

Of those received at this communion, five are men and five are women. One of them is an aged woman of eighty years of age, who heard the gospel for the first time two years ago. The Lord opened her heart at once to receive Jesus as her Saviour, and for these two years, though not fully instructed in the sacred Scriptures, yet she has clung to this one deep feeling wrought in her heart, to trust in Jesus to save her soul. It is a singular incident in her case that her daughter, who is a Buddhist nun, has been willing for her mother to seek Jesus, and to profess his name before men. She brought her aged mother to the church on the communion Sabbath, and she was present during all the service. She continues to support her mother, and she has made provision for her funeral expenses, arranging it, however, that the services are to be Christian, and that she is to be buried in the cemetery of our Mission.

With others the case has been very different. One woman has had to encounter the opposition of her husband. One man has had to leave his mother, and face the bitter opposition of his wife and uncles. On the day appointed for his baptism, they hid his dress coat and his shoes, hoping thereby to prevent his coming to the church. But he came in his old shoes and common clothes. In another case, where both parents were coming out together to confess their Saviour, their son, who principally supports them, and his wife, strongly opposed the removing of the idols out of the house. But the father took them all down and put them in the fire. We praise the grace of God which enabled them to forsake all for Christ, and to profess his name in the face of such opposition. Those who encountered the greatest opposition had known the gospel for many years—they were therefore acting intelligently. One of the men has been a teacher of different missionaries for fourteen years. He has been under deep convictions for two years, and only now, in connection with deep and earnest prayer in his behalf, has he had grace to take up his cross and follow the Saviour. At the previous communion when it was urged upon him to confess Christ, no matter what opposition he might encounter, he said in deep agony of soul, "His cross is too heavy for me to bear." We hope he will be prepared to be a native helper. Two of the women, we hope, will become Bible women. One of them gives special promise of usefulness.

A GLANCE AT THE MISSIONARY WORK IN JAPAN.

In Japan, where progress, political, social and religious has been so rapid, something like a reaction has set in. Those who had given most close attention to the state of matters in Japan, looked for some thing like reaction: and it has now come. Less encouragement is now given to missionary labors. Missionaries and christian men are to be dismissed from the schools, and men employed who will ignore Christianity, and teach on the Sabbath, &c. The real causes are outside missionary work altogether. Self interest on the part of officials, suspicion of foreigners, and, as much as anything, the prejudice of political and commercial men have combined to bring about this result. But as it was not unlooked for, so it does not dishearten the friends of Christianity in Japan. One who is well acquainted with the subject says:—

"Meanwhile our missionaries in Japan show no sign of discouragement. Some of them even rejoice that their sphere is to be restricted to missionary work proper; that their success is to depend not on civilizing influence, but upon the direct inculcation of Gospel truth, even though under difficulties.