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# THE MISSIONARY SURVEY



SEPTEMBER, 1913



HOME  
MISSIONS

CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION  
AND  
MINISTERIAL  
RELIEF



FOREIGN  
MISSIONS

PUBLICATION  
AND  
SABBATH  
SCHOOL  
WORK

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.  
AT HOME AND ABROAD

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# THE MISSIONARY SURVEY

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ways have some 250 women and girls, and their neglected condition appeals to me strongly. The officers there say if we will just teach them clean, pure songs to take the place of obscene ones they now use, it will be a great thing.

Trusting the Lord of the harvest to thrust forth laborers into this needy field, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Takamatsu, July 19th.

## NOTES FROM NAGOYA

REV. W. C. BUCHANAN.

**R**ECENTLY I have had the joy of receiving into the church some new Christians who have manifested a spirit of conviction of sin that is all too uncommon in this country, and consequently also they exhibited an appreciation of the wonderful forgiveness and the love of God, that is too rarely seen among this people. To mention just two instances, one is the son of the mayor of the town of Seto, and the other an ignorant woman in the same town. I received the mayor's son some two or three months ago; and the woman, just mentioned, only last Sunday.

The one is well educated and of rather good family standing, the other with difficulty can barely read the Bible. Both were alike in this: that on examination I found they had a heart appreciation of the great truths of redemption such as I have seldom encountered among this people.

Last Sunday, while I was making a talk on the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the faces of both were lit with heavenly light, and yet they were quietly sobbing from time to time over their past sins and the sufferings of Christ for them. The best part of it all is that their unbelieving friends and relatives say of each that a most wonderful change has been brought



Rev. S. Sasamori and wife, the regular pastor at Okazaki, working with Misses Patton.

about. I rejoice in this remarkable testimony to the power of the Gospel of Christ, especially as it has come from families where each one of these is the sole Christian.

## “OPPOSED TO FOREIGN MISSIONS”

LOIS JOHNSON ERICKSON

**F**IVE hours together at a miserable little railway junction had made us very good friends indeed, so that their surprise on hearing that my home was in Japan was almost great enough to be called a shock. The man in the party

stroked his chin thoughtfully, while his wife was propounding the inevitable questions, and then he remarked with that polite, patronizing, irritating little smile, “I suppose I’m somewhat peculiar, but you know I don’t believe much in Foreign





One of Mrs. Erickson's Bible classes at the Independent Church at Takamatsu, Japan. Okawa San, the old man in the picture, conducts the class while Mrs. Erickson is in America.

Missions. *There are so many heathen at home.* "Yes," I replied, suppressing the longing to smile in return at his lack of originality, "and there are so many Christians to look after them!" And then I went on to insist that if the Christians at home would but do their duty, there would be no further truth in that old argument. "There is enough to do at home," people say. "Yes, but are you doing it? What are you doing for those around you? What have you done for the negroes in your town? What have you done for the children on the streets? Have you visited the sick and those in prison? Have you helped to wipe the saloon and the social evil from your city? If you are spending your life and your means in such work as this, you have some right to make this old excuse and say, 'There are so many heathen at home.'" But if you are doing nothing for those around you, don't you think it hypocritical to pretend that you are?

The second argument always is, "Well, the heathen religions are good enough for the heathen." *Are they?* The greatest shrine in all Japan is dedicated to the

worship of an alligator. Will the love of such a god as this fill men's lives with happiness and peace and the longing to make the most of the gift of life? Will it inspire to self sacrifice and love to one's fellow men? How many orphanages were supported by Buddhists before they began to imitate the Christians? How many homes were there for the poor, the helpless or the insane? What could they know of the hereafter or of the resurrection? The peasants of Japan worship the fox god; they pray to their sacred mountain peaks; they drink the bath water of their high priests. Are such religions good enough for any people?

"Ah, but the converts are 'Rice Christians!' They are in it for what they can get out of it." And what is that? Persecution, loss of position, estrangement of friends and loved ones. Yes, they become Christians for such rewards as this. Seki San was a Japanese teacher on a salary of eight yen a month, and yet she gave forty yen of savings toward the building of her church. Murakawa San was cast off by his relatives and so tormented that he finally came near losing his reason, but he walked eight miles to attend our Sunday services, returning late at night. Hiratake San risked his all for his Saviour and won. Tens of thousands of Chinese Christians suffered martyrdom in 1900. Were they in it for what they could get out of it?

"But the heathen will be saved anyhow. Why bother about them?" I have not so learned Christ. That they will be beaten with few stripes is His own teaching, but "Naught that defileth can enter into the gates of the City."

My friends, if our religion is worth anything, it is worth sharing. If Christ is our Commander, He is worthy of obedience. The paths which in His providence were closed so long are open now, and His children are heirs to the glorious privilege of carrying out His last instructions: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel unto every creature." And, who are we that we should smile and settle the question with a shrug as we say, "I am opposed to Foreign Missions?"