

we could best advance its Christian work. No nation has more opportunity for the hearing of the Gospel, and yet, owing to the dislike of the Japanese to acknowledge any benefits at the hands of a foreigner, very little advance has been made in spiritual work, and for some time to come foreign Bishops and Clergy will be required; but after a few years I sincerely trust that foreign women workers could be dispensed with, and until they are, it will never be known how earnest the Christian Japanese would be when called upon to support their own Missions. All communicants are expected to assist in a small way, but without foreign help the Church would collapse. There are at present many workers paid by foreign money, and while they are in the field I consider it is their duty to prepare native women to replace them. We could support six native Bible women for what it costs to keep one foreigner, and the latter can never enter into the homes of the people as one of their own can—she must ever be hampered by the language, customs, etc. The natives are always a little shy with foreigners, and frequent visits do not lessen the feeling, the same ceremonies are gone through and food in plenty brought forth causing needless expense, all of which is dispensed with when it is a native woman, she can go freely in and out and talk to the people, and they are not afraid to ask her questions. I have watched the faces of these people when listening to a Bible woman, and felt that *this is our work*—to prepare them to teach their own—and in order to accomplish this I must have a Home for the girls. There would be great difficulty in finding a suitable house, as all houses are kept in very bad repair: we therefore have decided to build, and we chose a piece of ground owned by five men, four of them agreeing to sell, the fifth had to be written to, and his answer was a refusal, giving as the reason that his grandfather was either dead or not dead. We may have to wait some time before we can find another piece of ground, as the Japanese think it very rude to be in a hurry, they have no idea of time, and cannot understand why we wish to rush things. The climate no doubt has much to do in making their minds