

intention of the Committee to buy land and to build here. I do not know when the Government sale will take place. There is land in the hands of foreigners, purchased at previous sales, that may be bought; but by waiting for the Government sale, we may get a more eligible site. We should like to get a corner lot if possible. There are now the agents of three missionary societies on the look out for land,—the Wesleyan, M. E. Church, and Roman Catholic. The Presbyterians have five buildings already. The Episcopalians are also seeking for a "local habitation."

We may have to remain in the hotel a couple of months. It is possible that I may be able to secure a temple in some part of the city for a residence. Should an opportunity of this kind occur, I shall gladly avail myself of it. Perhaps, however, there is not much hope.

I send you by this mail (24th), an envelope containing a flower and a pamphlet. The flower was taken from the shrub on the 29th December. Such flowers may be seen in the gardens during the winter. It is the *Tsubaki*, or *Camelia Japonica*. As I am not an adept in pressing flowers, you will see that it is very rudely done, and it will not convey to you an idea of the rare beauty of the flower, as it unfolds in its own native air. I am not well versed in the language of flowers, and do not therefore know what this camelia would speak, but Mrs. McDonald and I wish it to convey our love to you and Mrs. Wood.

As the pamphlet may not explain itself, I may add a few words concerning it.

1. It will give you a good idea of a Japanese, or of a Chinese book, *i.e.* the style of binding, etc.

2. It is *my first publication* since coming to this country.—The sole edition of the work, and the whole of the edition.

Some time in the month of November, the idea came into my mind of trying to preach to my Japanese Bible Class in Japanese.

I wrote a short sermon in English, and by the aid of my teacher translated it into Japanese. I then carefully studied it, in fact nearly committed it to memory; and on Sabbath, the 7th December, I preached it from the manuscript to my class. On the 21st Dec., I also attempted to address them in the same manner, from "This is a faithful

saying, and worthy of all acceptance," &c.

I conclude that the class understood me, from the attention which they paid, and from the questions which they asked, and also from my afterwards reading sentences here and there, and asking for the meaning, which they readily gave.

I felt that the Lord's blessing attended the imperfect attempts.

As authors frequently dedicate their works to distinguished persons, I take the liberty of dedicating this pamphlet to you. I place it in your hands, *knowing* that you will not *very severely criticise* the sentiments expressed, and thinking that it might be of some interest to you, as it is the first gospel message which I attempted to convey to the Japanese in their own tongue.

It is written in the Japanese *Hirakava*, with a few Chinese characters which my teacher put in to give it a learned and classical appearance.

The text is John iii. 16.

I give you the first sentence of the sermon, and also the last in Romanized Japanese:—

"*Sora wa [this] hito tachi [man] ni [to] yoki [good] shim bun [news] de gozari masu [is] \* \* \* watakushi dono wa [we] hor oboshi masi-mai [shall perish not], keredomo [but], kugiri nuki [everlasting] inochi wo [life] mochi [have] masu [shall]."*

A branch of the Evangelical Alliance, was formed here the beginning of this year. We all entered into it, and now have an excellent union on the basis of the Alliance. Mr. Cochran is Corresponding Secretary.

I send my account up to January 1st. I shall try and keep my expenses chargeable to the Society at the lowest possible figure.

Before this reaches you, you will have heard of the attempted assassination of Iwakura, the Prime Minister of Japan. The Government is somewhat unsettled. Perhaps it is not quite so favorable to foreigners and Christianity as it has been. It is probably only temporary. It cannot be said, that they have ever favored Christianity, *i.e.* since the expulsion of the Catholics, but I believe that the country must open sooner or later. At present not a missionary in the country need remain unemployed for lack of opportunity.