

They urge with renewed earnestness the sending of more laborers into the field, in order that they may acquire the language and be ready for that great work which no temporary reaction can seriously impede. At the same time thoughtful minds in Japan cannot fail to appreciate the great benefit already conferred upon them by missionaries; for example, the stupendous work of Dr. Hepburn, in preparing his Japanese and English Dictionary, must be acknowledged as one of the greatest and most valuable contributions that have been made to the progress of Japan.

"Let us hope and pray that similar labors of love may be multiplied till the whole nation shall acknowledge Christianity as the richest boon."

RELIGIOUS REVIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

At the Free Church Commission of the General Assembly, Dr. Duff, the Moderator, gave an interesting account of a revival which has taken place in South Africa. He stated that they had received gratifying intelligence of a most remarkable religious revival which had taken place in the mission district, under the charge of Mr. Allison, of Pietermaritzburgh. Mr. Allison in writing to the Committee said:—"A few weeks ago the members of the church at Impolweni, were brought under deep solicitude on account of their spiritual state and want of zeal before Almighty God. Solemn meetings were held in which their short comings were mutually confessed and deprecated. A week of united prayer was decided upon. Whole nights were spent upon the hills near the station in sending up their wonted cry for a renewing baptism of the Holy Spirit. The result has been shown in 53 being added to the Church—a considerable number of them from heathenism—leaving still a few more of this class in a hopeful state of mind." Dr. Duff also referred to the satisfactory state of things at the Central Seminary Institution at Lovedale, where the natives had contributed to the support of the Institution an amount of between £500 and £600.

CHRISTIANITY IN THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

The Rev. Dr. Nisbet, of Samoa, addressing a committee of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, gave an interesting account of the mission work of the London Missionary Society in the South Sea Islands. He stated that he had been a missionary in Polynesia for about thirty years. Sixty years ago every island in Polynesia was under the spell of heathenism. There were now about 400,000 Polynesians who professed Christianity, who had been reclaimed from heathenism, and from many of whose islands cannibalism had been extirpated. Had Christian missions been a success in Polynesia? It must be borne in mind that these missions were still in their infancy. Their converts were children. It could not be expected that they would develop the same exalted standard of moral excellence and moral stamina which might be expected among Christians in civilized white communities. In these latter communities Christianity was the growth of many ages. The Samoan group comprised ten islands, large and small, having a population of 35,000. European missionaries took up their abode in these islands 36 years ago. Then the Samoans were a heathen, barbarous people, without any written language. Heathenism had been rooted out from among the Samoans as a people. The 35,000 Samoans were a professedly Christian people. Ordinances of religion were observed, and there were schools in every village. The people were a church-going