

growing happier all the time ; don't know exactly why, but nevertheless everything seems happier and brighter. Some little time ago he gave up smoking (here an absolutely universal habit among men and women, young and old) because he thought it did not glorify God. He also spoke very strongly of the growth of brotherly love and confidence in the Church, and thought the year was one of great advance. The other, Mr. Kuwahara, a doctor, who is now employed by the Provincial Government as some sort of an official. He is a man of great natural eloquence, and whenever possible he officiates as local preacher. He has repeatedly tried to get rid of public duties and practice privately, so as to do more for the Church ; but the authorities have such confidence in him above all others that they will not let him go. They repeatedly raised his salary, but cannot hear of his leaving. However he is instant in season and out of season disputing with other officials and preaching Christ as he has opportunity. Some little time ago he spoke of a story in the newspaper about the immoral conduct of some professing Christians, and said that what struck him was that if anyone else had done the same thing the newspapers would have taken no notice of it, and their making such capital of the fault of a Christian was a strong argument of the high moral standing of Christianity. He spoke in Love-feast about his own advance and that apparent in the Church, but what struck him most was the great change in the tone of public opinion in the whole Kew. There was no place where we had preached the gospel in which evil reports of Christianity had not been removed. No one now said that Christianity was a bad thing. Though the people did not understand it, yet what had been seen and heard had convinced them that the way of Christ was a good way. The curiosity to see the foreigner had about died away, and when people come to preaching now, they usually come to hear. But the pride of heart natural to sinful man, the prejudice of ages, the routine of custom, and a thousand other obstacles prevent the hearty reception of the gospel in the love of it. If the gospel blessings could be obtained without the moral restraints of the gospel and the yoke of Church duties, hosts would flock to the standard. What we want here above all things is the power and demonstration of that promised Spirit who shall convince the world of *sin*. There are hosts of young men in this Kew, and all through Japan, who reject the old religions, believe in the God of the Bible and in Christ as a teacher, but who cannot accept the divinity of our Lord, the need of the atonement, the fact of personal depravity, or the use of the ordinances of the Church. They have certainly made a wonderful step in advance, and I do believe that, in answer to faithful prayer, the power of the Spirit along with the preached and printed word will yet bring many, very many, to a knowledge of Christ as Saviour and Lord. The state of affairs in this Kew is a transcript of that in all Japan. The hosts of the mass of the people are holding off, waiting, looking to see what Christianity is before they enter. The Church will go through a trying, sifting time. If kept pure and healthy, there will come a break in the ranks of sin, and Christ will triumph. Our work is the

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