

BISHOP MCKIM'S SERMON ON JAPANESE MISSIONS.

Sunday afternoon Trinity church was crowded by a congregation that came to hear the Right Rev. John McKim, D.D. tell of his work in Japan. Bishop McKim has been a missionary in Japan for nearly twenty-five years and in 1893 was made Bishop of Tokyo. Being a man of unusual zeal and intelligence he has gained the respect and confidence of all classes in the Empire and few men are better qualified to speak of conditions in Japan.

Before leaving Tokyo last August the Bishop was sent for by Count (?), the Prime Minister, and requested to say to the people of America that the Japanese government is greatly desirous of the friendship of America and is in no sense hostile to the Christian religion, and that if the Japanese are successful in their present war with Russia no fear need be entertained of "the Yellow Peril." On this subject the Japanese are very sensitive.

The Bishop briefly outlined the history of Christian missions in Japan, beginning with the work of St. Francis Xavier and his devoted colleagues in the Sixteenth Century, a work which resulted in the conversion of large numbers of Japanese, but which was checked by a violent persecution in which all Christians were required to recant or to suffer death.

The laws against Christianity were not removed from the statute books until 1873, but upon the opening of the treaty ports by Commodore Perry in 1854 they ceased to be enforced.

The first missionaries to enter the reopened field in 1859 were those of the American Episcopal church, and the missions, schools and charitable institutions which they established have been very successful and have exercised a wide influence for good. Some years later the missions of the English church and the American Episcopal church were united to form the "Nippon Sei Kokwai," the Japanese National church, a body which now has five resident Bishops and a large body of native and foreign helpers.

When the Roman missionaries re-entered the Empire forty years

ago they found the descendants of the martyrs still loyal to their religion and these people constitute the strength of the Roman mission today. The Bishop cited this as an instance of the steadfast loyalty of the Japanese Christians.

The Bishop paid a high tribute to the civilization, art and refinement of the people, but stated that their moral tone is lamentably low. The standard of their commercial morality is a byword in the East, and he quoted an American Consul-general, who said to him not long ago, that he came out to Japan prejudiced against foreign missions to so cultivated a nation, but that he had come to see that the money spent on missions was the best investment ever made by foreigners in Japan, and he stated that the graduates of mission schools were so superior morally to other educated Japanese that are everywhere in demand to fill positions of trust and responsibility.

The position of woman in Japan is still a sad and degraded one. Buddhism teaches that women have no souls and that they are only the slaves of men. The social vice is terribly prevalent and it is almost impossible to execute the laws which have been passed to restrain it, but the earnest and united efforts of the Christians is slowly bringing about a better state of affairs.

The chief religions of Japan are Shintoism and Buddhism. Shintoism is the national cult, of which the Emperor is the official head. It has received a marked impulse during the present war since it appeals to the national spirit of patriotism, but it cannot properly be called a religion since it has absolutely no moral code, and may be summed up in its own motto, "Honor the Emperor and follow your natural inclinations." It is essentially a glorification of the Empire and its ancient heroes.

The popular religion is Buddhism, which is very corrupt and has lost its hold upon the educated classes. It is a religion with no ideal of personal purity; it has no place of honor for woman and it never established a single hospital, orphanage or other charity.

The Bishop stated emphatically that what Japan needs to make it

a truly great nation is the ideal of the Christian religion. This fact is recognized by the leaders of thought in the Empire, who are most anxious to encourage the adoption of all that is best in Western civilization and who see that Christian morality is the best fruit of that civilization. Christianity has made rapid progress among the influential classes and already exercises an influence wholly out of proportion to the number of converts.

In closing, the Bishop appealed for aid to enlarge his hospital in Tokyo, which he stated to be the only hospital in the Empire open for the reception of foreigners.

The Bishop's address made a profound impression upon all who heard it and gave to many a new and better idea of the type of men the church is sending to the mission field.

Notice for Letting Contract

Board of Local Improvements of the City of Highland Park;

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested, that the bids for the construction of a sanitary sewer beginning at the intersection of the center line of Vine Avenue and the center line of St. John's Place and running thence west on Vine Avenue to the intersection of the center line of Vine Avenue with a line in First Street, said last line being forty-four (44) feet westerly from and parallel with the easterly line of First Street; from thence said sewer shall run northerly on First Street a distance of two thousand (2000) feet, which shall be the northerly terminus of said sewer. The sewer shall also run southerly from Vine Avenue on First Street for a distance of fifteen hundred (1500) feet. The sewer shall also run south along the center line of the Green Bay Road, a distance of one thousand eight hundred (1800) feet from the intersection of the center line of the Green Bay Road with the line of First Street sewer, were opened on the 22nd day of September, A. D., 1904, and James Cape & Sons being the lowest responsible bidder, the contract was awarded to said James Cape & Sons on the 22nd day of September, A. D., 1904. Said bid is for the work as a whole and is as follows:

5,680 lineal feet of 8-inch sewer, including 140 house connections @ 60c per foot.....	\$3,396.00
14 manholes @ \$25 each.....	350.00
3 flush tanks @ \$60 each.....	180.00
Total.....	\$3,926.00

The owners of a majority of the frontage of the lots and lands upon said line of sewers wherein said work is to be done may, within ten days from the date hereof, elect to take said work and enter into a written contract to do said work at ten per centum less than the price at which the same has been awarded.

ROBERT G. EVANS,
FRANCIS D. EVERETT,
JAMES H. SHIELDS,
Board of Local Improvements,
September 22, 1904. 17-18

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