

house. He is hopeful of success, as some of his friends in the government are disposed to assist him. If he can secure permission to open his school, our agreement with him will speedily be carried into effect.

Mr. Hitomi proposed to fit up dwelling apartments in a large temple, finely situated near his own house, in a beautiful suburb of the city, and to give it free of rent. He will also pay the moving expenses of Dr. McD. from Yokohama to Shidzuoka, and will give something in the way of salary besides. He will likewise provide for the opening of a Dispensary and Hospital, so that the Dr. may have scope for the exercise of his medical skill. All this we hope may be rendered subservient to Mission work.

This will give us a location in the centre of the empire, 100 miles beyond where any Missionary is at present permitted to reside. From personal knowledge of Shidzuoka, and of the country round about, I am prepared to say it is a most desirable place for the location of a Mission. This arrangement will relieve you—while it stands—of rent, and perhaps some other items of expense, while it will afford unhindered scope for Christian work. If this effort should succeed Dr. McD. will require assistance in a short time; and we hope you will see the way clear for the increase of laborers which the necessities of the work may require.

Our prospect in this matter of a Mission in the interior of the country may yet be frustrated. But we think there is strong probability of success. In this case government opposition to Christianity may turn out for the furtherance of the Gospel. No foreigner, except in the employ of the Japanese, is permitted to reside outside of the treaty ports.

This therefore is the only mode by which we can get into the interior of the country. If it succeed, Dr. McD. can carry on missionary operations in addition to his school and medical duties; and when the country is opened, as we fully believe it must be shortly, we shall then be on the ground and established, and can devote our whole time to missionary work. In this whole matter we plainly tell those we are dealing with that we are missionaries, and would on no account consent to take a school in their employ only that it affords us opportunity for carrying on missionary work at the same time. And in this respect they understand our position fully. The invitation came to me unsought on my part, and perhaps chiefly because I am British. We take it as a token for good, and feel encouraged. Dr. McD. will probably give you his own views upon this matter, by the same mail that carries this. And from our independent statements of the case you will be able to judge of its character.

We have progressed so far in the study of the language as to be able, with the help of our teacher, to frame short discourses in Japanese and read them to our Bible classes. It will of course be some time before we are able to deliver addresses off-hand.

We are thankful for the prayers and sympathies of the Church at home, and feel encouraged by the liberality evinced by the subscription taken up in the Committee. We wait with patience for the details, which we hope to receive by the next mail from America. We have had no mail from San Francisco for nearly four weeks, but look for one in a few days. This will have left for America, however, before the next steamer comes in.

*From the Rev. Dr. McDonald, dated Yedo Hotel, Tsukiji, Yedo, 20th Jan., 1874.*

In your letter to Mr. Cochran, you made enquiries, and said that you would like to hear something about both soul and body. Well, we are in health and hope, and are very desirous of doing the work which the Master may have designed.

You will see by the heading of this letter, that we are at the hotel in Yedo. We came here Monday, 12th. My reasons for coming here at present are

perfectly satisfactory, at least to myself. One reason is, that I deemed that, if either of your missionaries intended to occupy Yedo, the time had come.

The *Guardian* which contained, as we supposed, the doings of the Missionary Committee, did not come to hand. We have not as yet heard anything from the Treasurers in regard to matters; but, from the information which you kindly gave us, we know that it is the