

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY NOTICES,

MAY, 1874.

JAPAN.

WE grace this number of the "Notices" with two letters from our esteemed brethren who have commenced our first Foreign Mission, grateful to GOD for His guidance and preservation of them and their families. Although the Committee had made liberal provision for the establishment of a Mission at Yedo, there may be the hand of Providence directing the removal of one of them to the interior of the country, as stated by Mr. COCHRAN. The subject has not yet been referred to by Dr. McDONALD, but as we have all confidence in their exercise of a calm judgment controlling their zeal for success in their Mission, we await the result without anxiety. They are both making good progress in the acquirement of the Japanese language.

From the Rev. George Cochran, dated Yokohama, January 21st, 1874.

Your letter of November 4th was received some time ago, also the Reports and Notices. Many thanks for your kindness.

We have lately made some changes in the line of progress. On Monday, the 12th inst., Dr McDonald removed to Yedo. We are not quite sure, however, that his stay there will be permanent, and for this reason: an opportunity has offered for the opening of a Mission in the interior of the country. It came in the following way:—

Early in October I went in company with a Missionary of the Presbyterian Church for a short tour of two or three weeks into the country. We went to a place called Shidzuooka, a large city, capital of the province of Surunga, and the retreat of the late Tycoon, who is there in exile. About 6,000 of the Samouri, or two-sworded military class, are there also with their families, living in retirement, since the feudal system was abolished in 1869.

We found there an American, Mr. E. W. Clark, of N. Y., in charge of a government school, and he entertained us courteously during our stay. He has since removed to another school in Yedo. While in Shidzuooka I became acquainted with some of the people. Among others with a Mr. Hitomi, the

most enterprising and business like Japanese I have yet seen,—a man of considerable influence in his city and Province. Shortly after my return I received from him an invitation to go to Shidzuooka and open a private school under his direction, for the instruction of the young people in English; and with it full permission to teach the Bible and Christianity. He desired to have his purpose go into effect as soon as possible after Mr Clark's removal to the capital. We concluded that such an opening for the planting of a Mission in the heart of the country, should not be permitted to pass unimproved, and as I could not very well take my family to such a place immediately, Dr. McDonald, having no children, consented to go. So I answered the invitation by offering his services. The offer was accepted. But after some correspondence on the subject it seemed as though Government, jealous of foreigners, would interpose insuperable difficulties. In the meantime Dr. McD. removed to the capital and took rooms at a hotel, that he might be on the outlook for a house of some kind in which he might reside until his own should be built. Yesterday, however, the matter with Mr. Hitomi was resumed, and we had a pleasant interview with him at my