

The American Bible Society, and the National Bible Society of Scotland, have agents resident in Japan, Christian men of ability and experience, in hearty sympathy with the missionaries; and it would be impossible for me to tell you how much their help is felt and appreciated by the entire community of Christian workers there. The British and Foreign Bible Society's agent in China, came over and made us a visit and advised us—the British missionaries—to form ourselves into a corresponding committee, and open up communication with the Society in London. We did so at once, and the result has been most gratifying. The Society has treated us with great kindness and liberality, giving us assurance that we shall be amply sustained in anything we may need to undertake in the way of publishing and circulating the Scriptures in the Empire of Japan. Experience has taught us that giving away the Scriptures is not the best mode. The plan we have adopted is to put them at so low a price that they may be within the reach of all, and then induce the people to purchase for themselves. By consent of the committee in London, we have opened a depository in the principal business street of Tokio. We rented a large upper flat in a good brick building owned by a native bookseller. This room serves as a place in which to store our books, and is also convenient for meetings of the committee; while downstairs the bookseller keeps a stock of Bibles on sale, and hangs out a sign in English and Japanese, informing the public that copies of the Scriptures may be purchased within. There is the utmost good feeling existing among the missionaries. Japan has closer relations with China than has any other nation, the Chinese, therefore, are watching Japan, and the influence of the Protestant religion there. From this the importance of the work could be seen. He explained why the Japanese had trampled on the cross and what gave rise to their hostility to the name of Christ. They were fast losing the impression that the name Christian was a bad name.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. K. Macdonald, and carried.

Dr. Hodgins moved, seconded by Mr. H. Mortimer,

“That the hearty thanks of this meeting be presented to the Trustees of the Alexander Street Baptist Church, for its use on Sabbath evening last, and to the Rev. J. Denovan, for the instructive sermon which he preached in the interests of the Society on that occasion.” Carried.

Rev. Dr. Reid moved, seconded by Col. Moffatt,

“That the hearty thanks of that meeting be presented to the Pastor and Trustees of this Church for its use on the present occasion, and to the Organist and Choir for their valuable services in connection with this Annual Meeting.” Carried.

The Doxology having been sung, the Very Rev. Dean Grasett pronounced the Benediction, which terminated the proceedings.