

SHIDZUOKA.

The pastor was changed in the person of myself by the arrangement of the District Meeting at the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, and I came here in the middle of last May. The Church has been, during the year, making progress upon the whole, though we have not been much blessed in the way of numerical additions. On the contrary, there has been some decrease, on account of a large removal which was caused by the separation of Hammatsu church, forming a separate circuit during the year. As the membership schedule shows, there has been an addition of twenty-two souls; but there has been also a removal of twenty-nine against that, and the result is the decrease of seven. Almost the whole of the pastor's attention and energy were compelled to be directed toward the improvement of the internal and spiritual condition of the Church, and the setting of things in order, and he could not do much in aggressive work. The spiritual tone of the Church has been raised very much higher; the Bible is more highly prized and more widely read; better and more general observance of the Sabbath has been secured.

Some influence of the work of the Church began to be felt by the public, so that the Buddhist priests and other religious advocates roused themselves to oppose Christianity, with the intention of preventing its further progress, and at the same time many inquirers after the truth were raised up. Any religious meeting, therefore, is well attended now; intelligent persons are generally in favor of Christianity, but the vast majority of common people are yet prejudiced against it, though they do not show any hostile act any more.

1. *Attendance of People at the Church.*—There have been 4,555 persons who attended the church during the year, the number of the services having been 146, so that the average attendance at each service has been a little more than 31; while during the last ecclesiastical year there were 4,176, the number of services 157, so that the average attendance at each service was 27. Besides the above 4,555 who heard the Gospel preached, about 4,000 people gathered in two evenings to listen to Christian discourses at the theatre where we held the meetings in the latter part of last autumn. This meeting was the grandest one ever held in Shidzuoka, not only of our meeting, but of any meeting, and was a very significant event of the Church. Dr. McDonald, Mr. Eby and myself were the speakers. We do not see the result in any definite shape yet, but the general influence was very great. About 320 people were out at the special meetings for two evenings last February; so that about 8,875 people listened more or less to the teaching of Christianity during the year; and also many hundreds listened to the street-preaching, which I did almost every evening in week days during the last summer. A great deal of the seed has been sown, which will grow up some day.

2. *Sabbath-schools.*—Two Sabbath-schools were organized on a regular system last fall. They are young yet, of course. There are forty-five scholars, who regularly attend on the Sabbath afternoons.

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