

METHODIST MISSIONARY NOTICES,

JUNE, 1875.

JAPAN.

OUR Lord has told us, "the seed is the word:" the sowers of the Methodist Canadian Church have found some good ground in far-off Japan, where the power of spiritual vegetation has already yielded fruit to the glory of God. The letters now published of our brethren COCHRAN and MACDONALD, will awaken lively emotions of praise for the past, and hope and confidence for the future. The "discourse" which we give of the devoted and intelligent Japanese convert is written by himself, in a good style, given *verbatim*, with only some half-dozen very slight alterations in orthography. It is earnestly desired that the Committee may have means, shown by the increase of the present year, to strengthen this glorious enterprise.

From the Rev. GEO. COCHRAN, dated Yedo, March 31st, 1875.

Something over a year has passed away since my first visit to the neighbourhood of this great city in which we are now living. Part of the record of our work here has been transmitted to you already. I now send you a few items more, which may interest the supporters of this great and good cause.

Somewhere about the middle of November last, Mr. Nakamura, who was chiefly instrumental in securing me a residence here, said to me one morning after family worship, in which he always comes to join us, "If you are willing, I would like to be baptized on next Christmas-day, as I wish to begin the public profession of my new life from some important Christian epoch;" intimating also that he thought his son, a young man of about eighteen years of age, would like to receive baptism at the same time. This was a purely voluntary proposal on his part, entirely unsolicited by anything I had said. Even his naming Christmas as an

"important Christian epoch" was something he had not learned from me, but had gathered for himself from Christian books. I assented to his request, and thenceforward until the time arrived we had many communications on the subject. He and his son came often to my study for special instruction, in view of the solemn vows they were about to take upon themselves. I explained to them the spirituality of our holy religion, as shown in the doctrines of grace; and urged upon them the necessity of a change of heart, in order to a new life; also the moral duties involved in the profession of our faith;—into all of which they seemed to enter with intelligent heartiness. For some time Mr. Nakamura carried in his bosom a copy of our No. 2 Catechism, as a *vade-mecum*, consulting it frequently on the proof-texts and definitions of doctrine, that his mind might be well furnished against the time when he should stand up to profess his faith in Christ.