

For these shaky little Islands, earthquakes have been comparatively rare during the past year, but the agitation and unrest seem to have passed from the land into the people, and many and remarkable have been the political changes during the past twelve months, several of which affect more or less directly the character of mission work here. The coming into force of the revised Treaties in July, and the issuing soon after of the Edict in regard to schools (which for a time made it seem probable that all Christian schools would have to be closed), brought up afresh the often-discussed question as to the relative importance of school and evangelistic work, and called forth some strong arguments on both sides, though none strong enough to reconcile those whose lives are being given to school work here to closing their schools, even with the privilege of being free to travel in the interior for evangelistic work. The reason, I think, why some evangelistic workers oppose school work is because they are looking upon the two as distinct branches of work. This, to my mind, is a grave mistake, for as it appears to me all school work is eminently evangelistic; while, on the other hand, all evangelistic work, to be truly successful, must partake in a certain measure of the "line upon line, precept upon precept" teaching, such as is given in our schools, and which can be given there to so much better advantage than in the homes of the women, essential as this latter work is and always will continue to be.

During my four years in the evangelistic work in Kanazawa I felt so often the disadvantages under which we worked among the women. An hour a week in the meetings, and a visit from the Bible-women or ourselves two or three times a month, was the extent of our opportunities; and among even the most faithful of the Christian women there was such a lack of Bible knowledge, or intelligent understanding even, of the responsibilities and privileges of the Christian life. I have often wished that it were possible to give our Church women and those whom we gather into our various meetings, something of the privileges of regular and systematic Bible study, with its accompanying spiritual help such as is secured to their daughters through our girls' schools.

On taking up the work in Tokyo on my return from furlough last year I was appointed to the school here, but helped for a few months in the evangelistic work as well. One meeting took me, every two weeks, a five miles' ride from the school, so that the hour for the meeting, a couple of calls on absent members, and the return ride, was all that an afternoon would allow. Sometimes we held our meetings with two or three eight was the largest number ever present, and that rarely, the homes being so scattered.