

J A P A N .

WE are glad to record the continued manifestation of the Divine blessing upon the labours of our brethren working on this Mission. In Shidzuoka, Dr. McDonald says, under date of January 5th, "Our work here still goes on. Sixty-seven persons have been baptized here, and there are yet candidates for baptism." From Numadzu we have glad tidings of the gathering of the first fruits, and the extension of the work beyond that locality, in the following letter :—

From the Rev. G. M. MEACHAM, M.A., dated Numadzu, 20th Jan., 1877.

I have not time to write at length, for this is Saturday night and getting late for the mail.

If I remember rightly, I told you in my last that an account of some feeling which was not explained, the proposition to have Mr. Satow, one of the young men taken out into our work last fall, as my interpreter was not favourably entertained by the authorities of the Academy, and that in consequence I had to depend for such assistance upon the teachers. These did not satisfy the congregation, whose murmurs reached their ears, and resulted in their declining further to act. With true Christian spirit they laboured on till Mr. Satow came, who is very acceptable, and is a young man of very good spirit. On the advice of Dr. McDonald, from whose congregation he comes, I pay him \$9 per month as salary.

We are now in our new house, which, for the interior of Japan, is a marvel of architecture. While I was writing this last sentence, an earthquake shook the building with great violence, but happily without disturbing a single timber or causing any mortar to fall. The main building is 36 by 36. The Chapel is 15 by 36. We have furnished it neatly and plainly. We came here on the 2nd January, and on the following Sabbath I preached a sort of dedicatory sermon, and solemnly dedicated the place to the worship and service of Almighty God. On account of a fire which had occurred

that very morning, and had destroyed 180 houses, our congregation was smaller than usual, but we had a season of refreshing. On Monday evening last we had our first Baptismal Service. Six persons were received into the Church. Mr. Yebara, the Principal of the Academy, and by all odds the most popular and prominent man in these regions, Mr. Suyeyoshi and Mr. Nakagawa, two of the English teachers, and three young gentlemen, pupils in the Academy, are the first members of the church in Numadzu. There were three other candidates for baptism, but one of them had removed from Numadzu, and two will receive baptism at the hands of a minister in Yokohama, who just two days before they were to have been baptized made his appearance and used an influence which he had acquired over one of them in Yokohama some years ago to divert these two from our communion.

To the credit of all the candidates I may say they were unwilling to be baptized in a Buddhist temple, but preferred to wait till we were in our present house. There are several other candidates who are now receiving instruction. One is a young lady, the daughter of the leading physician here; and her father, too, had made application. He stated when he called upon us, about two weeks ago, that, such were his duties, he could not attend Sabbath services nor the Bible class, but was