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HOKKAIDO STATION.

The work in the North has been growing. The missionaries are conscious of growth. Dr. and Mrs. Pierson and Miss Monk have been sorely missed, both “spiritually and materially.” Miss McCrory who came last September has been a great help in the school. Miss Evans has had heavy work all the year. “ She had more English classes than she had the year before and she has had charge of the music, formerly under the care of Miss Monk.” “ Membership on the Outlook Committee and the oversight of Dr. Pierson’s district have given Mr. Johnson a year of extensive travel ; one in which he has travelled over 5,000 miles.”

The missionaries in this station are : —

Dr. and Mrs. G.P. Pierson—Asahigawa (on furlough).

Rev. and Mrs. W.T. Johnson—Sapporo.

Miss S. C. Smith—Sapporo.

Miss A. M. Monk—Sapporo (on furlough) .

Miss C. H. McCrory—Sapporo.

Miss E. M. Evans—Sapporo.

Miss C. H. Rose - Otaru.

In spite of the depleted force the past year there have been gains in three directions ; church membership, Sunday School membership, and in new church buildings. "During the year, 103 persons were baptized, making the total enrolled membership of the presbytery 1,395. The gain in baptisms this year is just one less than the number reported last year. There are now 1,075 members enrolled in the Sunday School. Last year there were 891. If we add the children of the Sunday School conducted by Misses Evan, [*sic*] McCrory, Smith and Rose we should have at least 1,355 in our Sunday Schools. This is a very gratifying increase.

Mr. Johnson, in telling of the new chapel in Sapporo for which he had waited so long, writes:—

" In Sapporo we have at last succeeded in erecting a street-chapel to be used in work for the soldiers. There has been no place for them to spend their long Sundays during the winter and we have felt that a street-chapel, with books and magazines would draw them so that we could associate with and preach to them. We are also planning for the people in the neighborhood and are to have regular preaching Thursday and Sunday nights, and a Sunday School besides the work for the soldiers, on Sunday afternoon."

The work in the out-stations is very encouraging. Mr. Johnson mentions Nokkeuchi, [*sic*] where they raise great crops of peppermint, as having a new church. Gakuden also rejoices in a new building properly situated in the newly laid out town, and ready for the boom when the railroad comes. Saroma's new church building has a plot of ground which produces a small revenue to be applied to a church endowment fund. All of these places remind Americans of our great western country and early frontier days. The work among the steel workers at Muroran is " full of hope." Mr. Johnson writes:—

" There were thirty out to the meeting which was held in the home of one of the steel workers. Of these thirty about twenty-five were not Christians. These young men were greatly interested in the meeting and came out to the service in Muroran church on the following morning. They remained to a social gathering in the afternoon and enjoyed themselves immensely. The men have now arranged to open a preaching-place at this place and are to have

magazines, periodicals, etc. for the convenience of the workers. We hope to make this a center of an uplifting movement. It has been hard work trying to find a road of approach to these busy but lonely men and we feel greatly encouraged.”

“ One very gratifying experience of the year was the baptizing of a whole family of six, and a sister-in-law of the family, at Seien. The head of the family had long been a student of Buddhism but had recently turned towards Ninomiya Sontoku, one of the great teachers of Confucianism in Japan, for spiritual help. His wife became ill and he called in the village doctor whom I had baptized about six months before. The doctor began to talk about the virtue of Christianity and soon had the man in a receptive frame of mind. When I arrived the wife was still confined to her bed but was anxious to receive baptism. I assembled the family by her bedside and after examining them, baptized the seven.”

HOKKAIDO EDUCATIONAL.

In the reports of the educational work there is the same cheering note that there is in the evangelistic work. The entering class in HOKUSEI GIRL'S SCHOOL is the largest in several years. Twenty-two graduated in March, and the entering class numbered twenty-five, and if the usual September increase prevails this year the number of students will be much larger. Miss Smith writes :—

“From April to April, twelve pupils and one teacher have received baptism, the teachers now being all Christians excepting one. Since the beginning of the year eight more have united with the church and two former pupils who left last year without finishing. Altogether there are at present thirty-five baptized Christians and nineteen unbaptized in the school out of a total of one hundred and three.

The Junior and Senior Christian Endeavor Societies, under the care of Miss Evans and Miss McCrory have a very recognizable spiritual influence in the school.”

While Hokusei Girls' School rejoices in a new residence for the teachers and feels very grateful for even that addition, repairs on the old school building are “ a vital necessity.”

Miss Smith writes :—

“No one remarks on the appearance of our building, however, being far too polite. Excepting the chapel annex, which was added three years ago and painted, the buildings look like a person in the throes of small pox—most unsightly! Our campus with basket ball, tennis and swinging-pole help to attract attention from the disreputable appearance of the buildings.”