

enquire, "Who is God, the Maker of all?" Among the eight hundred millions of gods in Japan he found none to answer that description. "Surely," he said to himself, "that God does not live in Japan; that God must live in America, because this book was published by the American missionary; therefore, if I would find that God, I must go to America." That would be a serious undertaking, which, if attempted, would be at the peril of his life; for an edict was issued prohibiting any one going abroad or returning; and even though he were shipwrecked, the penalty would be decapitation, so sedulously had the country protected itself from the inroads of Christianity. But this young man bade adieu to his aged father and mother and his only sister, and took his passage to a northern port, found his way on board an American schooner trading with China, and, after an experience of some months in plying up and down the coast, God opened the way through the good graces of an American captain, and he found himself in Boston harbour. Then he was in a worse condition than ever. The shipmaster, on returning to the vessel one day, found him in a desolate condition, and he asked him, "What is the matter with you?" He replied, "I came all the way to Boston to find God, and there is no one to tell me." The captain, who was a well-disposed man, but not a Christian, was embarrassed. He said, "I cannot tell you who God is, but I can find some one who can." He went immediately to the owner of the vessel, Alpheus Hardy, a well-known merchant, and told him the story of the lad's anxiety. Mr. Hardy came to the ship without delay and asked him, "Do you wish to find God?" "Yes, sir," said the youth. "Come to my house," replied Mr. Hardy, "and I will tell you who God is." From that day to this he adopted him as his own son, sent him to Phillip's Academy, Amherst College, and to Andover Seminary, and perhaps is now sustaining him in the foreign field, where he is labouring as a missionary under the American Board, and is president of a college of some hundred pupils in the sacred city of Kioto.

I often think that this man's faith was even greater than that of the father of the faithful himself. Abraham knew God, if he did not know where he was going; but this man knew neither God nor where he was going. His first prayer was, "O God, if thou art God, tell me who thou art!" There was a soul crying out after God the Father of his being; and when he got to Boston what was his cry? He had made a little advance in knowledge that there was a God, for his cry was, "O God, thou who hast brought me so far, forsake me not now." He did not forsake him. There, my brethren, is an instance where the word of God, even when transferred into a treatise on secular science, has at least been the means of leading one soul out of the darkness of heathenism into the marvellous light of the gospel, and has transformed that man into a noble Christian and a powerful preacher of the gospel—one whom his own government would like to honour. When the last embassy visited this country, he was summoned as interpreter to accompany the chief commissioner of education in his tour of inspection of all the educational institutions of Europe; and he was solicited by the commissioner to return to Japan to take a position under the government. He pleaded ill-health and a desire to complete his studies, as he was in but his middle year at the seminary. He has completed his studies and has returned to his country, and is known and beloved by the people in authority, and admired and respected for his Christian character.

Another instance of this same principle is perhaps even more striking. Had I time, I would like to show the Jesuitical fallacy of that doctrine put forth by a distinguished prelate of the Romish Church, that Christianity was spread through the known world without a Bible. But here is an instance of what the Bible, without any foreign teacher, may do in the enlightenment and conversion of men: A Testament was washed overboard from one of her majesty's ships along the coast of Japan and floated to the dominion of one of the princes. One of the chief men of the prince saw the little volume floating on the water and conveyed it to his master, who examined it, and