

missionary, now on furlough among us, seems especially qualified for this work, as his published volume of Lectures bears evidence, and our Church in Japan is placed in a proud position by remarkable success of its schools and by his success as lecturer and preacher on these great themes. We regret that his health has been so impaired by his labours, and trust that he be so restored as to do valiant battle for the truth in the land that he loves so well.

SUMMER VACATIONS.

The practice of taking a short summer vacation is becoming every year more common among the toilers in the city's busy hives. Almost every mercantile establishment arranges to let its employees have a week or a fortnight off during the sultry season. Where this is not practicable, the early closing movement or the Saturday half-holiday furnishes the opportunity for rest and relaxation—re-creation in its true etymological sense—for the weary workers in factory or store. With this movement we are in hearty sympathy. The o'erstrung bow will break at last. It will recover elasticity and strength by being for a time relaxed. Provision is being made near all the centres of population, by means of parks and summer resorts, for the enjoyment of the pure air and green fields—for getting near to nature's heart and, Antæus-like, recovering strength from the embrace of mother-earth. Those whose happy lot is cast in the country can scarce conceive the deep delight the denizens of the crowded city enjoy at the sight of the broad uplands waving with green or golden grain; of the deep umbrageous woods; of the wealth of sunlight flooding the fields; of the silent shadows stealing across the landscape. It gives tone to jaded nerve and brain, and brings colour to the cheek and strength to the frame.

Yet sometimes summer resorts become occasions of dissipation, mental and physical, instead of restoration. An unhealthy craving

after excitement and diversion becomes as wearing as work. We rejoice at the multiplication of summer resting places under wholesome Christian auspices, such as are found at Grimsby Park—where we write—and at Wesley Park, St. Lawrence Central Camp Ground, and the whole chain of Chautauqua Assemblies from Framingham, Mass., to the Yosemite. Here rest and recreation, and instruction, and religious improvement are delightfully combined—the maximum of enjoyment with the minimum of expense. It is a great mistake for busy people to seek rest in doing nothing. They will find it the hardest work they ever did. Better take up some useful reading, or light study, and do something at it every day. Life is too short and time too precious to waste it in idleness. In one vacation we read the whole of Macaulay's History. In another the whole of Gibbons' Rome. At present we read and write till about four, and then go for a long tramp over the hills. The evenings are given to social enjoyment, and religious or other meetings. The days pass very fast, and we realize that

Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose.

THE WEALTH OF NATURE.

Few things more strikingly impress the dweller in the town or city as he comes into unwonted contact with the seemingly infinite variety of life in the country than the wonderful wealth of nature. It fairly teems with life, of strangely varied form and beauty, and most marvellous adaptation to the conditions of its existence. As I sit beneath a tree in this beautiful Grimsby Park, within reach of my hand, without moving from the spot, I count eighteen distinct species of plants. On the tree against which I lean are eight distinct species of lichens. If I sit still a moment I find the insect life swarming round me still more varied in species. Under my glass the wonders of leaf, and flower, and seed, of a butterfly's wing or a fly's