

They are in all the darkness, ignorance and superstition of heathenism, and nothing but the religion of Christ can lift them out of it.

What led to the sending of lady missionaries under the auspices of the Woman's Missionary Society?

An urgent call from Japan missionaries to the Society to begin a mission among women and girls. In 1882, Miss Carmell landed in Japan. She began immediately to study the language and enter upon evangelistic work.

What did she consider would contribute most to the success of the mission?

A girls' school, which was accordingly established in Azabu, Tokyo, in 1884. Miss Eliza Spencer (Mrs. Large) was appointed principal. From time to time others have been added to the teaching staff. A new building was erected in 1886. It was always full, and the fees paid the native expenses. Some of the scholars, after completing their course, taught in the school. Bible women received systematic training.

Have we other girls' schools in Japan?

Yes; one in Shizuoka, mainly supported by Japanese gentlemen, also one in Kofu.

Does the success of these schools continue?

Yes, although it has suffered largely from a partial reaction against Western advance, especially as regards women; also, in the loss of our esteemed missionary, Mr. Large, who met his death at the hands of native burglars while in charge of the funds at the girls' school, Tokyo. It is also owing to political changes, to the death of the Minister of Education, and the unsettled state of the country.

Is native education prized in Japan?

Yes, and is well advanced; but the Japanese students have become so impregnated with Western ideas of learning and German infidelity as to become a source of danger to the State. All interested in Japan feel that she is passing through a transition period and approaching a crisis.

What remedy do the leaders of Government propose?

Many are in favor of Christianity as the only real remedy for this anarchical state of affairs; hence, they advocate its teaching in public and private schools.

What is the latest hopeful sign in Japan?

The opening of its first parliament and appointment of native Christians to some of its highest offices.

What should be our leading thought in view of these signs of the times?

That now is the time to win Japan for Christ, lest she be put back into the darkness and cruelties of heathenism, perhaps for another hundred years.

How can we do this?

By our sympathy, our efforts, our means, our prayers.

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