

Mission Field. JAPAN.

Kobe is the centre of a large missionary district towards the South of Japan, which is under the charge of the Rev. H. J. Foss. It is a great port, and in the city itself, the surrounding districts, and the island of Awaji opposite there is extensive missionary work going on.

Owing to the illness of the Rev. H. S. Morris, who was to have been Mr. Foss's colleague, the Bishop has sent the Rev. Herbert Moore from Tokyo to help him, and we have received a letter from Mr. Moore, in which he records the impression which three months' stay in this Mission produced on his mind. He speaks of Mr. Foss's "manifold methods of work" filling him "with admiration, and with wonder that he should have been able to do so much single-handed. If ever there was a man whose claims for help deserved to be heard, surely it is he."

Mr. Foss sends us several details of his work in its many places and various departments. The following passage may serve for an example of the way in which the Christian influence spreads in the out-stations. It relates to incidents at a place called Iwaya, which is one of the stations in the island of Awaji:

"I came to Iwaya on Saturday afternoon, and spoke to a few of the people whom Takeoka had assembled in his house, and in the evening again to an old man of whom he had told me. I used that evening in examining Takeoka's son, who was baptized on the next day, and in instructing Takeoka himself for confirmation, which he hopes to receive next week in Kobe. On Sunday I went with a young Christian to Oda Mura, some eight miles off, to see a Christian there and a catechumen, whom I supposed to be ready for baptism, but as she was not prepared I have asked Takeoka to go and see her and give her fuller instruction, that she may be ready soon. In the evening I gave an address at Takeoka's house, and these present seemed to listen with much attention and be much interested. After I had finished, the old man whom I mentioned before said, 'We have understood very clearly, and I do not think we ought to allow the minister to go away without giving him our warmest thanks. I have heard much teaching from Buddhists, but I have not heard of such zeal as would take them thousand of miles from their own country to teach their tenets; whether this Christian teacher has come in obedience to a parting command of His Master I know not, but we are much impressed with this evidence of his earnestness, and thank him for his teaching.' Takeoka's son told them of our Saviour's last command, and said a few more words, and they all thanked us very heartily in response to the old Man's suggestion, before they left. He is nearly eighty years old, and he and his son are now showing much earn-

estness in studying Christianity, the former saying he has now but one object in life, to prepare for the unseen future. I much hope that some more cheering news may be heard from Iwaya soon, and that Takeoka may be able to go, as he proposes, to two townships near, in both of which we have already preached, and where there seem to be some ready to listen."

Sumoto is another place in the same island, where what Mr. Foss calls a "preaching meeting" was held in October. He asked three native Japanese clergymen to accompany him for this purpose. They were the Rev. B. F. Terasawa (a priest), the Rev. J. I. Midzuno, and the Rev. T. Momoki (deacons). He adds that these were members respectively of the C.M.S., S.P.G., and American Episcopal Missions of the Anglican Communion.

"We held a very encouraging series of services. They all came by boat on Monday, and on Tuesday we had the Holy Communion with the Christians there, with an address by Terasawa. We had plain evensong at 5 p.m., and preaching in the public hall at 7 p.m., an audience of over 250 attending. Our addresses were as follows: Terasawa, 'Know the Time,' Midzuno on 'Christianity: Present and Future,' Momoki on 'The Light of the World,' and I on 'God's Command' (to repent). On Wednesday we had the Litany with infant baptism, and an address by Momoki for the Christians; and in the evening about 150 assembled in the public hall, where addresses were given on 'Christianity and the welfare of Japan' by Midzuno, 'God's Promise' (Him that cometh, etc.) by me, 'I am the Way,' by Terasawa, and 'The Light of the World' (part 2) by Momoki. As rain and wind prevented the departure of the three from Sumoto by boat, the next evening Terasawa and Momoki gave useful addresses to the Christians, who, at all events, have been much helped, I trust, by this visit.

To be continued.

Bronchitis

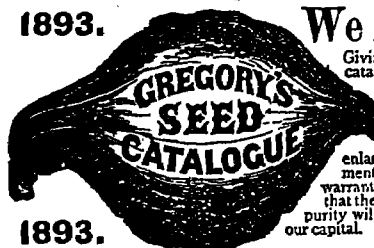
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