

METHODIST MISSIONARY NOTICES,

SEPTEMBER, 1877.

JAPAN.

THE following letter from the Rev. GEO. COCHRAN will show that our brethren are proceeding in their work of Church organization with care and prudence. The observations affecting the reality of a sound conversion to God, as distinguished from a mere intellectual conviction of the Divine nature of Christianity, are very satisfactory. Results the most hopeful may be expected from the labours and influence of such converts to Christ. Brother Meacham writes in the spirit of a true Missionary, cheerful and happy in his work, and rejoicing in the evidences of the presence and blessing of God. Let us all remember who it is that says His word "shall not return unto Him void."

From the Rev. GEORGE COCHRAN, Chairman of the District, dated Yedo, May 3rd, 1877.

Your interesting and valuable letter of the 1st of February last was duly received, and gave us much encouragement to learn of your welfare, and the unabated interest taken by the Church at home in our work here. You refer to the conflagration that consumed part of Tokio last November. We were mercifully delivered, though exposed to the greatest danger. It cost the Mission something both for the wages of men who helped us during the fire (and I am quite confident that but for this help we would have lost our dwellings and all the property they contained) and also on account of the increased price of work after the fire to carry on our building and repairs. Mr. Eby's letter in the *Christian Guardian* gave a vivid and true description of the scene of desolation the morning after the fire.

I am glad to hear of Mr. Hender-

son's visit to you, and of the testimony to our work here which he was so kind as to bear amongst you. There is one thing which I wish to keep carefully guarded amongst you, and that is this, that all language of comparison between ourselves and other men in this field be studiously avoided; also, that no comparison of our work with that of others in this field be given to the public. God has given us favour in the sight of the people, both native and foreign, in this land, and for this we are very thankful: we count it a means of power for good; but when, as we have seen once or twice in the Church papers, this is published abroad as though it were a matter of glorying, we feel deep pain, because, should it become known in Japan that such language is held by the people of Canada, you will see the unenviable, and indeed ridiculous, position we should be placed in