

So far as the duty of occupying Yedo is concerned, we are increasingly convinced of the importance of going in immediately; but we have seen no chance yet of renting a residence for less than \$75 a month. Early in the spring, however, if we can do no better, we shall try to secure a native house, which Dr. McDonald may occupy for a time, so as to make a beginning. I think it quite likely that I shall go there also. Yokohama is a pleasant place of residence, and the best point for gaining information about the country. There is also in and around it a large native population; but Yedo is just now the Mission field of Japan. The Presbyterians, a few days ago, organized a native church of eight converts,—the first native Protestant Church in Yedo. They have also a large number under special instruction, who are likely soon to become members of the Church, while their Sabbath services are largely attended by the natives. All their operations are conducted on their own premises in T'skidji, the part of Yedo allowed to foreigners. This is their great advantage—the possession of residence and church buildings that they can call their own. They are no doubt watched by the Government with a jealous eye, but so far they have not been interfered with, nor are they likely to be.

The Japanese Ambassadors have returned from Europe and America, and as the result of what they have seen and learned while abroad, the treaties with Foreign Powers are to be revised, indeed the work of revision has already commenced. We are hoping that the Ministers Plenipotentiary, especially those of Britain and America, will neither forget nor neglect the interests of Christianity in this crisis. There is good reason to believe, so far as we can see, that were it not for the dread of Popery the whole country would speedily be thrown open to the Christian Religion. The curse which Popery entailed on this land can never be described; it can scarcely be conceived. No people were ever more willing to receive the Gospel than the Japanese, when the Jesuits came in centuries ago; now there is scarcely a people so averse to Christianity as they. Slowly, however, they begin to appreciate the

difference between Protestantism and Popery; but they fear that should the door be opened to the former, the latter will come in again in spite of them, and in this they are not mistaken. Every steamer arriving from France brings one or more Jesuits. We are informed that no less than nine came with the ship that brought the Embassy from Europe. Driven out of Italy and Germany, they seem resolved upon the recovery of their lost heritage in Japan. Already they have spread a secret network of operations over all the land, and wait only for the proclamation of liberty and religious toleration to proclaim themselves as masters of the field. The judgment of those who have spent years in this country and been observant of the course of public events, is, that in the evangelization of Japan, the struggle will not be so much against Buddhism, Shintoism, or any of the native superstitions, as against Popery. In view of this, how earnest and persevering should be the efforts of all Protestant Churches to get in with the truth, and especially to get the Bible translated and circulated amongst the people, as the only effectual antidote to Popery! It would be a calamity most painful and appalling, should this interesting country be called again the second time to suffer from the blight of Romish superstition and Jesuitical machination. But more on this subject another time, I must turn to other matters now.

We are looking very anxiously for an answer to our last, on the matter of Mission property in Yedo. It is possible, though we can hardly say it is probable, that in the revision of the treaties permission will be given for residence in other parts of Yedo besides T'skidji. Should this be the case, we shall still require our own premises, fitted up and adapted to our work, if we carry on our Mission to advantage.

We desire also to mention at this early period the importance of strengthening the Mission by sending two additional men, who should be with us not later than next summer. We are confident that this subject will receive your best attention at no distant day. If young men, willing to live single for a time, could be obtained, it might relieve the Society of some financial