

### Our West China Missions.

NOT a little anxiety has been felt during the past month regarding our missionaries in China. A cablegram, "Property destroyed, workers safe," is all that is known; and doubtless some weeks will yet elapse before letters reach Canada giving full particulars. The latest letters received at the Mission Rooms are from the Rev. Dr. Hart, dated 18th and 22nd of April, respectively. Both were on business, but the Dr. closes the letter of the 18th with the following paragraphs:

"Our work at Chen-tu is going forward with great vigor. The hospital is full, and the doctors all they can do. Mr. Hartwell's work is being pushed; he will be in his new home shortly. Mr. Endicott's hands are full of work, too. Pray for us and our prosperity.

"The war does not seem to effect us in the least; the people were never so civil and pleasant to us as now."

At such times how ineffably precious is the knowledge that our brothers and sisters who, for love's sake, have given themselves to China, are more dear to their Heavenly Parent than it has ever entered into the heart to conceive of. All anxiety is noted by a Father's eye, and love's offering for poor benighted China will in no wise lose its reward.

May there be much waiting in prayer upon the Great Head of the Church, that those what appear to our limited vision like untoward events, may be His mysterious movings in order that wonders may be performed, and great honor brought to His glorious name.

### The Japan-China Trouble.

THE Japan-China war is over, and everyone is asking himself, What will be its effect on our missionary enterprises? China, the greatest nation of the East, has been its controlling power for ages. Her immovability has opposed all progress, all liberal ideas, and therefore Christianity itself.

True, she has been forced to establish a navy and keep a standing army like the nations round about, but how reluctantly this must have been done is seen by its inefficiency and its inability to cope with the Japanese.

Commodore Perry, in 1859, wakened Japan from her long dream of seclusion, and by the war of 1860 China was compelled to open up her ports to the world. But how different has been the attitude of these two nations to Western ideas since. Japan, eager to adopt our political, commercial and educational institutions; China, exclusive, proud of and retiring into her fancied superiority. How rude has been the awakening! In the humiliation of her defeat by an insignificant and despised neighbor, China has an object-lesson which will teach her, as nothing else can, the superiority of Western ideas and civilization.

In the fulfilment of the treaty which opens up the interior of China to the commerce of the world, there

must of necessity come the railroad, the telegraph, and the telephone—the pledges of civilization. She will soon see that, if she is to maintain her position in the East, she must not be slow in following the example her little neighbor has set her.

We must remember, however, that the opening of China to our commerce and to our civilization does not mean of necessity her salvation. It but means that a great and an effectual door has been opened unto us, and we shall be criminally negligent if we do not make most strenuous efforts to enter and occupy the field.

Nor must we suppose that now the task is a very easy one. It is anything but that. The old prejudices against foreigners will be slow to give way; the conservatism of ages will be loath to yield to new forces that must seem revolutionary; men and money, Christian heroism and devotion will be needed as never before, but let all the Church know that now is the day of her opportunity, and the commission of the Master has added meaning to-day, as it bids us go forth and disciple all nations.

### "Our People Die Well."

TANEOKATASE, the third son of Moritane Katase, was born August 2nd, 1874. At the age of six he entered the common school, from which he graduated in his thirteenth year. His faithfulness in study is shown by the fact that while in this school on two occasions he took the *batteki* examination (a special one given to the best students), and succeeded each time in making two years' advance at a step. He always occupied a high position in his class, and received prizes at every examination. Seven years ago he entered the Nagano Prefecture High school, from which, five years later, he graduated with high honors. He excelled especially in English, and was the one chosen from among the 350 students of the school to write an English composition to send to the Chicago Exhibition.

While attending the high school he was led to Christ through the labors of a missionary then employed as teacher there, and was baptized in 1893. Being too ill after graduation to pursue his studies regularly, he became teacher of Japanese to his old friend the missionary, during which time he was also in labors abundant as a local preacher and Sunday-School superintendent. His earnestness and genial nature, together with his great energy and ability, made a profound impression even in the hard field in which his lot was cast.

On one occasion, after being obliged to flee before a stone-throwing mob, he pointed to a painful abrasion on the top of his head, and smilingly said, "I always felt that I would like sometimes to endure a little persecution for Christ's sake, if it were His will, and now I have had just a little."

While thus engaged, he passed most creditably our preliminary examination for probationers for the ministry, and longed to give himself entirely to this work. Intellectually, spiritually, and in active energy, a young man full of promise.