

massacre of priests and converts which followed, while it proves the Japanese steadfastness of Christian character, also proves not the bloodthirstiness of the government, but its fear of political trickery. But all through those long years of hermitage the leaven of new ideas flowed in through that one little loop hole where the Dutch traders lived on the island of Deshima. Young men were impelled, even at the risk of life or a life-long exile, to secrete themselves as stowaways on foreign ships that sometimes cruised the coast of Japan that they might get the new learning at first hand. And to two such young men modern Japan owes its well-guided political and diplomatic career, while a third founded that great Christian University the Doshisha, with its new ideals of moral and spiritual as well as mental training. Dutch books found their way to interior towns and helped in the leavening process. Descendants of the old Catholic Christians still holding the traditions of their faith were exiled to distant parts ready to welcome the incoming missionaries and forming a nucleus with which to work.

The history of the past fifty years in Japan in its marvelous development is well known, but it has not been so well understood that back of all the progress was this long era of preparation so that what some have termed "a mushroom growth" was really only the change that we see in nature in the spring when the trees burst into leaf, and life thus makes its presence known.

There is a contention that non-Christian nations are better off without modern civilization. The fear was expressed that Japan would take the material elements for her betterment and cast aside the spiritual forces. But can this be done in this our age? Here is a question to ponder over. Our civilization being based on the foundation of Christian practices is so permeated with Christian ideas and ideals that it would seem impossible to separate the material and immaterial. Any nation that does as Japan has done is bound to profit in the end.

All change, transition, is painful to some, and the evils attract attention from real and permanent benefits. The perspective of years will prove, and is proving, Japan has profited much by her exchange of old for new. It would be interesting to tabulate benefits and injuries accruing from the adoption of western ways. It might run something like this: The reorganization of army and