

dollars! If this statement is correct, there is certainly some need for the reconstruction of our Northwest offerings. There are men making a noble fight there for the establishment of the Church in new lands. Surely they ought to be supported by our prayers and substantial contributions. The Bishop of Algoma says upon this point: "Scores upon scores of our Church people are slowly, silently, but surely, drifting from our ranks out into the 'dead sea' of practical unbelief, or away into the arms of Nonconformity, simply because the Church of England in Canada does not do adequate justice to her 'firstborn.' With the means she does supply, we do our very best. For what is lacking, and the consequences sure to follow, I disclaim all responsibility."

AFFAIRS IN JAPAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

WE are at present in much the same situation as we were at the end of the year. Parliament has been dissolved, and we are in the throes of a general election. It is not, of course, possible fully to forecast the result of these elections; but everybody says that the new parliament is going to be more stubborn than the last, and that the government will probably have a poor time of it. I must say that I cannot see much in the ultra-Japanese Conservatives. There are a few who sincerely regret the old feudal days that are irrevocably gone; but the majority of the Conservatives are simply "agin the government" because it is the government, and have absolutely no policy except obstruction.

All this political excitement troubles us, of course, a little. The number of foreigners in Japanese employ is steadily diminishing, foreign merchants find themselves cut out a good deal by native enterprise, and the missionaries experience more and more difficulty in getting passports, permitting them to reside in the interior. The sole prospect for the improvement of affairs lies in the hope that, in the near future, England will be able to conclude with this country a treaty which will prove less irritating to the national feelings of Japan than the existing one.

Meanwhile, I hear from all sides of the faithful work that is being done by the Nagano mission workers. One of Mr. Waller's catechists, Soga, an old pupil of mine, visited me the other day, and told me a great deal about the work.

From Nagoya there comes news in the shape of a circular sent round to the missionaries, asking their special intercessions on behalf of the various Nagoya churches, which have been

undergoing a "revival," as the result of the week of prayer observed there at the beginning of the year. One of the signatures to this circular is that of Rev. H. J. Hamilton, late of Wycliffe College. I have no particulars as yet of what has taken place, but I daresay the Nogoya clergy will be writing direct to you or some other Canadian paper.

It is just a fortnight since Archdeacon Shaw left Japan for England. He has been here now for over twenty years, and has done very good work for the Church, his influence being especially great amongst the foreign communities in Tokyo and Yokohama. I suppose he is certainly the most distinguished missionary that Trinity College, Toronto, has ever produced.

Our local Tokyo Synod, which met a few days ago, was a surprise to us all. A motion was unexpectedly introduced which brought up again the vexed question of the respective jurisdictions of the American and English bishops. Everybody thought the question was shelved for the present, but the motion revealed that a large number of the clergymen were by no means satisfied with an arrangement which divided the Tokyo centre between a pair of bishops, and the Osaka centre between the same pair. The whole question of jurisdiction bristles with difficulties; we can only trust that our rulers will be so guided as to make permanent arrangements on a catholic and practicable basis.

Tokyo, Feb. 1, 1894.

A. L.

DEACONESS WORK IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

WHAT is a deaconess? is a question that we have been so often asked that we think it well to answer it, in a few words, giving at the same time an idea of the way in which it is expected that the work will be carried on. A deaconess is a trained worker, willing and able to give her whole time to the service of Christ in His Church. She works under the clergyman of the parish, and is ready to help him in any work he may desire. Her services might also be secured for any special work in an institution where a trained worker was needed.

In order to train such women a Deaconess House has been opened in Toronto, under the presidency of N. W. Hoyles, Esq.; Miss Wilson, 46 St. George Street, being head deaconess. Ladies who offer for the work will receive two years' training at the Deaconess House. Lectures will be given there, in the mornings, on the study of the Bible, Church History, the Prayer Book, and other subjects likely to help them in teaching others.

Practical parish work will be carried on under the supervision of the head deaconess. Several parishes have been offered as a field