan, our Bishop alone giving more than one-fourth of the whole amount. It will be impossible to begin building unless friends at home assist us in securing the \$750 (Canadian currency), the estimated cost of our little church.

Just at the close of the year our Bible-woman, Yamamoto San, was compelled to return to Tokyo. The large crowd which assembled at the station before daylight on the morning of Dec. 27th to bid her good-bye, as