

**MISSION FIELD.****JAPAN.***(Continued.)*

"It has been a pleasure to recognize the long and faithful service of the Rev. A. C. Shaw by appointing him Archdeacon of the Church of England in Northern Japan.

"The Rev. A. F. King, of Keble College, Oxford, accompanied me from England. He is followed by the Rev. F. E. Freese, of Trinity College, Oxford. These two clergymen, both of whom have had considerable experience in English parishes, will give most important assistance in developing the work carried on from this house.

"Two members of St. Hilda's Mission have completed their first year in Japan. Two others—one a lady nurse—have just joined them. A boarding school was opened in the spring, and is making progress. Next year will, I hope, see the beginning of their evangelistic and medical work. A school, itineration in the country districts, and a training institution for Japanese nurses are the three objects which, as I mentioned to many English audiences last summer, this Mission has in view. May their work be as fruitful and permanent as hers whose name they bear. St. Hilda's Mission House, through the liberality of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and of the members of St. Paul's Guild, was completed in March last. It is both well situated and serviceable. During next year we hope to add to it a chapel, with additional rooms over it. This will cost, without the fittings for the chapel, about £250. I shall be glad to receive any special donation towards this object.

"The band of English mistresses which, at the invitation of a Japanese company, undertook the teaching of a high-class institute for ladies have arrived. This letter is not the place for a record of their work. I will not say more than it is already apparent that the expectation which was formed before hand that they would have in their hands a unique opportunity of widest usefulness is already being justified. Several other lady workers are likely to come to Japan during next year, of whose plans and work I may have more to write hereafter. For the present they will find a home at St. Hilda's Mission House.

The native Japanese Missionary Society is more fully described by Archdeacon Shaw:—

"An interesting event in the history of the year has been the commencement of work by the Missionary Society of the Native Church. This Society was organized by the General Synod held at Osaka in the previous year. It is a missionary society directly responsible to the whole Church. According to its plan, there are four local societies in connection with, and more or less under the control of, the parent society, the latter receiving and distributing

in proportion to the local contributions all moneys collected from the whole Church. In the Tokyo district two stations have been filled during the year, and one each in the districts of Osaka and Kumamoto. This work is undoubtedly one of the most hopeful signs of Church progress, and deserves in every way to be encouraged. At one of these stations the Christians have also raised the funds and have built a small church for themselves during the past few months. I was present at the opening, and it was a time of great rejoicing both for young and old. After the celebration and an address which I gave, we all adjourned to a neat little house next to the Church, which had been rented for the catechist in charge, and there held a Japanese feast in honour of the occasion. Services and preaching were kept up for three days, and there seemed much earnestness among the little band. We had a similar church-opening the following month at one of the stations more directly in connection with the S. P. G.—a village called Shimo Fakuda, distant about a day's journey to the east of Tokyo. The Christians here have made good progress during the year, but it has been impossible up to the present to furnish them with a regular catechist. Certainly one of the most satisfactory aspects of the work at present is the increased activity among the village Christians, and their effort towards self-help and independence. The Buddhists, too, have been stirred up by this, and are doing what they can to stem the tide, and now regularly send their most famous preachers to visit those parts where Christianity is especially making headway. Mr. Nanjo, who was for some years a pupil of Professor Max Muller, is now a priest stationed at the great Temple of Hougnaui, in Nagoya, and from thence he also visits the country districts in that neighbourhood. The effects, however, of his preaching a reformed Buddhism are often more disastrous than otherwise, for when he tells the people that they ought no longer to worship or reverence the idols and shrines to which they have been for ages accustomed, he is very apt to bring both the priests and people about his ears. All this, however, helps to forward the process of disintegration which is going on in the old religion, and to prepare the way for the new."

No, there can be no doubt that all this shows that an immense deal is being done with very slender resources. It is a painful fact that the Bishop's special appeal for £21,700, which was endorsed and issued by the Society last year, met with but very scant response. It is a great opportunity which Japan now offers to the Church and the Church offers to Japan. For the youngest member of the family of constitutional kingdoms our desire is that it should enter the brotherhood of Christendom, and form part of the Kingdom of the Lord of All.

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