

listen with attention to the reading of the Scripture, and seem much interested in any explanatory or practical remarks that may be offered—often asking questions that indicate considerable skill in grasping the scope of a subject even in what is to them a foreign tongue. They also unite heartily in the service of praise, and have taken quite a liking to our hymns.

The Committee will, I am sure, be glad to learn that we have so quickly found service for the Bibles and Hymn-books they so kindly sent us some time ago. They furnish us admirably for these daily services; and those for whose benefit they were intended are coming more and more to understand their meaning and appreciate their value.

One thing more and I close for the present. Have you resolved upon strengthening the Mission? We ought to have at least two more men in the field without delay. Should anything occur to remove or disable either of your present agents, the work already begun must suffer. And should the country open, there are places of great interest in the interior that we ought

immediately to occupy. It will require at least two years' diligent preparation on the ground, with a native teacher by his side, to enable a new missionary to use the language with even moderate efficiency. Those who come now should be young, well educated, and willing to consecrate their whole life to the work of God in Japan. We hope to hear that two such are ready to join us at no distant day.

We are greatly encouraged at the reports that reach us of the unabated goodwill of our people toward their first Foreign Mission. The prayers, contributions, and kind words of which we hear, are to us a source of unspeakable comfort and strength in our isolation from home and kindred, as we toil on from day to day for the salvation of those who are strangers to us in speech and face, but who are involved with us in the sin of the one which has ruined all, and in the obedience of the One which has redeemed all.

Give my hearty salutations to your colleague in the office, and to the members of the Committee.

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*From the Rev. D. McDONALD, M.D., dated Shidzuooka, October 1st, 1874.*

In my letter to you of Sept. 2nd, I stated that there were five young men who were candidates for baptism, and that they would probably receive the ordinance the last Sabbath of September. I also intimated that there were others who seemed to be under the influence of the truth.

I now wish to inform you that the five young men were joined by six others, and that the eleven received baptism last Sabbath. I was careful, in view of their baptism, to give them special instruction regarding the nature and the obligations of the Christian life; the doctrines of Christianity; the Christian Church, &c.

We also in our conversations referred to the condition of the country, and to the possibility of opposition, and even of persecution.

One of the candidates said that, as the Government prohibited Christianity, he would like to be baptized privately, as he did not wish to openly break the law. I explained to him that there were limits beyond which Government had no right to enact laws, and should not expect obedience when its laws interfered with the liberty of conscience, and with our duty toward God,—that God should be obeyed rather than man. I appreciated the difficulty of his position, especially as he was a married man; and I felt that becoming a Christian in the interior of Japan was very different from becoming a Christian in Canada, where every right of man is guarded by law. I told him, however, that I could not give him private baptism, and that if he became a