

## Intelligence.

### A Chinese Presbytery.

Mr. Mackenzie of Swatow has been visiting Amoy after a lengthened interval, and sends home a very graphic account of what he saw. Here is his description of a meeting of the Amoy Presbytery:—

"On the 22nd of April the Presbytery met in Tekchhinkha Chapel, in Amoy, and I, for the second time, enjoyed the privilege of being present. In 1865 I was at Baypay at one of the earlier meetings of the Amoy Presbytery, on which occasion there were 7 or 8 foreign missionaries, 2 native pastors, and 7 or 8 elders. Now in 1874 there were only 5 missionaries, but there were 3 Chinese pastors, and 14 or 15 elders. It was a goodly sight that Chinese Presbytery, telling of healthy growth, and of healthy indigenous growth. One of the native pastors, being the retiring Moderator, preached a good sermon on the text, John xv. 3; then Dr. Douglas was chosen Moderator, and the Presbytery constituted. A native pastor was Presbytery Clerk, and he was ably assisted by a very intelligent and promising licentiate; and it was quite a sight to see the business way in which they went to work—calling the roll, calling for the elders' commissions, &c. I had the honour of being associated, and on the second day of the proceedings addressed the court shortly, giving some account of the way in the Swatow region. The Amoy and Swatow dialects are so closely allied that the greater part of what I said was readily understood, and I was able to make out all that was said by the brethren. It was somewhat amusing to hear Dr. Douglas addressing me, conveying the fraternal regards of the Presbytery and their sympathy with us at Swatow, &c.; and saying all this in Chinese, not in our own mother tongue! I felt deeply interested in all that was done at the meeting of Presbytery. It occupied part of two days—that is, the afternoon of Wednesday and the forenoon of Thursday; the two 'sederunts' occupying fully seven hours, and showing a good amount of earnest work. An admirable paper was read by Pastor Yiap, of the Tekchhinkha Church, on the inhuman practice of binding women's feet; and the several congregations will soon have this matter brought before them in such a way as is likely to lead to the Christians setting themselves decidedly against a custom so irrational and so cruel.

"Then a report was given in by the Sustenance Fund Committee appointed at the previous meeting of Presbytery. This subject thoroughly interested all pres-

ent, and was discussed in a way that showed much appreciation of its importance. Almost all the Chinese elders spoke on the subject, and seemed pleased that a plan for the fund had been drawn up. A deputation, consisting of Mr. Swanson and two native pastors and elders, was appointed to visit the congregations and report to next meeting of Presbytery."

### From Formosa.

Rev. G. L. Mackay, the Missionary of the Canada Presbyterian Church in Formosa, writes to Rev. Mr. Reid, Toronto:

The inhabitants are farmers and fishermen. From 6 to 20 attended service here since I began to preach until a few months ago. They said that it was very difficult to come here every Sabbath, because they could not always get a boat to cross the harbour, and on that account would like to build a chapel for themselves. The difficulty I knew well from experience, as I had to stand many a time two hours under a burning sun or torrents of rain waiting for a boat. I told them to build a chapel themselves, and thus show what their motives were. In two months they built a splendid chapel in the centre of the plain, and on the 22nd March I opened it, and preached to a crowded house. The building was not plastered, however, until last week. The enemy thus seeing the work steadily advancing, resolved on an attack. Accordingly, last Saturday, a sorcerer, pretending to be under the influence of a spirit, led an idolatrous procession in front of the chapel, cut the tip of his tongue with a knife, performed numerous superstitious rites, made an attempt to destroy the wall in front of the chapel, then left in rage. All these doings did not move a single hearer of the Gospel. Blessed be Jehovah of Hosts! When there my attention was directed to a large stone on the side of the hill, which the people began to worship this year. I wanted to see it, but it is evident the blind devotees would rather see me in the bottom of the sea. I set out however, and was followed by an immense crowd, who seemed displeased. Arriving at the stone, they gathered around it as if ready to protect the poor god, for they said he was afraid of "Western Barbarians." This is a God, but not a graven image, for the chisel and hammer were never used to give it any definite shape. hard, solid, dead, and lifeless, there it stands. Surely their ten thousand gods failed them when they call upon this rock to help them. One poor deluded idolator came and worshipped when I was there. He called upon the rock in piteous tones to help himself and family, as they were in great want.