

labor, a great change for the better is seen. By the grace of God, Bro. Pierce and his co-workers in the interior are laying a foundation on which those people will, we trust, build a manly Christian character. They now seem more eager to hear the Word of Life: their personal habits are more cleanly.

On one day three tribes, whose villages are almost in line, the outside ones being nearly 300 miles apart, came to us, begging us to send them teachers, one of whom to be a white man. How sorry we were not to be able at once to say: Your desire shall be granted. We do hope these oft-repeated Macedonian cries will be answered before long.

Now we are on our new field, Port Simpson, and if God gives us a measure of success commensurate with that of our predecessor, we shall have abundant cause for gratitude.

### JAPAN.

Letter from REV. Y. HIRAIWA, dated AZABU, TOKYO, Oct. 18th, 1888.

MISS MUNRO and I safely arrived at Yokohama, the landing port of my native land, on the 15th ult., and since then I have been thinking of writing you, and my dear friends in Canada through you, but have been prevented till this hour. I had a pleasant journey all the way through from Toronto to Vancouver, B.C., both on the train and on the blue, beautiful waters of Lake Superior. I stopped at Winnipeg—that wonderful city on the prairie—for two days, Saturday and Sunday, the 11th and 12th ult., and Mr. Rutledge was very kind in making my stay there quite comfortable, and taking me all over the city for a ride. I had very good meetings on the Sunday there in the two churches, Zion and Grace, especially in the latter church in the evening, when it was full, and the congregation was very attentive. Of course, you had the meetings of the Board of Missions there since, and I hope you had a very glorious time. The journey on the train over the monotonous prairie is very tiresome, as ever, but the scenery along the old Rockies is simply grand and beautiful; and then I had very pleasant company this time, which made my travel very enjoyable. Miss Munro, the Metropolitan missionary lady to Japan, and Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Wright, the missionaries of the Society of Friends to Japan, all the way from Toronto; and Mr. Davis, an American gentleman, who was going to see his missionary daughter in Japan, joined us at Winnipeg. We all came to Vancouver by the 16th ult., with the full expectation of leaving there on the 21st, but were disappointed, as the steamer *Abyssinia* did not come back from San Francisco at the appointed time, where she went for cargo, and she did not start for Yokohama till the evening of the 28th. Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, of Toronto, who were coming to Japan as missionaries of the Church of England, joined us there, and some others also, but we all had to wait impatiently for the steamer. I did not, however, spend all the time in idleness there, as Mr. Robson, the President of the British Columbia Conference, arranged meetings for me at different places. I went to the old city of Victoria, and preached in two churches on the Sunday, and gave a missionary address on a week night. I attended the Chinese mission service there, when I gave a short address for the Chinese through Mr. Gardiner as my interpreter, and also visited the Rescue Home for Chinese girls, where I talked to the girls in English, as well as through Chinese characters I wrote on the blackboard. They understood me very well. There are two idol temples in the Chinese section of the city, which are gorgeously

decorated, and where the Chinese population go to worship the idols by burning incense. Mr. Gardiner and Miss Leake, the matron of the Chinese home, are doing a very noble work among the Chinese, but it is not an easy work at all—a great deal of faith, courage and patience being peculiarly needed.

I went also to Nanaimo, where I gave a missionary address; and to New Westminster, a small, yet very pretty town, twice to preach and to give a missionary address. And I once preached and once gave a lecture on Japan, at Vancouver city; and the meetings at all the places were very good and well attended.

The voyage from Vancouver to Yokohama was not so pleasant as we wished, the most of the time having been cloudy and raining, and the wind mostly against us, which made it two or three days longer than the usual voyage, and also made the sea rough and high occasionally. I was not sick at all, except that I was slightly affected for a time on the first day by the others' sickness. The accommodation of the steamer was very much better than the *Port Victor*, in which I went; and the fellow-passengers were very nice indeed. There were about twenty-nine saloon passengers, of whom fourteen were missionaries and near friends related to missionaries. Four of them were going to China, and all the rest to Japan. There were three other Japanese gentlemen besides me, one of whom was a graduate of our Imperial University, of Tokyo, and was in Scotland for two years, investigating the mining system there; and the other two were in the United States for one year, the one being a silk merchant and the other an electrician, and all were on their way home. They were not Christians though. Miss Munro and I had the scriptural study for ourselves every morning on the train before we came to Vancouver, and while we were detained in that city, and when I was not away for meetings, we continued the task, to which Mr. and Mrs. Wright, and Mr. and Mrs. Robinson joined, as they were staying in the same hotel, so a small Bible-class was formed there. The practice was continued even after we came to the boat, and the circle was enlarged, as all the other missionaries and Christians joined us, and thus we had morning service every day in connection with the study of the Bible, and the praise service every evening during the voyage; and, also, we had preaching on the two Sundays we had to spend on the boat, Dr. Farnham, of China, having preached once, and I the same. I do not think that any other single steamer had ever carried such a large number of missionaries at one time from the West to the East, and also Christian passengers ever had such a pleasant time and sweet family gatherings on the ocean boat as we had. The gathering represented Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Friends, Baptists, and Lutherans; and all the meetings were not confined among us, but others were invited, not in vain, as some came and enjoyed the services. I gave a lecture on Japan one evening to the general hearing in the saloon, with the Captain's permission, through the request of those among the passengers who did not hear me at Vancouver; and Dr. Farnham, a Presbyterian missionary in China for the last twenty-nine years, and now returning again to his field of labor from his short visit to his home in America, gave us an account of his own work in China one afternoon. We had other means to kill the time; that is, those who were going to Japan as missionaries had some lessons in Japanese by me, whenever the sea was not too rough, and I gave them and others two lectures on Japanese letters besides at different times. When we came near Yokohama, you can imagine what an excitement there was among the passengers, and especially among us Japanese, whose hearts were filled with nothing but the idea of "Home, sweet home." Quite many of my friends were waiting for my arrival at Yokohama for the two pre-