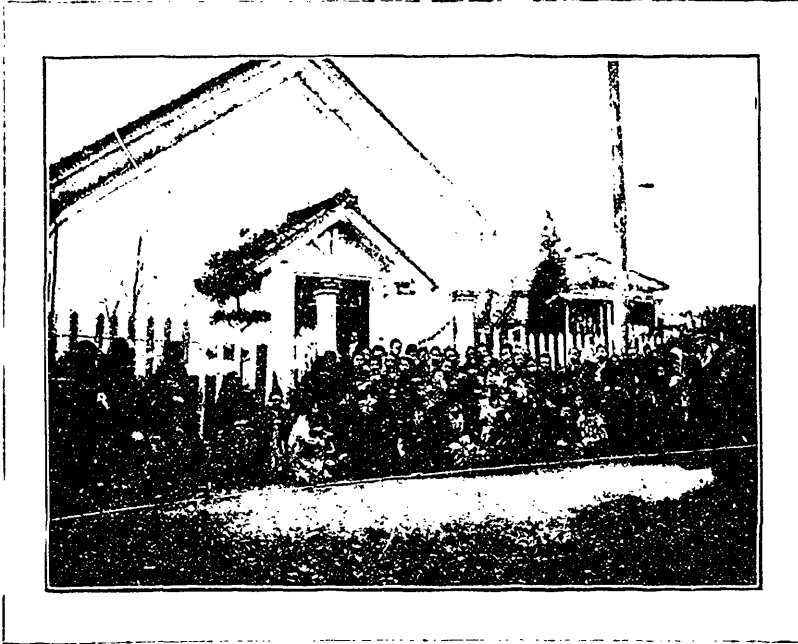


one of achievement. The foundations of Christianity have been laid in the land. There is already a story of success that ought to be an answer to the most doubting heart.

There is little question that the three great religions of Japan, Shintoism, Buddhism and Confucianism, with their broken glints of light, have in some measure prepared the people for the fuller light of Christianity,

plain. The central object is a metal mirror which is believed to urge the worshipper to look into his own heart for purity of belief and of practice. Around are hung strips of paper notched or folded, in which the spirits are supposed to reside. Of these spirits there are many; they are commonly spoken of as the eight hundred myriads of gods. When at a temple, the worshipper stands without and rings the bell to call the attention of the god. After washing the hands and rinsing out the mouth, the worshipper repeats prayers, of which the following is an



NAGANO CHURCH.

Farewell Meeting for one of the Teachers.

for it is said that in the seventh century, when Buddhism was introduced, the Japanese were a people of "barbaric simplicity and possessing a very low grade of culture."

But the insufficiency of each and all of these religions is readily seen by even the most casual student. Speaking of Shintoism, our author says:

"In the true Shinto shrine there are no images nor idols, and the shrine is severely

example: 'O god that dwellest in the high plain of heaven, who art divine in substance and in intellect, and able to give protection from sin and its penalties, to banish impurities and to cleanse from all uncleanness; hosts of gods give ear and listen to these our petitions. And this I say with awe, deign to bless me by correcting the unwitting faults, which seen and heard by you I have committed, by blowing off and clearing away the calamities which evil gods might inflict, by causing me to live long, like the hard and lasting rock, and by repeating to the gods of heavenly origin and to the gods