

## Mission Field.

[From the S.P.G. Mission Field for April.]

JAPAN.

[CONTINUED.]

The great danger for Christianity in Japan is connected with characteristics of the people which are noble and fine. They love their country; they are of a manly spirit. Their main objection to Christianity is that it is foreign, and when they do accept it they want to make it distinctly Japanese. To all this there is no sort of objection to be made. On the contrary, such elements in the national character are likely to produce stability in the future Church. Nevertheless, in these early days such a spirit of independence might lead to grave mistakes on the part of those who are still babes in Christ. And the danger is terribly increased when it is remembered that among other missionaries working in the country are numerous Unitarians, and that among European books reproduced in Japan there is a large proportion of infidel or semi-infidel literature. It is, therefore, not a little encouraging to find Archdeacon Shaw writing thus:

"On the whole the results for the year may be considered satisfactory. The infidel and Unitarian attacks, which have been so hurtful to some other bodies of Christians, have had, so far as I can see, no effect upon ourselves; and, in spite of the intense political agitation existing, our Church has made fair progress. The sneer that our Church writers seem to care more for devotional work than for philosophical speculation is at the same time their highest praise and the source of their success. Again, in our present experience, the Divine promise is fulfilled—'In quietness and confidence shall be thy strength.'"

When the Archdeacon left Tokio to start for England, his departure was the occasion for a demonstration of affection and respect on the part alike of the Japanese and the English and other residents in the capital.

The principal English paper published in Japan [the *Japan Mail*] thus writes:

"Yesterday afternoon almost the whole British community of Tokio assembled at the British Legation to bid farewell to Archdeacon Shaw, Honorary Chaplain of the Legation, and Mrs. Shaw, who with their family are about to proceed to England. The Archdeacon during his long sojourn of more than twenty years in the Japanese capital has won the respect and affection of all his fellow-countrymen, as well as of an immense circle of Japanese, and he carries away with him the most earnest wishes for his happiness and prosperity. It would be idle to attempt to speak adequately of the noble work of untiring benevolence and charity accomplished by the Archdeacon and Mrs. Shaw during their long residence in Tokio. They have done as much as it was possible to do in the cause of Christianity, and

for the sake of that cause we heartily hope that their return to the scene of their labours will not be far distant."

Again, the principal native paper published in Japan (of course heathen), as translated by Rev. J. Imai, says:

"Mr. Shaw has lived in Tokio for more than twenty years, during which long time he has delighted in religious works as if it were one day. He has corrected errors, comforted the poor, and his life during those years has indeed been an example to all priests. His gentleness is well known to all. Who does not admire his virtues? His wife, too, is loved and respected by all who have met her, whether foreigners or Japanese, and she has been a great help to Mr. Shaw in all his work. There are great numbers of Japanese who have been instructed and influenced by Mr. and Mrs. Shaw in their faith, and who will never forget their kindness and virtue. And there are a very large number of Japanese, both Christians as well as others, who admire, respect, and love Mr. Shaw and his family, and who feel deep sorrow for their departure."

Such praise coming from a heathen or non-Christian paper for a Christian missionary is almost unique, and is a good protest against those who are always belittling the work of missionaries.

A most affecting address was presented to the Archdeacon by the Christians of sixteen Churches and congregations founded by the Society in the Tokio district.

(To be continued.)

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