

Kanazawa Japan.

September 13, 1887.

Mr. W. H. Belden

Bridgeton

Dear Sir:

You ask for instances "where Heathen have <sup>themselves</sup> voluntarily made known their own desire to have the Gospel brought to them or their people"

I would say that this has become so common in this part of Japan, that at this station we have adopted the following for our outstation work.

- 1- Whereas, the invitations <sup>are so numerous</sup> from towns and villages to give them the Gospel, and preachers are so scarce, resolved that we as far as possible open new preaching places only at those towns or villages whose people have expressed a desire to have us do so.
- 2- That we call upon those persons who send the invitations to be responsible <sup>at least</sup> for the expense of the preaching place from the beginning.

Last year the Gunsho, highest official of the largest county in this part of Japan sent repeated invitations to me and my helpers to visit his town (Kanao) and hold



Christian meetings. Being engaged in my School I could not go until July of this year. The place is about 45 miles distant. When we went we were aided in finding preaching place and stopping places both by this Guncho and by the Police. The best people of the town came out to our meetings, and they have agreed to be responsible for all expenses for a preaching place where we have established monthly meetings.

A young native evangelist has just left my study. He tells of a Copper mine in the mountains not far from where he lives. The mining Engineer sent word to him come and preach to the miners, of whom he had about 1700 under him. The preacher went. Arrangements have been made for monthly preaching to these ignorant miners.

A Major General of the Japanese army asked me to teach Christianity to him and his soldiers. Soldiers come to my house every Sunday for private instruction in Christianity, all of their own seeking. Our hands are full. We cannot begin to meet the demands. My students learn the truth, then teach it to their friends at home.

But now I wish to tell you a story which illustrates the power of Christianity upon this people. A man named Komori was a very bad man. He kept a shop to sell intoxicants and was said to be living with his 18th wife (the others still living) and very cruel to the present one, when he first heard the Truth. For some time he attended the meetings without expressing himself either for or against what he heard. At last he began to seek the friendship of the missionaries. The first I knew of the man was once on the eve of my departure for Osaka he came & bade me good bye. Then he invited a Bible woman to come & teach him & his wife. The Bible woman learned through the wife that he was already a changed man because of Xty; that he was kind to her and had ceased to sell (sake) beer. Soon he asked me to baptize him, but knowing his former character I had him to wait about a year. Finally he was baptized and became Deacon in the new church which was organized last Oct. '86. Soon after this he was confined to his room on account of lung trouble which rapidly developed into consumption. During his sickness I frequently visited him. I never saw a more patient



or happier sufferer. During almost  
a year, <sup>that</sup> he was kept in his room, he read  
the New Test. through & through, and wrote  
a commentary, (simply his own feelings  
and thoughts suggested by the passages) upon  
a large portion of it. Almost every  
verse in the book is marked and has been  
studied. He preached Christianity, we might  
say, to every one who went to see him.  
In his dreams he sometimes thought  
of some especially comforting passage  
of Scripture, and when he awoke would  
take his Bible and hunt it up.

He died last month full of peace  
and joy - a triumph of Grace, a  
wonderful example of faith, a ~~beloved~~  
brother beloved by all who knew him  
and now no doubt a glorified saint  
in Heaven. His life and death  
were a testimony which cannot  
soon be forgotten.

Yours fraternally,

J. B. Porter