

Formosa. President Ibuka, of Tokyo, and President Ogimi, of Steele College, Nagasaki, have been appointed to visit the field and report to the Mission Board. Three thousand dollars are to be raised from the Japanese churches to inaugurate and push forward this new work.

—Japan is seeking commercial conquests on the sea. A purpose to share the carrying trade of the world with Great Britain is clearly shown. A line to Bombay has been arranged, and a line to Australia is planned. Six new 5000-ton steamers have been ordered in England, and when finished these are to be placed on the European line with the Tosa-Maru now running. The enterprise shown in the land of the Mikado is astonishing.

AFRICA.

—Fever continues to mow down the workmen of God in the fatal climate of the West Coast. Last October the missionary Roess died on the Gold Coast, where he had been working for six years. It is the seventh death in the ranks of the Basle Society, on the West Coast, since the month of May last. But the work goes on. There has never been such a number of baptisms as on the last missionary tour. In the district of Akem especially, among the Chi population, converts are very numerous. The fortress of heathendom does not yet fall down in large masses; it is only separate stones which are being detached; but the frequency of the fact is remarkable, and begins to disintegrate the mass of heathendom. To prove this, it is enough to remember that in 1864, after thirty-seven years of work, the Basle Mission counted 961 Christians on the Gold Coast. In the course of the last inspection, the missionaries registered 962 adult baptisms, and the number of Christians had risen to 13,000, of whom 5442 are communicants, besides 479 catechumens.—*Evangelische Heidenbote.*

—*The Missionary*, organ of the Pres-

byterian Church, South, has this from the Upper Congo: "Mission work was begun in China in 1807. In 1842 the visible results were 6 converts. Lapsley and Sheppard went to Africa in 1890. One year was consumed in exploration. Our work at Luebo will be five years old this fall. On the one hand missionary experience elsewhere would have led us to expect long and patient waiting while the unseen foundations were being laid, before the structure of our African church would appear above the surface. But the Lord has seen good to give special tokens of His favor on this work. Since early in the spring all the services held have been attended with constant and manifest tokens of the Spirit's presence; and Dr. Snyder's report just received announces the organization of a church of 48 hopefully converted natives.

—Bishop Tucker, who is still in Uganda, writes in the warmest praise of the material improvement in the country since it has been a British protectorate. Order reigns in the place, and there has been a great increase in cultivation. But it is the spiritual progress in the place which naturally claims most of the bishop's attention. The new church in the capital has been built to hold 4000 people, and in the surrounding neighborhood there are 23 smaller churches, which are all served from the capital, and attract large and attentive congregations. Scattered throughout the country there are now some 200 churches, where service is reverently and orderly conducted, and a church has been lately erected within the king's compound. Mwanga himself is not yet a Christian, altho his attitude toward Christianity has much improved. The native church has caught the missionary spirit, and large numbers of the native Christians go into all the country round as evangelistic agents. During one week nearly 350 were confirmed.

—*News* has come by the recently