

Bible Work in Japan.

BY REV. JONATHAN GOBLE.

The Bible work, a notice of which you copied from the "Bible Record" is still going forward, the Lord preparing and opening the way more and more, giving us favor with the government so that without any external influence to help, we are able to secure the kindly offices of governors of cities and provinces as well as of town magistrates and police in every place we visit, almost without exception.

In Tokio, the capital, by a general order from the chief of police, the policemen on duty in the streets aid us in getting the best localities for selling the Scriptures from the large handcart, and in preserving order in the large concourse of people who assemble to hear the preaching, and purchase portions of the Holy Word. On the 3rd of November last, being the Emperor's birthday, there was a "grand review" of imperial troops at the Hibiya parade ground in Tokio, and when we asked the police on duty there for a good location for our Bible cart, where we might be permitted to preach and sell Scriptures for the day, they placed us in a very prominent position at the main gate, where none but the people composing our audience were permitted to remain and there we were permitted to remain during the day, and when the Mikado and all the grand procession passed close to our cart, we dismounted and took off our hats to salute his Majesty, but as soon as the one imperial state carriage had passed, we mounted our car and went on with our preaching, and sales, and several military officers and one of the members of the imperial household drew near to listen, and I had the pleasure of selling a Testament to the latter, and of giving another to an old friend, a Lochooan officer, who remembered the visit of the Perry Squadron to his native island in 1853, and 1854, in which visit, I participated. We also sold a large number of Gospels, Acts, and other portions of Scripture on the day of the "grand

review," and towards evening, after all was over we left, thankful for the Divine favor which had given us such a day of successful work.

On the 9th of November I set out with our pony Bible cart to travel over land to Kioto the ancient capital of Japan, and after varied experiences and good success along the way for about one month, I passed through Kioto, on to O'saker, to begin city work in the latter place first, because the governor of Kioto was known to be strongly opposed to Christianity, and it was hoped that a favorable opening in O'saker, in addition to the open favor of the government in Tokio might serve to soften the opposition in Kioto.

The city government of O'saka was even more friendly and kind than we had ventured to hope, and at once undertook to get a public hall for our meetings, and soon arranged for the free use of the chamber of commerce, and further, issued orders to the city police similar to those of Tokio, so that our large handcart, and a smaller one there are permitted to work freely in the streets under the protection of the authorities. After this was well arranged I visited Kioto with my pony cart, and as the missionaries of the American Board residing there, thought it would not be prudent to call upon Mr. Makimura, the governor, who had so often tried to obstruct their Christian work, I therefore went out into the streets to preach and sell Scriptures without asking permission from any one, and had a day of greater success than I had ever experienced before; my audience in the afternoon, entirely blockading the street, some 15 to 20 thousand in number, all good natured, policemen finding no fault, great enthusiasm prevailing to get the books much faster than I could deliver them and count out the change.

My stock growing short, and fearing lest the intense excitement might run too high, I left the city next day, and after a few days in O'saka I proceeded to Kobe, where the Lord had so prepared the heart of the governor of Hiogo province that I had only to present my card, whereupon that kind