

then I found out that he had been removed to Shizuoka, and during his stay there had become a Christian. Brother Dunlop has now a fine preaching place in Nagano, and he writes me that there are a couple of people who will probably be ready to receive baptism by the end of this month. Nagano is a very prosperous city, and there is no doubt that as the railroad systems of this land are developed it will become one of the most important cities of the interior; and the Church that gets a strong hold there will exert a powerful influence on the surrounding country. As yet, no Church has done anything there worth speaking of, and it has the name of being one of the hardest places in Japan for religious work. I believe the reason why the work has not succeeded there hitherto is because no mission has made it a centre and placed a force there strong enough to be felt by the people; but I feel sure that, with a foreigner and a Japanese at work there, side by side, we shall soon prove that the Lord is stronger than the mightiest forces either of Mammon or of Heathenism.

In Toyama we have also made a start. On account of having no one to help me here at the beginning of the year, Brother Kato could not get away to Toyama until about the first of February, but he soon got a preaching place in one of the best quarters of that big city. Toyama is noted throughout the empire as being one of the great strongholds of Buddhism, and it is not to be wondered at if Christianity should encounter a great deal of opposition there. So it has been with our work right from the start. Great crowds have turned out to the preaching and raised just as big a row as they could without breaking anybody's head; and this continued for about two months, without much intermission, so that although the services were held, there was not much chance to do good work. Of course, nobody has been hurt and nothing has suffered, except the doors and window frames, which have been broken pretty badly from time to time, entailing no little expense to keep the place in repair. About two months ago I visited Toyama, and preached on two evenings, and, strange to say, there was not the first sign of a disturbance, and I never preached to a quieter audience of Japanese unbelievers. The opposition is now gradually quieting down, and the opportunities for good work are now coming to us. Brother Kato is working away with all his might; and when Brother Crummy gets on the ground, I am sure that their united strength will make itself felt. A city of fifty thousand people, almost wholly untouched, is now before us, and by faith we must claim it for Christ, and so plant ourselves there that in the years to come thousands may be raised up to fill that whole region with the light of God. Toyama is an exceedingly important centre, because it is surrounded by very many large and prosperous towns and villages which are all within easy reach, and I look upon that whole region as an ideal field for evangelistic work.

Now, as to Fukui, on account of scarcity of men we could not get in there until a month ago; but already, through the kind help of our Presbyterian brethren, we have already secured a fine preaching place and begun work. Brother McKenzie is now in Tokyo getting his resident passport, and having already procured a residence in Fukui, he expects to be moved before

the holidays and be all ready to begin the year's work. Fukui is also the capital of a ken, but it is reported to be a very hard place to get a hold in. But now the Presbyterians and ourselves are going in in earnest, and I am sure a better day is at hand. Several hundred thousand people there are in that region who have yet to hear of the way of salvation.

Now I am sure that the mere mention of these four places will convey no adequate conception of the extent of the territory covered by this district. It comprises four kens, has a coast line of four hundred miles, an area of over four thousand square miles, and an aggregate population of not less than two and a half millions. The fact of the matter is, that we have the bones of four districts in one, and we are now planting a central station in each of them, and will develop them as fast as the Lord raises up Japanese workers and thrusts them forth into the mighty harvest. The probability is that we will need but very little foreign reinforcement unless the work in these great cities grows out of all proportion to what it is at present, and even then I do not believe it is wise to station many foreigners together. The best way is to develop it along the lines which can be readily taken hold of by the Japanese themselves. But what I would like to see is for our Church to stake out another big field away to the north of this, and plant two or three more foreigners in the principal cities, so as to get the work started, and to develop in each of these cities a working force that would in the next twenty-five years cover this whole land with the advance army of the living God. Now is our time, and if we let it slip, we will terribly retard the work which we so much love. The day has gone by for the massing of a strong body of missionaries in the treaty ports; but the day is just dawning when a thin skirmishing line thrown out over the whole country can do an immense amount of good in preparing the way for hand-to-hand fighting.

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## The Missionary Outlook

Is published at the Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto. Single copies 40 cents per annum. Clubs of eight or more copies (separately if desired), 25 cents per copy. Owing to regulations regarding postage the club rate does not apply to the City of Toronto, nor countries outside of the Dominion, where the ordinary rate of 40 cents has to be charged.

Address all orders to

REV. A. SUTHERLAND,  
Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto.