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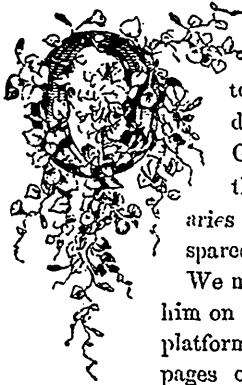
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The Sunday School Guardian

Rev. W. H. Withrow, M.A., Editor.

TORONTO, MAY 10, 1879.



JAPAN.

OUR readers will be glad to learn that in the providence of God the Rev. George Cochran, one of the Methodist Missionaries in Japan, has been spared to return to Canada.

We may expect to hear from him on many of our missionary platforms, and we hope in the pages of the S. S. GUARDIAN.

The progress of the mission which he went from Canada to start has been very marvellous, and is a wonderful illustration of the good providence of God in opening the hearts of the people to the reception of the Gospel. The Rev. Mr. Eby, one of the missionaries still in Japan, writes as follows:—

"In the country places they are not satisfied with less than about an hour and a half or two hours' talk. When I had gone out before, they generally insisted on two of my ordinary sermons, besides a great deal of talk by my assistant. During the New Year holidays I went to work and got up a big sermon about three hours long, in such sections that parts could be used if short time was advisable. My first appointment was in Ichikawa. When I got there I found they had hired a story-teller's

house for the occasion. When the time came we went to the place and could hardly get to the preaching table for the crowd. Every space was packed, verandahs, stairs, every available spot was occupied, and I saw that I had a turbulent crowd to deal with. Some were drunk and could hardly be kept still until I should commence. My style of preaching is somewhat of the sledge-hammer type. I find this mountain people are not to be brought down by buttered toast, so I have adopted the plan of vigorous attack. For twenty or thirty minutes the crowd could be kept in check, but by that time I would come to some clinching point, and then a volley of exclamations—of dissent or approbation—would come over the waving, heaving throng, and I would have to wait for five or ten minutes to get some people removed and settle the audience again. Then would come the next argument and its clinching thrust, and the uproar would be renewed. Three policemen came, and gradually mere sight-seers and children went away, and for the last half-hour I had a most excellent audience of about 250, who listened to the close. I was determined to master the crowd and succeeded, ending my sermon at half-past ten, having begun at half-past seven. I don't want to repeat that experience very often."

A REBUKE.

A CLERGYMAN tells us of an infidel who, wishing to give a reading lesson to two little children, wrote the words, GOD IS NOWHERE. The child read it, GOD IS NOW HERE.

That child's wisdom was greater than the infidel's folly.

A GOOD man will find friends everywhere. Joseph did in prison. So the prisoner Paul found a friend in the governor of the island. There is no better capital for a young man entering life than a faithful though modest Christian character. Even the noblest in rank respect such a man, and he finds friends.