

gospel. We can, of course, by your authority, assume the support of single men, or a man and his wife, but the other burdens are too much for us, and altogether out of our line of duty. Still, we are encouraged to believe that some in our little church here will soon be freed from all trammels and enabled to go forth with the message of life to their fellow-men.

In the matter of money contributions, we are not able to say much yet. We introduced the system, and it is working, but our people are poor, and nothing worth naming has been collected. Still, we shall press on, and hope that by-and-bye, we may see self-supporting churches in Japan. Our converts are mostly from amongst the student class, and, as a general thing, they are poor. We are trying, by means of services held out amongst the people in houses opened to us for a small rent, to get hold of the families of one or two neighbourhoods, and if we succeed, there is more hope that we shall see all the ordinances and institutions of the Gospel taking root and bearing such fruit as we have been accustomed to see at home.

The families of all the brethren are, so far as I can learn at present, tolerably well, and the brethren are working away with a will in the name of the Lord. I expect to make a visit to Shidzuoka and Numadzu next week, and may not return before the end of the month. I am taking my wife and little daughter with me for the benefit of their health, as they have been quite poorly of late.

The south-western part of Japan has been now for some time the seat of a civil war, still raging, and with no immediate prospect of termination. A powerful chief has led a host of the old warriors against the Imperial Government, and the Government have sent all their available forces down to Satsuma to quell

the rebellion, but as yet without success. There are many mutterings of discontent and insurrection in different parts of the Empire; and the disposition of many towards the Christian religion is not friendly. It will be matter of no surprise to me to see considerable hostility to the Gospel develop itself as the spread of Christianity goes on. I have no fear at all that Christians will be expelled as in the former time; but that spasmodic and local outbreaks will occur again and again, is my full persuasion. The Japanese politeness to foreigners is only a mask, under it there is deep hatred to foreigners and their religion. There is spread abroad through England and America a most absurd and false idea of the civilization and progress of Japan, which it will take some time to correct. The longer a man lives here, and the more closely he comes to know the native character, the more thoroughly does he learn that they are false at the core, just as might be expected of a nation so long bound up in superstition and moral night. But I must not go on in this way lest I shake all your good opinions of this land of the rising sun. If I were with you awhile, I could give illustrations and reasons for what I have just said, that it would be quite impossible to write in a letter. But, after all, do not mistake me, I have spoken of what I deem the national character to be. There are bright exceptions, and the Gospel can create, nay, has created, exceptions of a glorious character, and by these we are encouraged to hope for what the work of the Christian Church may bring about in the future.

We duly delivered the books sent to Mr. Nakamura, and he expressed great pleasure and thanks on receiving them, and has said he will write you a letter of acknowledgment. I must remind him of it some time.