

work, the foreign missionary has lost his leadership in one thing after another. His last and strongest position, that of character and all round judgment, is now being assailed. Japanese leaders are springing up here and there who in point of personal worth and whole souled devotion to the cause of Christ are worthy to rank beside their foreign brethren. They and their followers are the ones who *must* in the nature of the case assume the main responsibility for the conversion of Japan. They should be sustained by the prayers and sympathy, gifts and service of foreign friends, but in steadily diminishing quantities so far as the last two agents are concerned. If neither coddled nor controlled they are nearly ready to assume this large responsibility.

It will require an unusual degree of courage and trust to pass over the eternal destinies of millions into their still feeble hands ; but *heroism of faith on the part of Western Christendom supplemented by heroism of service on the part of Eastern Christians is equal to the task.*

A Japan that can win great victories on the field of battle, that nearly doubles its income in the year following a protracted war, that bids fair to rival the West with its industries, its education and its large national aspirations, may safely be left under God to work out its own salvation in things that are spiritual and eternal.

I write in no caustic spirit. I recognize that much may be said in defense of a contrary position. I would not wound the feelings of a single brother who may see things differently. I am addressing not the world at large but a band of God's choicest noblemen who believe with all their hearts in foreign missions. I am full of the joy of the Lord in my chosen work. I love Japan and hope to give her many more years of the gladdest service ; but my conviction is clear and strong that the seed of the Word is securely planted in Japanese soil. The kingdom is coming here in all the might and glory of Christ's royal presence.

Let us rejoice in what God hath wrought, trust Him to perfect that which He hath fashioned, and turn the channel of distinctively *foreign* missionary service to needier wastes beyond.

Recent Public Movements in Japan.

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The recent session of the Japanese Diet was the most harmonious and successful of any yet held. Some of the former assemblies have been characterized by so much wrangling and confusion, that the question has not infrequently arisen whether the time had really come for a constitutional government.

Ever since the formation of a parliament the Cabinet has been the object of constant and bitter opposition. It has unfortunately had no political party to uphold and press its policy, and as a consequence has at various times been criticised and condemned by all. The result has been that so many prorogations and dissolutions have taken place that legislation has made slow progress, and what has been done has not given general satisfaction. Measures of importance have been passed by or merely discussed and abandoned, because of the want of unity and the constant tendency to strife.

The war has been a boon to the government in many ways. It has rallied, like nothing else, the whole country to the support of the Emperor, and those who have been associated with him in power have shared the benefit. The skill and efficiency of the administration has also won the admiration of many of those who have hitherto been its enemies, and prepared the way for a new and more satisfactory arrangement for the conduct of affairs.

For years past the Liberal Party has been the strongest political power in the country. Its leader was at one time a prominent member of the Cabinet, but did not agree with his associates as to the policy to be pursued, and