

Board of Foreign Missions Report title page

THE
SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
Presented to the General Assembly, May, 1900.
New York:
Presbyterian Building, 156 Fifth Avenue.
1900.

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MISSIONARIES SENT OUT IN 1899-1900.

Japan.

Miss S. C. Smith, returning.

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HOKKAIDO: *Sapporo*—Sapporo is the capital of the Hokkaido (Yezo), 550 miles north of Tokyo ; Station occupied 1887 ; missionaries—Rev. George P. Pierson and Mrs. Pierson, Miss S. C. Smith.

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The Sapporo Girls' School, the Hokusei Jo Gakko, enrolled 113 pupils, 32 of whom are boarders. There were 12 baptisms during the year, including one of the teachers, who had long wavered, and some of the conservative older day scholars.

The result of the educational regulation¹ on our school has been to decrease its numbers from 113 enrolled last year at the same time to 50 at the present time (January 3, 1900). Having 12

children in our primary department, we were obliged either to dismiss them or to cease giving them instruction in the Bible. Of course we chose the former alternative. Besides this, 15 of our pupils between the ages of six and fourteen, the “school-going age,” as officially defined by the Governor of the Hokkaido himself (though the Tokyo authorities defined it to be from six to ten) had to go before the government primary-school authorities to pass an examination to prove that they had discharged their school obligations properly. All new pupils under fourteen have to undergo this examination, with the result that in one case at least a pupil [*sic*] who had applied was frightened off by this ordeal.

All the teachers employed in the school are Christians. Miss Smith, who returned from her furlough in September, and who has long borne a burden too great for one worker, will receive soon an associate in her work.

The city officials are most friendly to the school and urge making our course a little higher, so that graduates from the city school (about 100 graduate each year) could enter our school. As the course of our school is now, city school graduates must lose a half year if they enter our place. No government school, we are officially assured, of our high grade can be established for six years to come. We seem to have a clear field.

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LIST OF MISSIONARIES

OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A. AND THEIR ADDRESSES.

MAY, 1900.

DATE OF APPT	NAME.	MISSION.	POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.
1888	Pierson, Rev. and Mrs. George P.	East Japan	Tsukiji, Tokyo, Japan.

1880 Smith, Miss
Sarah C.

East Japan

Sapporo, Japan.

¹The Japanese government in August 1899 issued instructions requiring each child in Japan to attend a government school for at least a few years' time between ages 6 and 14. A special directive also forbade the teaching of religion or the holding of religious exercises in schools having government recognition and privileges. These restrictions applied even to privately funded schools. In response, some schools closed, and the enrollment of others was greatly reduced. Meiji Gakuin gave up government recognition and privileges rather than eliminate religious instruction and activities (1900 BFM Report, p. 141). The regulation was later eliminated.