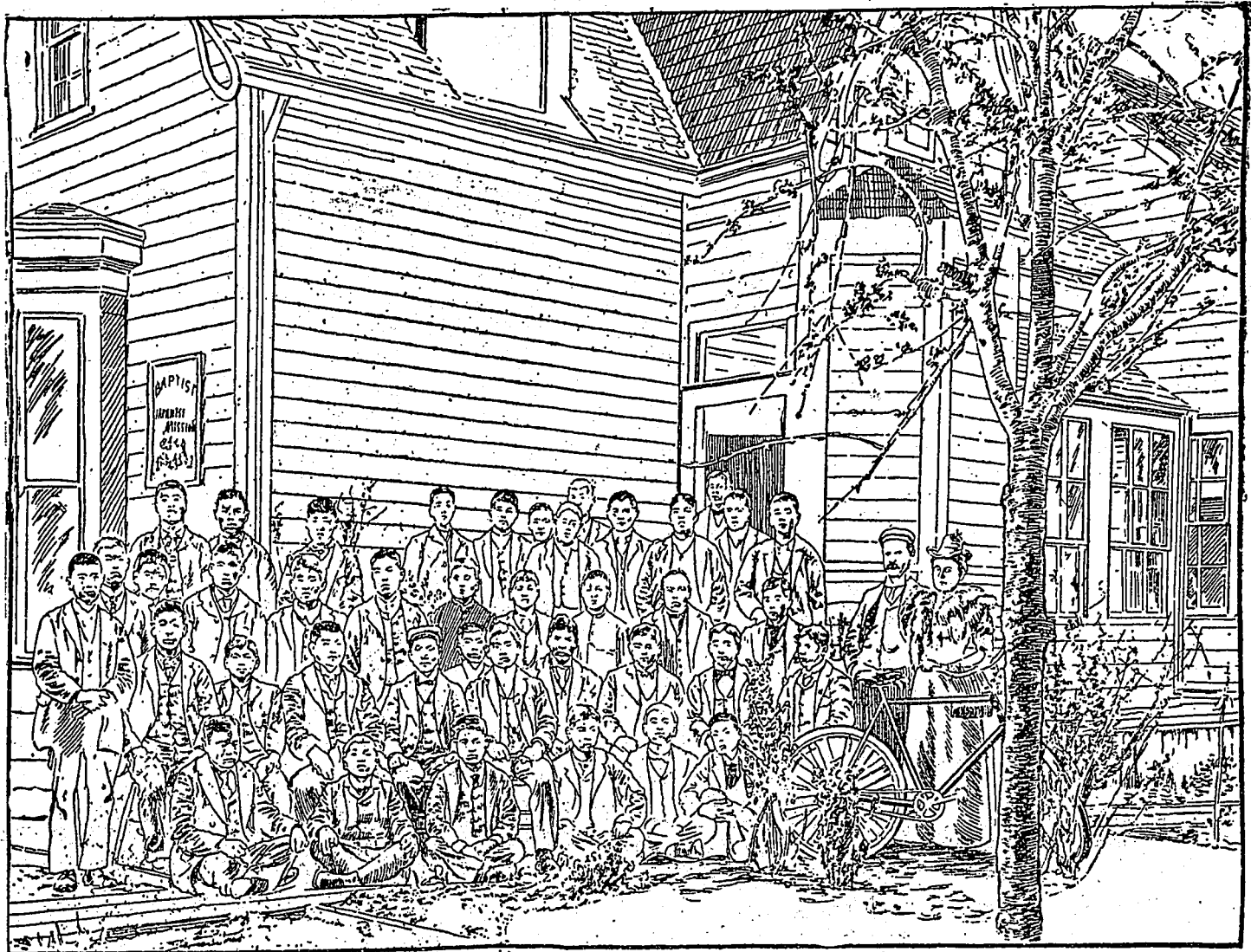


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Foreign Missions at Home.

(By the Rev. Ralph W. Trotter, B.Th.,
Victoria, B.C.)

This represents forty Japanese young men who belong to the Baptist Japanese mission in Victoria, B.C. The gentleman and lady under the tree with them are Mr. and Mrs. Trotter. Mr. Trotter is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Victoria, with which the mission is connected. This mission is not quite a year old, and yet we have forty-one Christians. I want to tell the story of it to the boys and girls who read the 'Messenger,' because it is an illustration of the power and importance of little things.

About three years ago, one of the seal-fishing schooners arrived home here from Japan. Mr. Trotter went aboard the vessel to welcome the sailors home, and to invite them to come to church. Among them he found a young 'Jap' named Iwanaga, who had stowed himself away when the vessel was leaving Japan, and when a few days out to sea had showed himself to the captain and offered to work his passage to Victoria. On the long voyage from Japan to Canada, he had learned to speak a few words of English, so when Mr. Trotter invited him to come to church, he came. He proved to be a very intelligent young man, and began at once to master our language under the tutoring of the pastor of Calvary Church. Of course, the dear old Bible was the textbook, and long before 'Billy' (for the people in our church fondly dubbed him Billy because his name is so hard to re-

member) could read well, he had learned to trust Jesus as his Saviour, and at once wanted to be baptized.

As soon as he was a member of the church, he became a most earnest worker for Jesus among his own countrymen in this city. His first step was to meet every ship coming from Japan, and give a welcome to all new-comers, in the name of his newly-found friend. But where was he to take them? He asked the church for the use of the parlor, and night after night he would be found teaching them from His Word the Gospel of God's dear Son.

Just at this time the church needed a janitor. 'Billy' applied for and secured the position; this afforded him the opportunity he so much wanted to work as self-appointed missionary among the Japs of Victoria. He labored for a year, a class was formed in the Sunday School for them, yet only one more united with the Church, on profession of his faith in Christ; the work seemed to be almost a failure.

After this year of service, 'Billy's' mother, an old lady still living in Japan, took sick, and this necessitated his earning more money than the church could pay, for his mother's entire support now depended on him. He left the city, going to Vancouver and Steveston to work in the mills and salmon canneries. Another year passed by, we lost track of him. Two or three of the young men continued to come to the Sunday School, but the work practically ceased.

Not quite a year ago, one day there came to the pastor, Mr. Trotter, fifteen young

Japanese men, asking him to establish a mission for them, and eight of the fifteen asked to be received into the church. We at once appointed a committee to examine each candidate on his merit. The committee consisted of the pastor and his wife and six ladies and gentlemen from the church. Great care was taken that each member of the committee should be godly and competent. The examination was carried on through an interpreter, and lasted for hours, each man being questioned and cross-questioned with the greatest care. Now, boys and girls, what do you suppose was the sweetest thing about it all? Listen! All but two told us that they owed their conversion to the faithful work of 'Billy' and the two who did not, we found, were Christians before they met him.

Before I tell you anything more about him, I want you to look at the picture and pick out the only one among the Japanese who has his cap on; that is 'Billy.'

We at once rented the house shown in the picture, and the good people of our church furnished it with twenty beds, and the furnishings for a kitchen and dining room, a parlor, and meeting room. Now came the question, 'Who was to be our missionary?' Nobody knew where 'Billy' was. However, all minds turned to him, and while we were considering it the Japanese had a meeting and voted to request us to secure 'Billy' as their leader. A few days' search found him in Vancouver. With but little persuasion he came back to take up his own work. He has worked day and night since