

Foreign Missions.

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A Circuit of the Globe.

A. McLEAN.

No. xix.—A Week in Tokyo.
(Continued.)

The next day we visited the Presbyterian college, and saw the President and several of the professors and some of the work. The buildings are spacious and suitable. In the Theological Department there are fifty students; in the Literary Department about the same number. There is no lack of schools in Tokyo. Nearly every society has felt that it must train its own workers, and must educate the young people connected with the churches. There are schools representing every variety of doctrine. In one of these, so it is said, there are no text books, only lectures and essays. The faculty is composed of Christians, Buddhists, Shintoists and Confucianists. All have the same object in view—search for truth wherever it may be found. The men connected with this school do not build churches, impose creeds, nor pay salaries to preachers, nor import foreign organizations, nor reproduce foreign cults. They wait for aid help along foreign effort, which is honestly directed toward gaining the highest truth and securing the best life in religion and morals. It is a poor way to search for truth to overlook Him who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Most of Thursday was devoted to a conference with the missionaries. We had accounts from all as to the present condition of the work and the outlook. The work in the schools and the meetings for women and the work in the several chapels were reported. Plans for enlarging the work were discussed. The need of a school in which evangelists shall be trained was emphasized. The general feeling is that no college for scientific or literary training is needed, because the Japanese schools are excellent, and this work can be done in them more economically. In answer to a petition from the believers in Akita for a missionary family, Mrs. and Dr. Stevens volunteered to go to the north. They will be more than three hundred miles from Tokyo, and far removed from any Americans, but they go joyfully, because they feel that

the Lord's work there requires their presence and service.

That day we visited the Imperial Museum near by and saw many things relating to Japanese antiquities, art, manufactures, mineral and agricultural resources. We had a bird's eye view of Japan. In the park we saw the tree General Grant planted and some of the camels captured at Port Arthur.

The following day was devoted to a conference in the home of Miss Scott and Miss Hostetter. All the workers in Tokyo representing the Disciples of Christ were present. Mr. and Mrs. Madden reached the city the night before, and were on hand to be introduced to the workers and the work. After a brief address by President Guy E. S. Stevens read a paper on "Entering Upon the Work." He dwelt upon the need of a holy life and enlarged upon some missionary methods. It was a thoughtful paper. The discussion was lively and profitable. Prof. Axbill called attention to the use of such phrases as "our church," "our plea," and "our position." He prefers to speak of Christ's position and plea and church. Miss Scott read a paper on "Charity School Work." She gave an account of her own school, as she knows that better than any other. Her school is in one of the poorest parts of the city. Here are lepers and people with other terrible diseases; the blind and the lame; children clad and unclad, looking hungry and wretched. When the people get up in the morning, they carry off and pawn their bed for enough to buy food and drink. If they can earn enough in the day to redeem the bed, they have it to sleep on during the night. The boys called the workers "foreign fools" and "foreign cats." They threw stones into the houses and made noises about the place, or abused and teased the children coming out of the school. Buddhist priests circulated falsehoods about Christians. But the work grew and prospered. She has now over one hundred children. They are taught reading, writing, composition, geography, arithmetic, physiology and practical Christianity. The Bible is taught every morning, and Christian songs are taught once a week. A new spirit has crept over the valley. The policeman speaks of the children as quiet and orderly, whereas they had been the bane of his life. The teachers are known and respected.

C. E. Garst read a paper on "Industrial Work in Missions." Great care must be taken not to pauperize the people by doing too much for them. The better plan is to give them some work while in school, so that they

may pay their own way. At the creation every tree had its "seed in itself." So Christianity is intended to be self-propagating.

At the close I spoke about the work at home, and my impressions of what I had seen since reaching the field. We had a good day together. The workers in Japan are of one heart and one soul. They keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace.

On Saturday morning the Advisory Committee held a session for business. Later in the day we visited the Garst family. One of the many joys of this visit was a talk with Dr. Verbeck. He was born in Holland and educated in a Moravian school. After coming to America he entered Auburn Seminary. On his graduation he was sent to Japan. This was in 1859. He was one of the first four to enter Japan as soon as the doors were opened. He could not preach publicly, but, like Paul, he dwelt in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, preaching the Kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. An old priest brought three young men to him. He said he was too old to begin the study of Christianity, but asked him to take his young friends and teach them. An old doctor came by night to talk and to get many books for friends in the country. Dr. Verbeck baptized the second convert in Japan. He told us about it. The first convert died a few hours after his baptism. The commander of an army found a copy of the New Testament in Nagasaki Bay. Through an interpreter he learned that it was a good book, and that he could get a copy in Chinese in Shanghai. Being ordered to return home, he kept up the study of the Bible and got four others to join him. He sent to Dr. Verbeck and asked him if he would give him instruction in this book. Once a week he sent a trusty messenger to Nagasaki with an account of his progress and with a request to explain some difficult passages. He sent because he could not leave home himself. This went on for over two years. One day the commander appeared before his teacher and asked for baptism. After due examination he was baptized. Then he told of the New Testament that he had found twelve years before. The baptism was private. The commander was ready to die for the faith, but if it was known that he was a Christian, his whole family would have been exterminated. At that time Christianity was "the vile doctrine," and its acceptance was a capital crime. This man kept his faith till the last. Every day he took his family into a

private room and read and expounded the Scriptures. Fourteen years later a daughter and a female servant sought baptism.

Dr. Verbeck had much to do with education in Japan. Two young men came to him to study the English Bible. About a year after they returned bringing two sucking pigs as a thank-offering for his teaching. They had been examined that morning and had carried off the highest prizes. The success of these young men led the Government officials to seek Dr. Verbeck's services in an English school to be opened at Nagasaki. Afterward he was invited to Tokyo. Here he became the adviser of the Government in all matters pertaining to education and in other matters as well. He was principal of a school that had over a thousand scholars. This school is now part of the Imperial University. His influence for good has been immeasurable. Several years ago he severed his connection with the school and returned to his work as an evangelist. He is in great demand as a preacher and lecturer. He is called for in all parts of the Empire. One of his greatest works was his share in translating the Scriptures into Japanese.

Dr. Verbeck is a hale and joyous old man, and a fine specimen of the Christian gentleman. He is as young in spirit and as full of fun as a boy. He has seen the Empire opened, and has seen the day when 40,000 souls confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all. In recognition of his great services to the nation, the Government has granted him and his family a special passport, giving them the right to trade, sojourn and reside in any part of the Empire.

Dr. Verbeck's life is an illustration of the words, "Always abounding in the work of the Lord." To meet such a man and to hear him talk makes one feel proud of his race.

At the request of the General Secretary, I delivered an address before the Young Men's Christian Association. There were over three hundred present. In that audience there were more brains and more promise than in all the priests and worshipers I had seen in the temples. Most of them could understand English. For the sake of those who could not, the Secretary interpreted for me after I had finished. All our own workers were present. The association has a fine building. It cost \$30,000 silver. Most of the money came from America. A number of eminent men, among them the Chief Justice of Japan, are among the directors.

It was a busy and happy week. I

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