

can hardly imagine the difficulty of taking grown-up girls, or even little ones, whose moral nature has been sadly dwarfed and warped by heathen teaching and practices, the whole bias being in the wrong direction.

Though so much has been done, patient, persistent effort must carry it on. Wait upon God to direct, expand and complete this wonderfully important mission.

PRAYER CARD LEAFLET.

SUBJECT FOR PRAYER.

MARCH.

FOR JAPAN.—That divine direction may be given to the rulers at this crisis; that Christianity may be permanently established, and our educational and evangelistic work greatly prospered and extended.

Japan is a country whose history extends over 2,500 years. It is well worthy our interest and prayers and efforts.

What is the national religion?

Shintoism and Buddhism.

When did Christianity first gain a foothold there?

In the sixteenth century, Jesuit teachers entered and were kindly received by Government. They made thousands of converts, but, having been discovered in political intrigues, all foreigners were expelled, and many missionaries and 5,000 native converts put to death.

How long did this prejudice continue?

Two hundred and twenty years. A Government edict was issued, passing sentence of death on any who should receive or teach Christianity.

When were the gates again opened?

In 1859, Protestant missionaries entered, after a treaty with England and the United States.

When did they first see results?

In 1872. The students themselves began praying for the Spirit to be given to Japan, and in that year the first Christian Church was formed, with eleven converts. In 1888, there were 19,829 communicants, and a Christian community numbering 50,000.

What ministers were first sent by our Canadian Conference?

In 1873, Drs. Cochran and McDonald, and in 1875, Drs. Meacham and Eby. In 1887, our own Methodist Church increased 60 per cent.

Where did they open work?

In Tokyo, Shizuoka, Numadzu and Kofu. The native Churches multiply every year.

Are the converts from the upper and wealthier classes?

Chiefly from the poorer but intelligent middle classes, who, though willing, can do little to help themselves. Hence, the necessity for missionary societies to build churches and schools, and pay the salaries of teachers and missionaries.

What is the condition of women in Japan?