

PROEM

from its decline—or awaken others to the hidden treasure. A student in charge of the college paper asked him for an article on “Methodism, an Arrested Development.” When the subject was faced the wider question of the everlasting arrest in the spiritual development of man universally loomed as an overshadowing fact. The article was not written.

Failing in the hope of union of the Japan forces, he conceived the idea of a Central Mission in the capital, somewhat on the plan of Hugh Price Hughes’ work in London, England, then in its early glory. The idea was of a central institution aiming at the widest possible results by freedom in methods, by help from all willing to work and give, contributing results to all who would gather, but under the immediate control of one denomination.

The plan met with immediate and wide response. A band of self-supporting missionaries contributed a site, additional funds and co-operation. The Central Tabernacle, close to the gate of the Imperial University in Tokio, in the midst of ten thousand of the most advanced students of the Empire, in many different institutions, opened in 1890, is still the largest Protestant auditorium in Japan.

Success crowned the institution from the start. As it became understood in Japan it found increasing friends among both missionaries and Japanese of all denominations, and as it became known abroad help began to flow in from other lands. Some phases of work, such as an attempt to organize a crusade against the universal vested business of impurity, brought into line