

gospel. The second, that there is anybody, anywhere, too low and degraded to be reached and saved by the gospel.

We send the gospel to Japan, then, for no new, no temporary, no local reasons, though such reasons could be easily named. We send it for reasons as old, yea older, than man himself. We send to the Japanese the gospel of Jesus Christ for the same reasons that our infinitely loving Father sent His only begotten Son into the world,—“that whosoever believeth in Him may not perish but have everlasting life.”

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*From the Rev. GEORGE COCHRAN, dated Tokio, May 16th, 1878.*

The document that went from our District Meeting last summer was a full and fair statement of the situation, as it appeared to us then; and nothing has occurred since that would lead to any material modification of our views. From this, as a basis, I shall proceed to state succinctly our present condition and needs, as plainly and freely as though I were talking with you in your office, and what I write will, I trust, in some way serve our great and good cause.

As to our present position; the God of all peace having given us a degree of success, for which we are very thankful, we have now three Churches organized—one in Tokio, one in Shidzuoka, and one in Numadzu. In connection with our work in these places several young men have been converted to God, some of whom are called, I have reason to believe, to the ministry of the Word amongst their own people. These men need to be trained in the studies essential to their work, and their own desire for such training is earnest and sincere.

To meet this necessity, and to fulfil our duty towards those whom the providence and grace of God has entrusted to our care, we have drawn up a course of study extending over a period of four years, such as we think men who become ministers of the Gospel in Japan ought to pursue. It was not expected that for some time we could have buildings, professors, or other requirements of an *Institute*, but we thought the course of study ought to be marked out,

and we took upon ourselves the burden—not reluctantly, of guiding our young brethren over it, according to our ability. It is not possible, nor is it indeed essential just yet, that this work be done with the thoroughness of an equipped Institute. What we have aimed at is economy of time and labour, by pursuing a systematic course. We cannot give our young men all we could wish, but we can lead them over the ground that a candidate for the Christian ministry ought to traverse, and this may serve them as a foundation for future more extensive acquirements. We are striving to make them preachers of the word. They labour in our public services under our own supervision every Lord's day, and also on week days, as well as attend our class and prayer meetings. They are, in the full sense of the word, *helpers*, and I am glad to say we feel decidedly the strength which their assistance has given us in carrying on the work.

As to the course of study, a copy of which was forwarded to you, and on which you favoured us with your criticisms, I may say a few words. So far as we can judge, it is, on the whole, about the right thing for our purpose in this land. Modifications will be introduced as they appear necessary in the work of instruction. We have framed it with a view to needs deeply felt amongst this people; that a preacher of the Gospel should not only know the way of salvation, and be able to guide the inquirer into the paths of life, but