



JOHN INABA.

and to sing a Christmas carol; the rendering of the Psalm was especially good.

We have with us now two nurses, graduates of Miss Smith's Training School. They have not had much work to do as yet, for it takes some time for them to become known, and the people are so ignorant that they are inclined to be afraid of them, looking upon them as death-dealing individuals rather than nurses.

Last August a young man who is receiving his catechist's training at St. Andrew's Divinity School, Tokyo, came to Matsumoto to put in a year of practical work with me; he goes back to school in September next.

I do not think I have as yet made mention of the young boy, John Inaba, who is living with me and is being educated at my expense. Before he came to me, he had left school and was working on the railway. Since that time he has worked most diligently at his studies: at the end of his first year he won second place in his class and tried the examination for entrance into the High School; this was rather difficult, for he was only a fourth year student, but he successfully passed it, ranking number thirty-two out of a hundred and twenty, and defeating a number of his seniors, the fifth year students, who had tried the examination at the same time. I have promised to educate him for catechist's work and if he proves faithful, I hope the Canadian Board may see their way to have him prepared for Orders. He has four years yet to spend at the High School before he is ready to enter the Divinity School.

To place the work on a strong footing, we

need *thoroughly educated* Japanese men; the Canadian missionaries can only superintend, educate, encourage, stir up and push on the native workers; and if these are only well chosen and well educated, the day is not far off when the Japanese Branch of the Church Catholic will be doing for others what the Canadian Church is now doing for them.

Besides educated men we want well instructed women. Since taking charge of the south half of the Province of Shinano, a year and a half ago, I have had no licensed Bible woman. Miss Paterson's teacher is doing good work for us, but she has never received a proper training. Being unable to procure a woman helper from either of the training schools of the American or English Church missions, I thought it would be a good thing for the Canadians to have a school of their own to provide such workers: so with Miss Paterson's help I hope to see the work begun next July. I hear that the Woman's Auxiliary have kindly made a grant of two hundred dollars to Miss Paterson to begin with, but this will only support four girls, that is, provide them with food, light and fire and in some cases the girls have to be supplied with clothes, their parents being too poor to do so. Of course this, like everything else, must begin in a small way, but we hope that the Canadian people will realize the responsibility that rests on them and help us to meet our needs as they come.

I was delighted to hear how promptly the Trinity men responded to the appeal made for money for the Nagano church; it must have put new life into my colleague, who has worked so faithfully, when he heard of it. May I remind them and other Canadian friends that in a few years' time Matsumoto will be ready for a church too. I have already seventy-five dollars towards a site; when the figure two-hundred is reached I shall be in a position to buy, but I will not urge my case just yet, for Nagano is a much older mission than Matsumoto and must have its wants supplied first; when their church is built my turn will come.

In looking over the year's work I feel that we have everything to be thankful for. God has granted us a certain measure of success; I pray that it may be continued and ever-increasing.

THE WEAK ONES.

And as feeble babes that suffer,
Toss, and cry, and will not rest,
Are the ones the tender mother
Holds the closest, loves the best—
So when we are weak and wretched,
By our sins weighed down, distressed,
Then it is that God's great patience
Holds us closest, loves us best.

—Saxe Holm.