

unconscious, claim upon the assistance of the Christian country which is nearest to her own shores.

Moreover, in the sacred work of missions, as in things secular, often the gift is doubled which is quickly given. The adverse forces of unbelief and misbelief have not been slow to recognize the urgency of the present opportunity in Japan. Already the Christian advocate in that country has to take account, not only of the opposition which is naturally evinced towards Christianity by the old faiths of the east, but also of the imported unbelief of the west. Opposition from this quarter is likely to grow stronger, and perhaps more bitter, as years go on.

On the other hand, the work which has been done has already borne fruit. A Church has been organized in Japan, to which all converts who have been won by the efforts of English, Canadian, and American Church missions belong. These number at present about 4,500 souls, with twenty-two native clergy. This Church has its own constitution, canons, and synod. The guidance and development of this Christian society will require all the sympathy, tact, and wisdom which Anglican bishops and clergy can put at the service of their Japanese brethren during the next few years. While it is believed that the Japanese who have been under the influence of Anglican missionaries will always maintain the main principles and features of the Catholic faith and organization, it is not to be supposed that they will not desire to introduce large modifications in matters of less than primary importance. The very independence and patriotism which are such prominent elements in their national character are leading them, as like qualities have other nations in earlier days, to wish for presentment of the Christian faith and society which may be recognized as the work of Japanese minds and hearts. Under circumstances such as these, I cannot but express the most earnest hope that next year may see a large development of the mission of the Canadian Church in Japan.

A mission with such a staff as I have suggested will be able to undertake missionary work in its various chief departments. The work of the clergy will be mainly evangelistic during the first few years: preaching and teaching with the help of Japanese catechists and clergy in Nagano, and in the surrounding district. As time goes on, and converts are gathered in, it will also be in part pastoral, literary, and educational. Native congregations and workers will need guidance and help, and those who have made progress in the language will find a large sphere for the employment of their time and energy in the production or translation of theological books. The instruction of catechists, Bible classes for Japanese Christians, and evening classes for young men

offer a wide field to the educational missionary, even if it should not be deemed advisable to establish a mission school or college.

Most forms of missionary activity are also open to Christian women among their Japanese sisters in modern Japan. Addressing small meetings in rooms lent or hired for the purpose, training native workers, teaching Bible classes, visiting at the houses of friends or acquaintances, superintending schools and orphanages, dispensaries and district nursing, are parts of the apparatus which missions employ in the sacred enterprise of bringing the Gospel of Christ to the knowledge of the women of the East.

An efficient mission of Canadian clergy and churchwomen, devoted, for Christ's sake, to such occupations as these, would, undoubtedly, bring us important aid at a serious crisis.

## NAGOYA, JAPAN.

BY REV. J. COOPER ROBINSON.



THE district in which the Wycliffe missionaries have been placed is also a very large one, where, as yet, very little Christian work of any kind has been done, and is, I think, quite on a par with Nagano in regard to difficulties and hindrances of all kinds. This being the case, the Canadian Church cannot complain of lack of room for her missionaries to work in, and I trust, as the people realize something of the immense amount of work which their missionaries see around them, they will also realize the necessity of upholding and strengthening the hands of those who are their representatives here, and of sending out, with all possible speed, large reinforcements. Our beloved bishop when recently in Canada said much more than we can write, with, I trust, abundant results of every kind. There is one advantage in belonging to a small band, and that is, people can remember the numbers thereof so much more frequently and definitely than they could if the band were a large one. Of course there are also corresponding disadvantages; so that while we are a little band, it is all the more important that our friends and co-laborers at home should make their prayers on our behalf very definite and earnest. This, I trust, they will remember to do. I think it is a good thing that the Canadian missions have been planted in such large fields; for, if the Church is to make any impression at all on these vast districts, she must address herself to the work in real earnest. It would indeed be a disgrace to our Canadian Church, after having been placed in charge of two such large districts as those in which her first two missions have been established (Nagoya and Nagano), to allow years to elapse without making a strenuous