

there may be unity of action, as far as possible, throughout the Church. A letter from one of our ministers contains the following passage, which, we are persuaded, voices the feeling of many more:

"I do hope we will have one" (*i.e.*, a self-denial week). "I believe that if the matter is taken hold of, and even partially observed, quite an amount can be raised for the hospital in China. I say for that, because if we have too many objects, we will do none well. If some other object has at present a more pressing claim, why, let us take that. Will you not appoint some week in the near future, and send out a rallying call such as you deem best, and let us try what can be done."

As a convenient time for this observance we suggest the third week in March, that is, from the 19th to the 25th inclusive. Will our young friends of the Epworth League and Christian Endeavor Societies, as well as the Mission Bands and Circles, talk and pray over this matter, and help it to a successful issue? Of course it is not to be confined to the young people. Let all—young and old—have a part in it and share the blessing. As to objects, a number have been mentioned in the *OUTLOOK*; but to avoid too wide a distribution, suppose we take the rebuilding of the Shizuoka church, recently destroyed by fire, and the building or furnishing of the hospital at Chentu, China? These objects require about \$3,000 each, and the money is needed at once. Now let us have a general and generous response!

The Shizuoka Calamity.

IN THE last *OUTLOOK* letters were published announcing the destruction of the beautiful new church in Shizuoka by fire. Since then other letters have come to hand, containing an earnest appeal from the trustees, endorsed by the Chairman of the District and also by the Mission Council. The appeal of the trustees, addressed to the Mission Council in Japan, under date of Jan. 2nd, is as follows:

REQUEST CONCERNING THE REBUILDING OF SHIZUOKA CHURCH.

On the 8th day of January, 1892, the old Shizuoka church, so dear to us all, was destroyed by fire. Then by the united effort of both Japanese and foreigners, and especially by the liberal assistance rendered by the Missionary Society, we were enabled to begin the building of our church on the 27th of February of last year, and to complete it by the 12th of November. It was then opened with a series of large and enthusiastic meetings extending over eight days. We were putting forth special evangelistic efforts and making such an impression on the community that distinguished people, and many who had never before set a foot on our premises, were beginning to come to hear the Gospel. At every service new faces were seen, and with tears of gratitude we watched the progress of the work and waited for greater things in the future.

But when our beautiful church had been in use only 33 days, our plans were all at once frustrated and our hopes dashed to the ground. A terrible fire swept over the middle of the city and left our church in ashes. Though cast down and inexpressibly disappointed, we must not lose our courage or succumb to our misfortunes. Even more valuable than the church was the evangelistic opportunity which had come to us, and we are persuaded that in the strength of God we must rise up and build before this opportunity is lost. Delay would be injurious to the work, and might involve the loss of a golden opportunity which

could never be regained. There are great difficulties in our way, but we feel that these must in some way be overcome, and the opportunity for spreading the Gospel, once in our hands, again secured.

It is our opinion that we ought to build again on the same plan as before, with some slight modifications, with a view to protection from fire and earthquakes. Naturally this will cost a little more than before, but we feel it to be the wisest way. We have faith and determination to undertake this work, but while still burdened with a balance due on the last building, and our resources well-nigh exhausted, we are unable to raise the means.

Therefore, in order that the present membership of our church be not weakened or discouraged, and in hope of regaining and permanently securing the great opportunity which we have just lost, we appeal most earnestly to the Mission Council to devise some way of securing for us four thousand yen, and we implore the members of the Council to give our request their most favorable and speedy consideration.

Signed by the Trustees
on the second day
of the first month of
the 26th year of
Meiji. (Jan. 2, 1893.)

{HIKINO JIHEL.
TANAKA DINJIRO.
NEDA TISKA.
KATO MAUJI.
UMEYAWA TADAWO.
FUJINAMI JINSUKI.

The foregoing appeal was accompanied by the following letter from Rev. F. A. Cassidy, M.A., Chairman of the Shizuoka District, addressed to the Chairman of the Mission Council:

SHIZUOKA, JAPAN, Jan. 4th, 1893.

REV. DR. MACDONALD,

Chairman of Mission Council.

DEAR DOCTOR,—In accordance with the unanimous action taken by the Executive Committee of the Council, on the 17th of December last, I now beg to present a statement of the position of the Shizuoka church and its immediate necessities, for transmission to the Missionary Board.

As to the facts of the case, the statement of the Trustee Board, which Bro. Kobayashi will lay before you, is all that is required. Nothing has been overstated, and I can assure you that their statement does not fully represent the extent of the misfortune that has befallen us. They have not mentioned the fact that eight families of our people are left houseless; nor have they even mentioned the loss of our own parsonage, with most of the belongings of Bro. Kobayashi and his family. They have said nothing of the complete destruction of the best portion of the city, with most of the public buildings, and the consequent advance in prices with which we must contend in rebuilding. In short, I think, their statement is very correct and very fair, and I most heartily add my sanction to both the statement and the request.

As to the plan for rebuilding, there seems to be but one course open to us. From what the trustees have said, it is very evident that any temporary structure or small building would but frustrate the object we have in view. Moreover, any radical change of plan would necessarily be accompanied by great delay and increased expense. We now have the old plans in our hands, which can be followed with but little modification. We have learned by painful experience what were the defects of the previous building, and can fully remedy them with an increased expenditure of a few hundred yen. The heels of the rafters, the window frames, and the cornices were all of painted wood before, and proved to be a fatal weakness. These must be constructed differently and the windows and doors protected by metallic shutters. Then the fences must be made secure, so that combustible goods cannot be conveyed to the church for shelter. The old bricks afford us an opportunity of doing this in good style. In fact the way seems so plain that difficulties must yield and this course be taken.

In regard to resources, as you well know, besides the 1,300 yen which you put into the lot and parsonage, I have been round all our foreign friends twice, and have increased that amount to something over 2,000 yen. I have picked