

The Fukuin Domeikwai, or Gospel Alliance of Japan, representing the Protestant churches of all denominations, recently met with 140 delegates and appointed a committee to consider work in Japan's new territory. Besides the missionary societies, many other organizations are at work separately or with the societies. The Y. M. C. A. is doing a very important work, and the Y. P. S. C. E. has a very large membership; the W. C. T. U. and missions to police, postmen, soldiers, prisoners, railway men and others are doing aggressive work.

Dr. Joseph Cook mentions among the reasons for encouragement in Japan :

"1. Her island position, making her the England of the Pacific and her people a nation of sailors, brave and daring. 2. The Japanese are patriotic, and obey their federal leaders. 3. Japan has marvellous power of assimilation. They copy the West, but their importations are digested, and their scholarship becomes Oriental as well as Occidental. 4. The Japanese obey superiors and make good soldiers and sailors. The reverence for those in high place has a Divine basis. The transfer of their reverence for authority to Christ would make them eminent Christians. 5. The Japanese have a fine physical and mental organism.

"Japan is also confronted with dangers. The people also have faults we hope will be overcome, among which are conceit, caste, and false faith. As the foremost nation of the Orient the Japanese have much ground for conceit. They are still in danger from caste. The old families may arise to claim the advantages which have come to the nation. Divisions are possible by which late gains may be lost. Except the country become Christian there is imminent danger from agnosticism and false faith which would handicap the national advance. Japan needs to copy the vital faith and not the doubt of the West. Neesima's last word was : 'Free schools and Christian churches will make my nation great and noble.'"

The great danger for Christianity in Japan is connected with characteristics of the people which are noble and fine. They love their country ; they are of a

manly spirit. Their main objection to Christianity is that it is *foreign*, and when they accept it they want to make it distinctly Japanese. Such elements in the national character are likely to produce stability in the future Church. Nevertheless, this spirit of independence may lead to grave mistakes on the part of those who are still babes in Christ. The danger is greatly increased when it is remembered that among the missionaries are Unitarians, and that among European books produced in Japan a large proportion are infidel or semi-infidel literature.

There are 123 towns in Japan, each with a population of 10,000 to 1,000,000, but the missionary force is as yet distributed in only 40 of them. There are besides 4512 towns, with populations from 1000 to 10,000. About 25 000,000 live in still smaller villages.

The great need for Japan at present is united prayer for the missionaries and converts already in the field.

KOREA.

The "Hermit Nation," or "Land of Morning Calm," has an area of 82,000 square miles and a population of about 11,000,000, among whom labor 40 Protestant and 20 Roman Catholic missionaries. The first missionaries were the Jesuits, who entered in the seventeenth century, but suffered much persecution from 1840-66. Evangelical work was begun by Rev. John Ross, of Manchuria, who translated the New Testament for Korea. The first evangelical mission was founded in 1884 by the American Presbyterian Church (North), the door having been opened through the medical work of Dr. Allen. Besides this society, which has now 28 missionaries (including 8 ordained and 4 medical) and 209 communicants, in five stations, the Canadian and Australian and United States Southern Presbyterians, the Methodist Episcopal (North) and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel are at work.