

Taylor, of Kobe. Having obtained permission to travel in the interior, he came to Okaiyama, a populous place a hundred miles west of Kobe.

"I reached there late in the afternoon, and reported myself to the officer of the ken, who had previously called to see me. He sent me to a hotel, but being busy did not call to see me till late in the evening. When he came, however, he gave me a hearty welcome, and during his conversation with my assistant (I had laid down to rest), I understood him to say that he had been reading the New Testament, that he was much interested in it, but that there were some passages which he did not understand, and he wished me to explain them. This man is one of the third officers of the ken—there are five or six of the same rank. The next day, when going with him to a friend's house to feast—for the Japanese must always entertain their guests with feasts—he remarked, that none of these many people whom we saw on the street knew the true God; but if I would come there by and by they would come to know Him and would believe in Him.

"We had a very substantial feast, and on returning to the hotel we found the governor, the vice-governor, and another of the third officers of the ken awaiting us. They received me very kindly, and wished to know if I could not come there and take charge of their hospital. They knew that I was a missionary, and understood what my work was. I replied that I would be very glad to come on certain conditions, the chief of which was that I, being a missionary, should receive permission from the Government at Tokio (Yeddo) to live there. They replied that they would obtain that permission, provided I would agree to come and take charge of their hospital, which I readily engaged to do. I then learned that the vice-governor had been reading the Bible, was much interested in it, and a full believer in its truths. At a feast on Saturday, I asked if we could not meet the next day (it being Sunday) and have a talk about the Bible. They readily consented, and the vice-governor invited us to meet at his house.

"A young man from that place had been to Kobe to study medicine, was there converted, and he and his wife were members of the church in Kobe. I hunted him up and learned that he had been reading his Bible to some of his friends, and that two of them were believers, but he said that there were no others. I told him of our appointed meeting, and invited him to be with us on the morrow, which he was glad to do. There were some twenty persons present at the meeting, mostly of the first men of the place. I learned that they all had the Bible in Chinese, all of the New Testament thus far translated into Japanese, and also some Japanese tracts. We spent over two hours and a half in talk, taking the first chapter of Mark as our basis. At the close of the meeting, finding so many earnest inquirers, I asked if they could not meet alone the next Sabbath, and the vice-governor again invited them to meet at his house. I asked the young man who was converted at Kobe to take charge of the meeting. He thought he could not; yet I prevailed on him to do so, through the vice-governor's request, by promising to send him a Commentary to assist him. The trouble of my trip would be well repaid, provided I had done nothing more than to bring these two parties of Bible readers together, who, before I came, knew nothing of each other.

"How was this independent interest in the Bible awakened? I do not know; but probably it was through a young man who went from that place to the United States, was there converted, and returned home, but died shortly after.

"Since I returned to Kobe, this third officer of the Government has written, saying, 'Give us the gospel first and the hospital afterward, for we cannot afford to wait for the gospel.' Thus God is carrying on His own work in Japan, where missionaries are not permitted to go."

The Rev. D. C. Greene writes, that at Kobe a store was opened for the sale of both English and Chinese Bibles. There was temporarily a good demand, for the English especially, but this did not last very long. Owing, however, to a