



A VILLAGE IN JAPAN.

And these buildings should include a small hospital or dispensary, so that Miss Smith, now doing a fine work as medical missionary at Kobe, might be enabled to join the mission. As a Canadian missionary, she should be one of the staff at Nagano; but at present there are no facilities there for her work. If this difficulty of the buildings can be overcome, there seems every prospect of an excellent work being done in Nagano.

#### THE STORY OF THE ASSYRIAN CHURCH.

**L**OOKING on the map of Asia to the south of Armenia, there is a district lying partly in Persian, partly in Turkish territory, including within its borders lakes Van and Urmi, with the rivers Tigris and Zab flowing through it. In this comparatively small portion of country, now for the most part under Mohammedan rule.

was planted one of the first, and for a time one of the most flourishing, of the early Christian churches.

According to some tradition, the Church, variously called Syrian, East Syrian, Assyrian, and Chaldean, received its very earliest teaching from the Magi on their return from the visit to Bethlehem, thus possibly having some faint knowledge of the Saviour during His lifetime.

It does not seem quite certain whether St. Thomas himself with two of the seventy (St. Luke x. 1.), St. Addai and St. Mari, came to this distant land to preach the Gospel, and establish the Church; or whether the latter only, the disciples of St. Thomas, did so. St. Mari, or Mar Mari as he is called, was at any rate the first Bishop of Ctesiphon, an ancient city on the Tigris, not far from Babylon. The successors of St. Mari had the title of "Catholics of the East," and ranked next to the five great Patriarchs of Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem; the Church up to the 5th century being dependent on the Patriarchate of Antioch.