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HOW ONE CANDLESTICK WAS SET IN ITS PLACE.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS.

I SHOULD like to make you acquainted with two Japanese girls who will be graduated this coming June. They have been with me on scholarships six years, or ever since the school was opened in Sapporo.

When looking about for girls to fill the scholarships I was told of one of these two, Miss Akagi, as a bright girl, fond of study, but whose family having suffered loss of property in the Restoration, as so many of the better class did, could not gratify her desire for an education. I sent our evangelist to see them. He remained a few

days holding services in the town and explaining Christianity to the parents and trying to persuade them to let me have the daughter to educate. They did not consent, but said they would consider the matter, so he left them his Bible and returned home. After a few weeks the father, having read the Gospels (the Bible translation was yet been completed), decided that it was a religion that would not harm his daughter and, as she would not be compelled to believe, he allowed me to take her.

This study of the Bible led to the man's conversion, but he was directing physician of a hospital, and when the people learned that he had become a Christian they would have nothing to do with him, and, finally, the shops refused to sell him rice. This did not discourage him. He moved to Mombetsu, a larger town, where the people were more enlightened. There he gathered about him a few earnest, intelligent men like himself, and they studied the Bible together until, an ordained evangelist passing that way, they were baptized. That was the beginning of the Church that was founded there four years ago, which in two years gained a membership of one hundred, built a large church edifice, and supported their pastor. The first interest in Christianity and the origin of the Church in Mombetsu, it will be seen, were independent of any foreign aid. Now their pastor, having become interested in establishing an orphanage in the Hokkaido, has left them, and I hear the flock is not doing well, as might be expected with so scant instruction. I do not know of any foreigners having visited them, except myself, since the church was built, and what could I do? I have been begging the Mission to send some one to the Hokkaido to look after our work in such places, but they have no one to send. And when Dr. Thompson was willing to leave Tokyo and move North, there was a cry of "deficit" and no money for such work. You can scarce imagine what a disappointment it was to me. Now that the railroad from Sapporo to the West Coast is completed within ten miles of Mombetsu, I might visit there more easily than when I used to make the journey of one hundred miles by *basha* and pack-horse. But I am busy here and find it difficult to get away; besides I am not strong enough to do it. Let this Church in Mombetsu have a place in your prayers, that the few faithful ones may have their faith rewarded, and the Church be brought to a more hopeful condition. A foreign evangelist is so much needed there. Dr. Akagi is now living in Sapporo and is a deacon in our little Church.

Miss Kanasaki, the other scholarship-pupil, came with me from Hakodate. Both these girls are lovely Christians, and I am looking forward with pleasure to next year when they will help in the school. You ladies in America do not half realize how much good you are doing with your scholarships. Only five dollars a month (not that, for I have nine girls on six scholarships) and Miss Akagi's whole family—father, mother, brother, and sisters, with their families, all Christians, and a church built in Mombetsu, and she herself working hard in Sunday-school to teach others the Way of Life. Miss Kanasaki's family also accepted Christianity during the past year. You may hear the same testimony often from many sources where your bounty and prayers and labor have educated heathen girls.

Sarah E. [*sic*] Smith.

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MISS SMITH wrote from SAPPORO several months ago :

We are trying to build a church in Sapporo[.]

Last year the Mission complied with my request and asked the Board for one thousand dollars towards it, but it was not granted. The request has again been sent and I am anxiously waiting the result. The church people are pledged for all they can give towards the building. One member has pledged two dollars a month for a year, and I know that *all he has is his board and three dollars a month*. The membership though quite large is all of the middle and poorer class ; shop-keepers, bakers, photographers, government officers with salaries from \$15 to \$20 a month and large families to support. When I speak of shops and bakeries your mind turns at once to Broadway, perhaps, but what a contrast ! We have broad ways to be sure, the place is noted for having the finest streets in Japan, but that is all. The shops are merest toys compared with yours, and just now it is hide-and-seek to find them the snow being quite up to the roofs with only alley-ways from the main street to the doors.

#### INDUSTRIOUS GIRLS.

The school-girls are helping build the church. I rarely see them without their knitting. They are knitting morning, noon, and

evening ; knitting to and from dinner, to and from classes, while studying their lessons ; and still manage to recite well, for they know that if they do not they will be obliged to stop knitting. But it is slow work and poor pay. Eight cents for a pair of mittens and twenty cents for a pair of long stockings that could not be done in less than two weeks, for they must attend to their rooms, washing, mending, and take their turns at housekeeping, for the school keeps but one servant.

Your prayers are not unanswered, that even transient students might be benefited while with us. One who has been in school but a short time and objected to the study of the Bible, her parents being Buddhists who would have nothing to do with the subject of Christianity, was taken ill. After she returned home, her parents said, she would talk of nothing but her teachers and what they had taught her and she died praying to her teachers' God. Another married (only 15) turned back at the door with tears in her eyes whispered, " Teacher pray for me, I will pray." Such cases are not infrequent.