

to win them to Christ, and would not for a moment listen to his exhortations. His relatives and neighbors reviled him as having gone mad. But Brother Tsang kept firm, and patiently endured all their spite and hatred, calmly going about his own duties, and forbearing to answer or retaliate in any shape or form. At this his friends and neighbors were more than ever astonished for they knew Brother Tsang to be a famous military athlete, many of his pupils having passed the Government military examinations with honors. But our brother was now an entirely changed man; he sought no revenge, he took no advantage of his fame or prowess as an athlete to settle the petty persecutions to which he was daily exposed. His weapons were not carnal; he himself was born again, and he believed others could be changed by the same quiet yet wondrous power that had changed him.

"He has had his faith greatly tested by having to pass through heavy affliction since he became a follower of the Lord Jesus. Last year he lost three fine cows in an epidemic—a heavy loss to him, poor man. Soon after his eldest son died; then his wife died, and his daughter-in-law left him. His relatives, instead of helping and trying to comfort him, only reviled him, and bitterly mocked him about his new God and new Saviour, declaring that all his sufferings were on account of believing the doctrine of Jesus, and that the gods and his ancestors had sent down these judgments upon him for having forsaken them."

How many of the persons baptized at our home altars witness a better confession than this:

"Now on the third day of the ninth moon I met him at Yih-kô-cun. He had walked twenty miles to come here and worship, and ask for baptism. I gathered together a few of the elder brethren, and we examined him on his faith in the Lord Jesus. I asked him why he wished to join the church. He answered, "I wish to act as a disciple of Jesus." "What benefit is there in being a disciple of Jesus?" He replied, "There is forgiveness of sins, and heaven with all its happiness." "How can sin be forgiven?" He answered, "The Lord Jesus was nailed on the cross, and shed His blood to this end." "Are your sins forgiven?" He said, "Forgiven long ago." "What evidence have you that they are forgiven?" He answered, "Since I believed and trusted in Jesus my heart has great peace and great joy." "Your great peace and great joy, whence come they?" "From God and the Lord Jesus Christ." "There are multitudes all around who know nothing of these wonderful things, how is it that you have

obtained such peace and happiness?" He replied, "It is the extraordinary grace of God to me." "Other men know not these things; how is it that you know them?" "By the teaching and guidance of God's Holy Spirit I have been led to know them." "Is there any virtue or anything meritorious in baptism? can it wash away your sins?" He replied, "My trust is in Jesus; there is no merit but in Him, and baptism is only an ordinance." "To be a disciple of Jesus, and to join the church will involve you in sufferings and persecutions." He answered, "When the Saviour was on earth he was nailed to the cross by sinners; now sinners become His disciples, and by His Holy Spirit helping me, I am willing to suffer, even unto death. I shall the sooner get to heaven, and enjoy its happiness." "Do you believe in eternal happiness?" "I do, with all my heart."

Mr. Tsang moreover added the following words: "Sir, I thank God very much for giving me this precious truth, for had I not had this belief in my heart when my cows were struck down one after the other, my son died, and my wife was taken away, I should have died myself, for my friends not only stood aloof from me, but reviled and slandered me most relentlessly; yet I felt a calm and peace in my heart that surprised and strengthened me. Now they may curse and revile as they like, my heart is not at all ruffled by their words. I know that all I had the God of heaven gave me, and I also know that it is He who hath taken them all away; therefore I thank him for His grace to me. Moreover, I have eternal life from Him, and I see that the things of this life are only temporal, and passing away, while God's gift is for ever."

### Notes from Japan.

SOME 15 years ago a young man from the Province of Tosa came to Yokohama for the purpose of learning English. He had heard something about the Christian religion, and believed it to be an evil system which induced men to forsake their parents and family ties and lose their loyalty to their country. He suspected that there was some secret method by which people were deprived of their reason and duped into becoming its followers. He resolved to find out what it was, and then he would be able to expose its pretensions and save his people from this dreadful delusion.

With this purpose in his mind he