

Missionary Board was cheerfully granted, and the General Secretary was instructed to proceed to Japan at such time as would best suit the convenience and interests of all concerned.

Foreseeing that a return to Canada immediately after the meeting of the Japan Conference would be necessary, I deemed it advisable to go out in time to secure some six weeks in the country before the Conference assembled, so that I might not only meet the Mission Council and the Conference, but also visit the outlying districts and personally inspect the work. This judgment was confirmed by letters received from the Superintendent of the Mission, who urged me to time my movements so as to reach Japan, if possible, not later than the first of April. Accordingly, I left Toronto on the 7th of March, and sailed from San Francisco on the 13th of the same month. This route was selected partly to avoid the colder northern route, with the possibility of detention by snow blockade on the railway, but chiefly because the date of sailing would enable me to reach Japan at the very time my presence was desired, and a full week earlier than *via* Vancouver. The voyage was almost without incident, if I except a stop-over of 24 hours at Honolulu, affording one a passing glimpse of those

"Summer Isles of Eden lying in dark purple spheres of sea,"

and bringing up stirring memories of some of the most romantic and tragic scenes in modern missionary annals. The run from San Francisco occupied less than five days, and after a further run of something over eleven days, we made the entrance of the Bay of Yeddo in the teeth of the only strong gale experienced during the entire passage. At half-past six o'clock on Sunday evening, March 30, we cast anchor within the breakwater at Yokohama, and awaited inspection by the health officers on the following morning. On landing, I was met by Dr. Meacham and Mr. Norman, whose presence greatly facilitated my movements, and on the afternoon of Monday I was pleasantly domiciled in Tokyo with the Rev. Dr. Scott, the Superintendent of the Japan Mission.