

single prefecture on these islands that does not count at least a few earnest Christians among its inhabitants.

The six or seven different missions sent out by the different Presbyterian bodies of England and America have united the results of their toil into one grand native Church, which now is operating extensively throughout the whole land.

The strongest single mission in the land is that of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions—the Missionary Society of the different Congregational Churches of America. This Church alone now numbers over ten thousand converts, and is rapidly extending its operations in all parts of the empire.

Another most hopeful feature of the work in all Churches is the number of earnest, thoughtful young men from among the native converts whom God is thrusting forth into the ministry. In the year 1872 the Prince of Higo invited an American gentleman, named Captain Janes, to come and open a school for the study of English in his city. Captain Janes, although not a missionary, was a man of God, and with his teaching of English he sought to instil into the minds of the young men about him the blessed principles of the Gospel. No less than fifteen of his students, not only gave their hearts to the Lord, but also dedicated their lives to the work of preaching the Gospel. A perfect storm of opposition arose, and these young men were ostracised, disinherited and driven from their homes. Their school was broken up, and, if they clung to the new faith they had espoused, there seemed nothing for them but destitution. But God had His own great purpose in all this and was unerringly working it out.

Some years previous to this a young man of the warrior class was impelled by the spirit within him to steal away from his own land, even though there was a ban on such an action, and to seek an education in foreign lands. After many vicissitudes he found his way to Boston and was there taken into the family of a gentleman named Hardy, and received at the hands of his benefactor a most liberal education, and, best of all, he learned to know and love the Saviour. On his return to Japan he gave himself up to the work of preaching the Gospel, and was marvellously successful in winning his own countrymen for God. This man was Joseph Neeshima, without whose name and the record of whose work no sketch of the rise and progress of Christianity would be complete. The Church of his choice needed a college for the training of her young men, and for the founding of such an institution a clear-headed, far-seeing, faithful Japanese was necessary, and such a one was ready in the person of Neeshima. Through deep discouragement he forced his way until he had the satisfaction