


A LETTER FROM JAPAN.

 THE Rev. Masazo Kakuzen, native Japanese deacon, writing from Matsumoto, Shinano, Japan, to the general secretary of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada, thus speaks of his work and prospects in Japan: It was in the early part of May that I came up here from Nagano with my family, consisting of my wife and boy, and a niece of mine, whom I had brought from my native place to Nagano, some time ago. Matsumoto used to be the resident town of Viscount Toda, who governed then over a territory of which the revenue amounted to 40,000 koku, a koku being equal to 5.13 bushels. There are three Christian denominations represented here besides the Nippon Seikokwai. They are the Roman Catholics, numbering 100; Methodists, numbering 60; Presbyterians, numbering 25; and Seikokwai, numbering 5. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel sent here, three summers ago, a divinity student, who held a series of preaching for a month or so, and got a number of seekers, but he was soon called back to his school. Since then the work thus started has not been kept up. So when I came here I had to commence over again from the ploughing of the soil. There are two Church members besides our household, one baptized by Mr. Waller at Nagano, and the other by Rev. Tai, in Tokyo. I have two hopeful seekers at present, who are diligently reading the Bible. They are both officials of the post-office, which stands hard by our preaching house. One of them was admitted into a catechumen lately, when Mr. Waller was here holding a series of services.

I preach two evenings every week, viz., Sunday and Wednesday. On Sunday I hold the morning service at ten for the Christians only, and Sunday-school at three in the afternoon. The attendance at the Sunday-school is very irregular, more children coming on one Sunday than the other.

We feel greatly the necessity of Christians joining together and encouraging each other in such a retreated place like Matsumoto, where railway communication with Tokyo and other principal towns is not easy, and only a small portion of the population embraces the new faith. To meet this want the pastors and catechists who are working in this town and in its neighborhood, in connection with the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal churches, formed a workers' meeting, which should be held once a month, to consult on mission work, and to give help to each other. I hope much good will result from this measure.

Rev. Mr. Hamilton, of Nagoya, was up here this summer with his friend, Rev. Mr. Weston, of Kobe on their way to Hida, and we had the


pleasure of partaking of the Holy Communion, celebrated by the latter gentleman.

I suppose that Rev. Mr. Foss, of Kobe, has passed through Canada on his way to England, and that you have heard from him about Miss Smith's work at Kobe, and our mission in the province of Shinano.

Mr. Waller went up to Tokyo on Monday to meet Miss Paterson, who was due at Yokohama on the 6th inst. I am also going down to Nagano next Monday to attend the workers' meeting of our mission, and at the same time to meet Miss Paterson.

The war with China has taken up the whole mind of the patriotic Japanese. The *Toronto Mail* compared the Japanese enterprise of conquering China to the frog's attempt at swallowing the bull. But very few Japanese doubt now of their final victory over the Chinese. The Japanese army have twice won signal battles, and the Japanese navy has almost destroyed the flower of the Chinese navy at the battle fought off the island Kaiyoto on the 16th ult. Japanese Christians are not idle at this time. They are diligently engaged in breaking down popular prejudices against Christians, and reassuring them of their patriotism by raising money to help the Red Cross Association, by providing doctors and medicine, and by relieving the bereaved families of those who died in the war. We are earnestly praying for the ceasing of the war by the victory of Japan, and for recovering peace once more by these eastern countries. If the war is concluded in favor of Japan, a new road will be opened for the Church of Japan to evangelize Corea and China, and the country of the Rising Sun will become the centre of missionary work, as well as the emporium of the oriental commerce.

TWO STORIES.

 HERE was once an old Indian, a strange, savage-looking fellow. If you met him in the swamp you would like to have your rifle handy. This fellow came and stood before me, and said, "Missionary, once my hair was as black as a crow's wing, now it is getting white. Gray hairs here and grandchildren in the wigwam tell me that I am getting to be an old man. I never heard before such things as you told me to-day. I am so glad I have not died before hearing this wonderful story. Stay as long as you can, and when you have to go away come back soon, for I have grandchildren; I have gray hairs, and may not live many winters more; come back soon."

And he turned as though he would go to his place; but he soon again faced me and said, "Missionary, you said just now 'Our Father.' That is very sweet to us."