

MISSION FIELD.

THE VITAL MOMENT IN JAPAN.

The Rev. Dr. William Elliot Griffis, the author of "The Mikado's Empire," says in an article in a recent number of the *Independent*:

The average man of culture in Japan to-day has no religion. He is waiting for one. Shall it be Christianity? It certainly will not be Shinto, or historic Buddhism, or any past product of Japanese evolution. What will it be?

Just here, it is of interest to all who want to see Japan a Christian nation, to know that the "reformed" Buddhists expect to furnish their countrymen and all enquirers with a religion. Alert, keen, not over-scrupulous, they will doubtless have a neo-Buddhism all ready. They are already patrons of western learning, have studied at home, in India, at Oxford, and in America, the situation; have introduced physical science in their splendid, new, brick-built colleges in Kioto; make the New Testament a textbook, and the Bible and its learning subject of lectures. They will Buddhize Christianity, if they have power and opportunity. Let Christians study the past and take warning. Unto the wakening mind of the people of New Japan, shall a pure or distorted form of the Jesus-religion be preached?

It is no cry of an alarmist. It is the outcome from conviction from all who know the facts: *Japan's crisis is at hand!* Before the end of this century it may be decided whether Christianity or its counterfeit shall have the Land of Dawn. The missionaries in the field say that now is the vital moment, and they are right.—*Mission Field, N. Y.*

CONDITIONS OF MISSIONARY SUCCESS.

In carrying on missionary work the Church has two things to do: first, to choose capable, wise leaders and, secondly, to give them generous confidence and liberal support.

The Kingdom of Christ must be aggressive; it must be carried forward with a free and strong hand if it is to conquer the kingdoms of this world. The wise leader will ever be pressing forward, gaining new ground, making fresh conquests, and aiming at great results. In order to do this successfully he will need to have ready support behind him, and feel confidence that the support will always respond to his reasonable demands. The leader must, however, order the advance, show the spirit of courage, and faith, and deserve support and success by the wisdom of his plans and by a judicious use of means. Then his call for recruits and supplies should be responded to by the Church everywhere.

If it be said that this supposes a degree of wakeful earnestness which is seldom found, we answer that interest at home co-ordinate-interest in the field; confidence in the workers and in the work is stimulated by and actually lives upon what the worker is doing, the evidence of his work, the report of his conquests, the manifestation of his earnestness and wisdom.

We ought to be able to say to all our Bishops, Go forward; the Church is behind you and will sustain you by all means. We cannot, however, say that the Church will supply means beforehand; enough if the means come through slowly in answer to real needs. The true soldier does not wait for new shoes or a full knapsack before he will enter the fight. The wise general does not tarry till he has full stores; but by pushing on he shows that he deserves supplies, and they come, not because he is always thinking of them, but because he is making it his first business to win victories and has inspired his soldiers with like courage.—*Mission Field, N. Y.*

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