

METHODIST MISSIONARY NOTICES,

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WHY SEND THE GOSPEL TO JAPAN?*

BY REV. M. L. GORDON, M.D.

IN answer to this question I reply :

1. *Not to civilize the people* : although Christians are giving, and will more and more give to even this, one of the most civilized of heathen nations, a far higher civilization than it has yet known.

2. *Not to give them Western science* ; although Western science, the product of the free institutions and free thought which Christianity more than any other religion fosters, is almost infinitely superior to anything of the kind which Japan possesses.

3. *Not to teach them agriculture, engineering, mining, navigation, and similar arts* ; though Christian men have been their best and most honoured teachers of those arts.

4. *Not to give them telegraphs, railroads, steamships, lighthouses, docks, arsenals, a mint, educational, postal, and police systems* ; although all these things have been adopted, almost without modification, from Christian nations.

5. *Not to teach etiquette to this people, in a sense justly called the politest people on the globe* ; though a pure Christianity will add to Japanese etiquette the two essential elements of true politeness—unselfishness and sincerity.

6. *Not merely to give them a higher system of morals* ; although in many respects the admirable codes of Buddha and Confucius are acknowledged to be inferior to that of Jesus Christ, and to-day the professors and text-books of moral philosophy in the imperial Japanese schools are from Christian lands.

7. *Not to quicken the hearts of Christians at home* ; though experience has shown that there is nothing better for the spiritual life of the churches than activity in foreign work.

Why then send the Gospel to Japan?—*Why send it anywhere?* Largely on account of three facts :

1. Because the human heart is everywhere deceitful and desperately wicked. The Japanese have culture, refinement, and politeness in a high degree ; but these qualities are, in Japan, as well as in ancient or modern Athens, often associated with great personal corruption. A young Japanese, with a motive to an extent avowedly selfish, pro-

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