

loss. We are thankful, however, to see that two young men offered themselves to enter the ministry, and are preparing for it now. Two new appointments were established during the year, one at Kirashina village, and the other in the Penitentiary. The work in the latter has been interesting and encouraging.

The next year we can commence the work on the circuit again with full hopes and encouragements, especially when we succeed in building a church in Kofu, for which ground we are looking now, and supplied with proper number of workers. Members; 71.

Y. HIRAIWA.

OBITUARY OF MINORI MIYAGAWA.

Brother Miyagawa was born in Tokio in the month of August, 1860. His father was a physician, whom he lost early, and all the family responsibilities were laid upon his young shoulder. The family was rather poor, and he had to take care of the family so early, consequently his education was very limited before he became a Christian. In the summer of 1878 he began to attend our preaching-place at Ushigome, where Dr. G. Cochran and I used to preach, and he was soon convinced of the truth of Christianity, which he eagerly embraced. He was baptized by Dr. Cochran and received into our Church on the 15th September of the same year. He was very diligent in gathering Christian knowledge, and never missed the services on Sabbath-days and week-days till about the summer of the next year, when suddenly he stopped to come to the services and to my house for study of English language, which he used to do twice in a week. No one could account for this, even his mother, who was then a Christian through his instrumentality. He would not tell the reason to anybody either. I went for him and met him on the way. He tried at first to leave me, but I followed him, and after my earnest and long persuasion he revealed the secret to me—which secret no one but God, myself, and he, and also two others, is acquainted with on the earth till to-day. We then spent a few hours of the evening in the wood near by in conversation and prayer, and he was clearly converted. He was made happy, and enjoyed the power of the blood of Jesus ever since. Since then he became more faithful and earnest in attending the church services, and diligent in taking notes of the sermons to which he listened. He soon resigned his office which he had been holding in the Government, and occupied himself in preparing for the ministry. He came to my house almost every day for the lessons in the English language and elementary sciences, and he was also employed as a local preacher in the Church. In 1880 he was taken as a preacher on probation, and was sent to Numadzu in July. He worked there very faithfully and also successfully under the superintendent at Shidzuoka till the April of 1882, when he was transferred to Kofu, where I was already working. He was a very valuable helper for me. He passed the four years' probation the last year (1883), and was eligible for ordination, but he became ill suddenly in the beginning of the last July, and was on a sick-bed at an hospital till the morning of the 29th of the next month (August), when his spirit took its flight to heaven. During the first half of his sickness, he experienced the most severe pain in his system, which he patiently bore; while for its latter half he was in delirium, in which state sometimes he was giving certain religious counsels, or explaining the way of the true God to some unseen persons; and sometimes he was praying and preaching as if at a pulpit, for five minutes or more at a time, in such a loud voice as could be heard distinctly by patients in the neighboring rooms. Shortly before he departed he became a little conscious, and gave the testi-