

here. Let all facts as to the work and the workers be given to our people for the encouragement of their prayers and liberality, but *no comparison with others* on any account.

I am very thankful to the Society for the very liberal response to my request for funds to purchase land and build, or rather, repair houses for our accommodation in Yedo. You will see by another letter of this mail that I have completed my own dwelling, and we are well content with a moderate outlay. Mr. Eby requires some consideration, as his house is not suitable for a permanent residence, and should be superseded by a better, as soon as the Society can assume the responsibility of a grant to cover the expense.

You ask about the title to our property here, and I may state in reply the nature of the title is this: a portion of land has been ceded to the treaty powers as a place of residence for such foreigners as wish to purchase ground and build their own residences. The land is sold from time to time in small lots at public auction. The purchaser receives a title deed from the Japanese Government, which is also registered in the Consulate of the nation to which he belongs. When a purchaser sells his right to another, a transfer deed is made out in the Consulate of the seller, and the sale is registered there: the purchaser also registers it in his own Consulate, and in addition, the Japanese Government register the transaction in their office for foreign affairs. I purchased our lot from a Mr. Schnell, a Dutch subject. The land was made over to me by transfer deed in the Dutch Consulate, or Consul of the Netherlands in Yokohama, and registered there. I then took the deed to the British Consulate in Yedo, and had it registered there, paying the usual registration fee of \$5.00, after which I took it to the office of the Japanese City Government for foreign affairs in Tokio, and had it registered there. So you see the courts are numerous enough and strong enough to "*give validity*

to the title." The property is deeded to "George Cochran and Chas. S. Eby, and their successors, Trustees for the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada"; and so registered in the three courts above-named. This is a full and, I trust, satisfactory account of the nature of the title by which you hold this property. I am more and more pleased that we have this bit of land: no more desirable spot could be found in this part of Tokio for residence than the one we have obtained.

Our care in the examination of candidates for baptism has brought its own reward. We might have had more converts if we had made the terms of admission easier. But even as it is we feel that we have not been too strict. Considering the difference of previous habits and training our converts compare well with what I have known of converts at home. It is difficult to keep up a regular attendance at the ordinances of class-meeting and public worship, still, with few exceptions, all are doing well.

Our candidates for the ministry are to us a most interesting class of young men. Mr. Eby and myself are instructing and guiding them regularly and systematically in the studies required to fit them for their future work, and they are making marked and encouraging progress. Most of them are beset with difficulties which exist in the opposition of friends to the Christian religion, and financial embarrassments, which are designedly thrown in their way by relatives who oppose. For instance, one of the laws of Japan is, that a son must devote himself to the support of aged relatives, such as grandmother, grandfather, or the members of his own family, such as father, mother, sisters, or younger brothers, when required to do so. This duty generally devolves on the elder son, but sometimes it is shifted to a younger one. And at present this is a serious difficulty in the way of some of our young men, who are anxious to devote themselves to preaching the