

done so much of my work in English hitherto. Bro. Eby cannot be expected to render assistance in the native language for some time, and, as Dr. McDonald is now preaching with facility in Japanese, his time can be fully employed at our stations in the city already established, and other doors can be opened as soon as we are able to enter them. His presence will tend to strengthen and help us in this great capital, where it requires considerable force to make much impression. And besides, as we are opening an institute for the training of young men for the ministry, he can aid us in this also. Our experience, so far, goes to show that concentration is, on the whole, the best for our work in the beginning. After a time it may be well to separate, but for the present I am persuaded we shall gain by keeping together. I once had great confidence in what might be done here by means of the English language; but my opinions have been changed by the lapse of time, which gave me a larger experience among the people. I have now good reason to believe that successful missionary work can be carried on only in the language of the country; and whatever tends to impede your agents in the study and use of the native language must militate against the success of your Mission. I know we have accomplished something by means of English, but the limit of possible usefulness is soon reached. Moreover, the attention given to English in Japan has recently declined. Many of the schools in which English was taught have been broken up, and the teachers dismissed; nor are we likely to see again the same enthusiasm in the study of English that prevailed here formerly. Among other reasons for this change may be given, the poverty of the country, much increased of late by a civil war in the Province of Satsuma, that still drags its slow length along, and that has already cost the country millions of dollars. This has led to the withdrawal of

government support, causing many schools to close. Also the changeable fancy of the people may have something to do with it. Like children that weary of one toy after another, the Japanese have played with many things in western civilization only to cast them aside as they found them unsuited to their tastes, or too costly to keep up. Regarding Bro. Meacham's situation in

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the remarks already made as to the uncertainty of contracts here will apply. The burning of the school and boarding-houses, just at this time when the country is feeling an unusual stringency in money matters, was a sad blow to our hopes in Numadzu. It is possible that Bro. Meacham may be able to fulfil his term and even to extend it if he wishes, but we must not fall into the error of thinking that this is certain. He may, on very short notice, be without a contract, and compelled to retire within treaty limits. There are at present indications of uncertainty which cause us some uneasiness; one or two of which I may just mention. The Principal of the school, Mr. Yebara, who was mainly instrumental in bringing Mr. Meacham to Numadzu, is ill of consumption, and his recovery is doubtful. If he should be taken away our position in Numadzu would be very uncertain. Mr. Yebara is an excellent man, and has great influence in his own community, and having recently embraced the Gospel he will no doubt do all he can to keep the Missionary near him, both for his own sake and for the sake of his people. But we are not sure of keeping him. Another difficulty is, that some of the native teachers, in the school, have shown great hostility to the Gospel, and would be glad to see the Missionary removed. Just how far their influence may reach we cannot say now, but in the event of Mr. Yebara's decease it would be considerable.