

began the study of English with the Rev. Dr. Ballagh, and kept a very careful watch of him to see wherein was the secret of his power to make converts. He did not believe in a God, and supposed all worship was mere form and the evidence of a weak and depraved mind.

With each of his lessons there was allied some religious instruction and prayer. He had no interest in these further than mere curiosity, and listened to them, not to be profited by them, but if possible to detect their errors and thus be able to oppose them.

But one day Mr. Ballagh prayed very earnestly that God would send His spirit upon this people and open their eyes to see the truth as it is in Jesus. The earnestness and evident sincerity of the prayer made such an impression upon this young man that he could not resist the conviction that there is a God, and that he does hear our prayer. This conviction was so strong that he at once began to seek a knowledge of God and how he could serve Him. After a short period of inquiry he found the way of peace, and fully accepted Christ as his Saviour. So great was his joy that he could not sleep, and he spent the whole night in singing "Jesus loves me." He was not content with a mere trust in God for salvation, but he felt that the religion of Christ required a service according to his ability and opportunity of each individual.

From this time the whole tenor of his life was changed, and he felt that he ought to make known this gospel to the people. He began the study of theology with Dr. S.R. Brown, and looked gladly forward to the time when he would be able to preach to others the same truths that had brought life and comfort to his soul.

About three years later a call came from Dr. Palm of Niigata for a native helper who could aid him in conducting religious services in connec-

tion with medical work. It was a hard field, and accompanied with more or less of personal danger. The people of that section were very bitter against Christianity, and no one felt inclined to go. (Mr. Oshikawa did not think it was a call to him, but felt that the consideration of safety was a sufficient reason why he should remain at Yokohama.)

But at one of the sabbath evening prayer meetings the subject was referred to, and Rev. Mr. Ballagh offered special prayer that the Lord would incline some one to accept the call. As this request was offered to God, Mr. Oshikawa seemed to hear a voice from heaven saying, "Go to Niigata." He arose from his knees and said, "I will go. The Lord has called me."

Three days later he was on his journey. It was in the last of December, and a distance of 263 miles over rough mountain roads that were filled with snow, and in places almost impassible. But with God to strengthen and comfort him, he pressed on.

At a town called Uyeda he learned that there was a small band of believers who were afraid to call themselves Christians, and so had formed themselves into a "Temperance Society." But they kept the Sabbath, and met regularly to worship God and study the Bible. They had only a copy of the gospel of Matthew; and yet they came to a knowledge of God and his worship by this alone.

Mr. Oshikawa sought out this band of secret disciples, and they were delighted beyond measure to have some one to teach them more fully the doctrines of the cross and the duties of all who believe in the Lord Jesus. At their earnest solicitation he remained with them two days, and the whole time was spent in instruction and worship.

This work continued to prosper, and Rev. Mr. Ballagh afterwards visited the place and formed this