

some of the members of Session, by being called home, decided to elect four men to the office of Elder, which was done. They were ordained this winter.

We look forward to a better year—to better work this year than before.

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The following is an extract from a letter written by Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop, to the F. M. B. of the Presbyterian Church (North) U. S., and which was placed before the General Assembly to show the great need of the Korean people, and to awaken an interest in them.

Much good work is being done here, but the work which has interested me most is the work at Pyeng Yang, where I spent a week seeing and hearing a great deal of it. The class of men from the village was just being heard, and their narrations of Christian work being done in these places by those who were scattered abroad by the war, are most wonderful. Requests are daily coming from villages at great distances for Christian teaching, which *cannot be met*. I attended one of the meetings held with these village men, and was delighted with it, and also with the service for the large body of catechumens. Some of the notoriously bad characters in that most wicked city are so changed as to be a wonder to their townsmen. The work is growing daily and is only hindered for *want of workers*. The dispensary had been only opened for three days, yet, on the day I visited it, two hours did not suffice for seeing all the patients. On all sides, and in every form the work is increasing and it is lamentable to have to refuse so many earnest petitions sent in for

teaching. I have been much moved by the piteousness of Pyeng Yang, four fifths of which is now but blackened ruins—and its opening to the Gospel. Who knows how long this may last? I made an earnest plea not for *one* but for *two* workers to be sent at once, deeply spiritual men, earnest evangelists and loving. The need is great and pressing. In my present journey of two years I have not seen so promising a mission field as this province, except Chinese Manchuria. A great and effectual door has been opened by the war—but *doors sometimes close* when men are not ready to step in. I make no apology for arguing my plea so strongly.

I must mention that I attended another meeting the last night in Pyeng Yang, of a most deeply interesting character, when five men who had come in the afternoon to ask for Christian Teachers gave an account of how the interest had arisen in their villages. One sorcerer brought his instruments of sorcery to Mr. Moffet, many others told of the number who had given up devil worship in their villages. When Mr. Moffet told them that I was going to write this letter, they gave, what I can only call one unanimous shout! and then one man offered earnest prayer for its success, and asked that wind and sea might bear it swiftly.

As I looked on those lighted faces so different from the ordinary apathy of the Korean expression, and on some now washed and sanctified, whom I had been told were among the vilest of men in this vilest of cities. I felt that the old and oft decried Gospel of *love*, judgment to come, *love*, atonement and forgiveness has lost nothing of its transforming power, but that it is still the power of God to salvation to every one that believeth. I hope *soon* (for the cause is urgent) to hear