

Along the Line.

JAPAN.

Letter from REV. DAVIDSON McDONALD, M.D., dated 4 Tsukiji, Tokio, Feb. 28th, 1881.

As to our work—while it is not without difficulties incident to labour in lands that are not Christian, we have had the joy of gathering some fruit for the Master whom we serve.

We have been encouraged with our work at the Shitaya appointment. It is only a little over a year since we built a church there and commenced the preaching of the Gospel. Twenty-three souls have been won for Christ. Eleven of the number became candidates for baptism in connection with a special service that we held in November. We were greatly cheered. The meetings were times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

Last Sabbath we held our Quarterly Meeting there. The Love-feast was one of the best that I ever attended. The second person who spoke was the first-fruit of our work in Shitaya. He is an excellent man about sixty-five years of age. Christianity brought a great joy to his heart. A few months ago it seemed to us that the Master was about to call him from the Church below, to the Church above. Mr. Hiraiwa, who does the pastoral work at Shitaya, visited him in his illness, and after they had talked for a time, the old gentleman, with tears streaming from his eyes, and with words that reminded me of Simeon's joy on seeing the Lord's Christ, gave thanks to God that he had been permitted to see the coming of Christianity and to receive this salvation into his heart. He then told Mr. Hiraiwa about his mother. He said that "she was a woman who went about doing good, that she used to visit the sick, feed the hungry, and help the distressed, but that years ago she passed away from earth." He wished to know if his mother, dying without hearing of Christ, could be saved. Mr. Hiraiwa explained to him that Christ was the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He also told him of the teaching of the apostle in regard to the Gentiles, which have not the law, yet do by nature the things contained in the law. When he saw that there is a provision in the Gospel by which his mother might be saved, his joy was very great. Thank God for a Gospel sufficiently comprehensive to save the good even amid the darkness of heathenism.

Shortly after the beginning of our Love-feast there was a slight commotion at the church door. One of our members, an aged woman, a paralytic, was being borne to the house of God. She was carried into the church and seated on the floor near the communion rail. After she had been made comfortable we sang, "Jesus Loves Me." Tears of joy ran down the cheeks of the invalid. She too, in old age, had found the pearl of great price.

It is a joy to be permitted to preach the Gospel here. I often think of the time that is surely coming, when the last stronghold of idolatry shall have capitulated, when this land throughout its whole extent shall have become a Christian land. It may take years and years of generous giving, of faithful prayer, of earnest work, before this shall be achieved. A people who have a civilization, fixed institutions and elaborate systems of religion, cannot be gathered into the Christian fold so quickly as uncultured races, but the Gospel can win and save the world and the millions of Japan shall yet yield to its power.

During the past year, there has been a remarkable increase in the circulation of the Scriptures. Bible agents and colporteurs are going throughout the whole empire, prosecuting their work with encouraging success. Shall not this seed of the Word grow and bring forth fruit abundantly?

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

An interesting feature of our Indian work on the Pacific Coast is the extent to which native converts are employed both as teachers and evangelists. Bro. Crosby sends two letters which he had received from one of these laboreers, and we gladly publish them as evidence that God is sending forth some "living epistles" among the dark tribes on the coast. *Amsit*, referred to in the following letter, is an influential chief who has since come in with his people and settled at Bella-Bella, our new mission.

Letter from W. H. PEIRCE, Native Teacher, to REV. THOS. CROSBY, dated Bella-Bella, August 24th, 1880.

The good work here still going on well. Our members still increasing. Two houses from *Amsit's* place came over to settle here while *Amsit* was away. I suppose by this time you have got back from Skeena River. I received your kind letter and the books. The steamer got in here Thursday night, Charly, *Amsit*, and Mr. Clayton on board. Charly told me that Mr. Smith told him Mr. Tate will be up when the boat comes back. May God fill Bro. Tate with the holy fire—this the pray of my heart. The people are going away for their salmon now. Dear brother, I wish to say a few words to you from my heart, because you are the Superintendent in this district. I never forget your good promise to me four years ago, that the Missionary Society will take me in if I am faithful. I wish you would write to them, as I want them to help me. It is through you that I gave my heart to Jesus seven years ago in Victoria. Ever since that I have a hope which this world knows nothing about it. I have my trials and sorrows, yet I have one desire to do the will of my Master. When I saw how God has being very good to me, I could not help shedding tears while I write this letter. God bless you and your family—this is my daily pray. I thank God for answering our pray for the missionary to be send here. I know it is through your helping me since I started to pointing people to the Lamb of God, that I enjoy this blessed religion in my own heart every day, and I wish to thank you for all your great kindness to me. The poor people asking me every day "how long before the lumber come up?" I always tell them "bye-and-bye." Please give my love to Mr. Tate and his wife. Remember me to all dear friends in your class.

P.S.—One of *Amsit's* women left him; she came over here and join our school.

From W. H. PEIRCE to REV. THOS. CROSBY, dated Port Essington, December 2nd, 1880.

Since I wrote you last, I have been trying my best to do all I can to help these poor people, not without looking to Him who promise to be with us in every time of need. I have a good little school; 28 children attend every day. Also, I have start a class-meeting, which great help to us. I have a Bible-class also. I had no sleep for last two nights. We have a big wind, three houses blown down, and two of Mr. Cunningham's boats break in pieces. The people say they never saw such big wind before. I am staying in Bill Williams' house. I hold school in the same house which you tell me. I been over to see Mr. Dempster; they are very kind to me. One old woman died last week belonging to this place. I feel a thirst for knowledge. I pray to God that He will teach me by His grace to know more of His will. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

I often felt in my own soul, in going from country to country, there was One before us to prepare our way in preaching His own truth amongst these poor dark Indians. I still beg you to pray for us. I trust God will revive His work this winter in this place. I am well. So with all the friends. Mrs. Cunningham sends her love to you and all the friends. Please remember me to all my dear friends—tell them God's spirit is still working in the hearts of these people. We had very cold weather for two days. Dear brother, I may have no chance to write you again, so I wish you and Mrs. Crosby a very happy Christmas and also a happy New Year. God bless you all. Amen.

PARAGRAPHS.

This, then, is the *Gospel theory of Missions*: The whole world is in a condition of condemnation through sin, which sin abides in the soul, naturally; Christ has, by his death, made the salvation of every man possible, and has ordained and set in order the agencies by which all men may be saved. The condition of salvation on the part of the individual is faith in Christ, without which there is no promise of life to any responsible person. In order to the exercise of this faith, there must be some knowledge of Christ; and in order that all may have that knowledge, our Lord commanded his apostles, and through them, all to whom a dispensation of the Gospel may be given, to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." To question or cavil in respect to the sincerity of this commandment, or the sole efficiency of the remedy it proposes, is the part of neither wisdom nor piety.—Rev. Dr. Curry in *Methodist*.

A Hindu Christian, who used to be always grumbling at the smallness of his salary, made up his mind to give one-tenth to God. So next pay-day, when the missionary handed him, as usual ten rupees, he pushed back one of them, saying, "That is for God's work, sir."

The missionary took it, but wondered much how the man who was really poor and had a large family, would get on without it. Meeting him two or three weeks after in the bazaar, he asked how they were doing. Instead of grumbling, as usual, the man answered cheerfully, "Well, thank you, sir."

"Then tell me how it is that you who used to be always grumbling when you were spending your ten rupees a month on yourself, now do so nicely with on'y nine?"

"Because, sir, nine-tenths with God's blessing, is better than ten-tenths without it."

As God's wisdom saw it best to use humanity for atonement, so the same wisdom sees it best to use humanity for preaching that atonement. A Man-Christ Jesus was the best to save men; men missionaries are the best to tell men how to be saved. We are working upon the lines of the best possible plan, when we go forth poor weak men to tell the story of the Man who died upon the cross, and to try to bring sinful men to Him that they may be saved. Let us not be daunted by our weakness. God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound things that are mighty.

The United States revenue cutter *Thos. Corwin* found that 500 of the 700 inhabitants of St. Lawrence Island, near Behring Straits, Alaska, had died of starvation. The traders had introduced liquor there, which caused them to neglect laying up their usual supply of provisions. When will the public sentiment of the country demand that Congress provide both law and government for that large section of our land?

"Don't you lay too much stress on missions?" O no, brother; and if you will think a little you will see why. Millions are dying in China who never heard of Jesus, while we are living in our ease, and just ahead of us the grave, the archangel's trump and the eternal judgment. O no, we do not lay too much stress on missions. But we believe with all our heart that "Jesus Christ by the grace of God, tasted death for every man," and that we are responsible for the results of the work he died to achieve. The harvest is white, the fields are wide, the call resounds from every land. Can we be saved if we don't give the heathen the bread of life?

The Hindoos call their great river, the Ganges, "Mother Gunga;" and another sacred river, the Godavery, is honored by those who dwell on its banks with the same name. A Brahmin who embraced the gospel three or four years ago at Nasik, a city on the Godavery, said, "If I were still a devotee I should be sitting on the water's edge of the Gunga, and people would come to bless themselves in my name. Now I am here a poor sinner; but I have my Gunga. My Gunga is the blood of Jesus."—*Gleaner*.

Since Christian Missions have been established in Japan the cause of education has advanced there greatly. In a population of 33,580,000, there have been organized 18,712 public schools, and, 2,356 private schools, with 1,973,000 pupils. There are fifty-one normal institutes, with 5,022 pupils; twenty-one government colleges, with 3,072 students. Most of these schools are supplied to a greater or less extent with Christian teachers.

As a proof of the rare flexibility and precision of the Japanese language, it is stated that Dr. Nathan Brown, in translating the New Testament into that tongue, was obliged to transfer only two words—"amen," and "hyssop."

The Rev. Dr. N. Brown, Missionary in Japan of the American Baptist Union, writes that he has completed the translation of the New Testament into the Japanese. He says since his arrival in Japan, six and a half years ago, his time has been about equally divided, exclusive of his regular missionary duties, between the study of the language and translating. He doubts "if there is any Eastern language into which the New Testament could be translated in a shorter time, or one capable of expressing more naturally and truthfully the thought of the original."

Shall we let Japanese students outdo us? Of a College lately established in Japan it is said that the officers and all the students have signed a paper solemnly promising "to abstain entirely from the use, in any form except as medicines, of opium, tobacco, and alcoholic liquors, and also from gambling and profane swearing, as long as we are connected with this institution."

DONATIONS TO SPECIAL OBJECTS.

The following have been received since the last Announcement, for which the Treasurers offer their grateful acknowledgements:—

FOR THE CROSBY GIRLS' HOME, PORT SIMPSON.

Rev. E. Teskey	\$4 00
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Streetsville Sunday School, per Rev. G. Browne	11 00

FOR THE McDougall Orphanage, Morley.

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A Lover of Missions	10 00
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