

HARTLEPOOLS EDITION OF "THE WORD ON THE WATERS."

Notes.

Rev. H. R. WANSEY, M.A.

The Reverend H. R. Wansey, who had held the post of Assistant Chaplain for about eighteen months, offered himself to the Church Missionary Society for service in Japan, and was accepted in October. He left the Station at the beginning of November but did not actually leave the country till January 12th, when he sailed from Southampton in the S.S. "Roon."

Mr. Wansey some years ago expressed a desire for foreign missionary work, but on medical grounds his offer could not be accepted. Since then he had on more than one occasion had foreign work of one kind or another brought before him. But the work in which he was engaged at Hartlepool, the conditions of which he described as "ideal," proved too strong an attraction, and after the last such occasion in the Spring of last year he wrote to the Chaplain saying he hoped to continue in it "for many years."

However, he again "heard the East a-calling," once more volunteered, and this time, breezy Hartlepool having apparently set him up in bodily health, he was accepted. The Chaplain and the Committee of the Missions to Seamen Society, seeing it was his earnest desire to bear a part in the great work of Foreign Missions, placed no obstacle in the way of his early departure, with the result already stated. His Station at first is to be Nagasaki, and any sailors who may be at that port and will look him up may depend on receiving a hearty welcome.

It was felt by the many friends whom Mr Wansey had made during his stay here, that he ought not to depart without some token of their recognition of his earnest work, and they, therefore clubbed together, gathered a few subscriptions, and presented two beautiful copies of the Holy Scriptures in the Japanese language, one a complete Bible, and the other a smaller New Testament for the pocket. These were sent, suitably inscribed and accompanied by a cheque for the balance of the subscriptions, with a letter expressing the best wishes, and promising the earnest prayers of Chaplain, workers, and friends at both branches of the Station.

In acknowledging these gifts Mr. Wansey wrote the following letter desiring' that it might be published.

"SPEEDWELL,
REGENT STREET,
HARTLEPOOL,
NOVEMBER 5TH, 1903.

" Dear Mr. Jacka,

"At the hour of my leaving Hartlepool after nearly twenty months of happy work in the Seamen's Mission at the Hartlepoons, I write a few lines to thank you, and all the friends I am leaving behind, for the beautiful presentation you have all made me. For the cheque and the Japanese Bible and Testament I feel I cannot I thank you enough.

" I trust that God will give me grace and power to master the difficult language, and as I study God's word I shall often have happy memories of those who have so liberally subscribed to give me such a magnificent and such a precious gift.

"I ask once again for your prayers on my behalf, that through them the heathen may be converted unto God, through Jesus Christ; and I also pray that the work for God amongst seamen at the Hartlepoons may be increasingly blessed, that sailors going out into all the world from this port may be true messengers and ministers of the gospel.

" With sincere thanks to you and all who have helped and are helping for the extension of God's Kingdom among sailors in the Hartlepoons,

"I remain, ever yours sincerely,

"H. R. WANSEY."

[Underneath on same page in the album on a handwritten note]

THE JAPANESE GENERAL MISSION

was founded in trhe summer of 1906