

instruction. Among the Japanese in my district twelve have been baptised this year; the number of Christians from among this race at present under my care is 113 persons, besides whom there are forty-two being instructed in Christianity. Thus in my district the Christians—Japanese and Ainu—now number 781, and those seeking for baptism 181. Let us thank the Master for all His mercies to all people, for surely all the ends of the earth are now beholding the salvation of our God.

It cannot be doubted, I believe, but that the Ainu is a dying-out race, for besides non-Christians, no less than twelve Church members have been taken from us this year. One of these was a student and helper, preparing to become a preacher to his own people. It is grand to think that a remnant of this aboriginal race has heard the Word of God, the message of salvation, and is being saved. It will be a great privilege by-and-by, to meet those who have gone before, and whom we have helped on the way.

It is sometimes very amusing to hear the remarks made by the people when listening to some of the parables of our Lord. Thus one evening I took for my subject the parable of the Good Samaritan, and I could not help smiling at the running comments made during the address. Nay, at one time I was obliged to let the people have the meeting to themselves while I listened to what they had to say to one another on the matter, for the address was illustrated by a large picture. When telling them of the robbers, they made such remarks as these: "Fearful men; cruel fellows; wicked outcasts; very demons." Of the poor man who was beaten and robbed: "Pitiable object; what dreadful treatment; how the wretches made him suffer; what painful wounds; what a great loss to be stripped of his clothing; how sad to have all his money taken from him." Of the Pharisee and Levite they said: "What hard-hearted monsters, to be sure; proud abjects; as cruel as the thieves themselves; they make one angry." Then of the Samaritan they said: "Good man; to see his pity makes one rejoice; how kind of him to dress the wounds of a stranger; how good of him to pay for his keep at the inn." Many other remarks were made at the time, but these are all I then put down in my note-book. I consider that on this occasion the Ainu themselves preached the sermon; there was nothing much left for me to do but to attend to the application. I am sure we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, and I hope much good was done.

There has been one very remarkable conversion of a Japanese schoolmaster in my district this year, which reminds me very forcibly of Bunyan's Pilgrim. He was brought to a knowl-

edge of his sins by the simple reading of the New Testament, and he was led to the Saviour, where he found peace by prayer and study of the Word. Formerly a staunch Buddhist, he had no idea of sin and was set against Christianity. The Word told him he was a sinner and he felt bound to believe it. The conviction was so strong upon him that he could do nothing but pray and weep for several weeks, and he greatly alarmed his wife, who, also being a Buddhist, could not understand what had come over him. After having found pardon for sin where only it is to be found, that is, in the blood of the Lamb, he gave in his name as a candidate for baptism. He was baptised a few weeks ago in the Ainu church at Piratori, having walked more than twelve miles for that purpose. Before his baptism his poor wife did all she could to keep him from taking that step, and when she found that he was firm in his conviction and could not be moved in his determination, she asked him to divorce her! Rather than go with him, she would be divorced from him for life! But being ready to forsake all for Christ, he came and was baptized. And what of his wife? Through his tears and prayers the Master has graciously touched her heart. She, too, now weeps, prays, and rejoices. She is anxious for baptism! These are facts, and I need make no comment on them, for they speak for themselves.

Facts like those just mentioned sometimes have a curious effect on the Heathen around. The inhabitants of the village in which this man resides called a large meeting a short time since, in order to see what they had best do to stop Christianity from making the headway it is apparently doing about there! Praise God for that. The meeting came to the conclusion that they must get rid of their village priest, who has not much learning, and employ a better and more able man in his place. This again shows the power of Christianity. But how foolish of this people to imagine that it is learning which accomplishes such wonders! If they come to fight the Gospel which contains the truth of God with their brittle weapons of so-called learning, we know which must triumph. Jesus alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and nothing can withstand Him.

Sunday, December 20th, was a very happy day with us here, for four persons were baptized into the Church on that day. These had all been taught first in their own villages and then for a month in our house. The previous Sunday, one other, a young man aged twenty, was also baptized. As drink is the great stumbling-block of the poor Ainu, I got him to become a total abstainer before admitting him to the Church. He is a happy kind of fellow, and wanted to know whether as a Christian he