

Mission had made a statement endorsing the Central Tabernacle enterprise, asking the Board for a grant of—or to allow an appeal for special funds up to—\$25,000 for that purpose. The request failed to elicit response. During the year of the evangelistic superintendency the two brethren visiting the home churches appealed for funds for a large church in Azabu, another district, in connection with two large schools; the appeal for the Central Mission was suspended. In the meantime a thought which had been long in the mind of the writer took definite shape in a "Self-Support Band," and as the principle involved in that movement is vital to the final argument of this article, it must be described somewhat fully.

The study of the possibilities in Japan, the evident need for vastly more work, and on a larger scale, than was being done by any mission or by the combination of the whole, led to a study of methods for advance. A review of the independent outbursts from denominational limitations in all ages passed in review, down to the Salvation Army, Bishop Taylor's work in India, South America and Africa, and the China Inland Mission, with a multitude of smaller sectional and personal attempts. In every one of them he saw some fatal defect which prevented them from being a model on which a work of permanent and satisfactory helpfulness might be introduced into Japan. But he thought and thought,—there surely must be some way to introduce a needed force that would be helpful to all and antagonize none, and perhaps open a way for future developments.

Knowing the advantage to be gained from the work of a Central Mission or Christian Institute, centred in a wide conception of the salvation of the whole man, strategically placed among

students, he was very anxious to have the Central Tabernacle erected, confident that when once opened its results would bring gifts to sustain its operations. A decree had been passed by the Government that English should be taught in all Government schools. For some years the writer had noticed the call for English teachers in various schools, academies, colleges, private and public, offering salaries varying from \$20 to \$200 per month, and the idea of a band of student volunteers, who should support themselves, out of whose ranks any who showed aptitude and a call might graduate into the regular missionary ranks, and direct and indirect helpfulness be given by all to any organization within reach. The plan matured when a number of positions, with salaries aggregating \$8,000 per annum as a commencement, were put into his hands to supply with teachers. The plan was laid before the Council of the Japanese Mission, presented by them to the Board at home, approved of, and Dr. Williams, one of the General Superintendents, was appointed as correspondent and helper in the selection of men.

The appeal was then made to college graduates to come and take these positions under two distinct stipulations: (1) They would take the schools assigned to them, regardless of the size of salary, as those who were paid more than the salary of a regular missionary would pay the excess into a central fund; and those who were paid less would receive out of the central fund what was needed to supplement their income; the balance was to be used as the Band should direct; (2) they were to be missionaries to the fullest extent of their powers and opportunities, to learn the language, etc.

The response was surprising. It was a matter of selecting a few from