

CHURCH ACCOMMODATION.

Since my removal to Tsukiji, we have felt very much the need of a suitable building in which to hold our services, sufficiently near us for our families to attend and render help in the singing. Our private residences are not at all adapted to such a purpose. We have therefore embodied in the document already mentioned, a request for a grant of funds sufficient to cover the cost of such a building as would meet our present necessity. There is a small district just outside of Tsukiji in which foreigners are permitted to rent land in the name of a native. Here we could procure a suitable piece of ground and build a preaching-house for the small sum of say, seven or eight hundred dollars. Such a place would serve as a rallying point until we could do better, and enable our families to help us in the work, something they cannot do now owing to the great distance of our appointments from our residence. We feel the inconvenience, especially when we hold our quarterly meetings, or any general meeting of the church, and as we prosper and grow this difficulty increases more and more.

We are also in need of means to build or rent small preaching houses at eligible points in the city of Tokio. We can procure the requisite sites in the name of any member of our church on whom we can rely. Such houses, for the reasons stated in the document referred to, would be more suitable for our purpose than private dwellings, and they can be had for from two to three hundred dollars apiece. Then in case one of them should be destroyed by fire, in this city of frequent and terrible conflagrations the loss would not be so severe. May I ask you to put this matter before the Committee and secure for us, if possible, to begin with, a thousand dollars at least. I assure you it is quite essential to our work that we be furnished with these tools, if I may be permitted to call them so.

Without them we are placed at a serious disadvantage, and will certainly accomplish less than we could were these instruments placed in our hands. You remarked, not long ago, in a letter to Bro. Eby, that we must do our own work in our own way without reference to what others may be doing. Now, there can be no objection to this, provided ours be the right way. But I am sure you will bear with me when I say that from sufficient knowledge of this field, I am warranted in affirming that those who at the very beginning put their men into comfortable dwellings of their own at the cost of their Societies, and erected small churches when and where needed, have done right. They have put their work on a sure footing, and enabled their agents to go on with vigour, unencumbered with any other anxiety than that of acquiring the language, and seeking how to bring the Gospel home to the hearts of the people. Those who have sown bountifully will undoubtedly reap bountifully. I know the pressure upon your funds owing to the recent debt, and the extension of the work, and can therefore only ask that you will do for us according to your ability.

LITERATURE.

The British missionaries in Tokio, some months ago, formed themselves into a Corresponding Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and of the London Religious Tract Society. Both of these noble Societies generously responded to our communications, and sent us out a small stock of their publications, to be kept on hand at reduced rates, and to be supplemented from time to time as the needs of our work here may require. From this source we can draw English Bibles and tracts as cheaply as we could buy them at the Societies' houses in London. They have also sent us funds for the publication of the Scriptures and tracts in the Japanese language, and will make grants to mis-