

NEW TROUBLES IN HONAN.

A ROMISH INVASION.

CHANG-TE-FU, HONAN,

June 11, 1896.

DEAR MR. MACKAY.—We are much perplexed about a new danger which threatens to absorb our infant church in North Honan. It is a Romanist invasion. In one town where we had a very encouraging work of about three years standing, the Romanists have captured almost the whole number of enquirers.

The inducements they offer are well nigh irresistible from a Chinese point of view. They promise to protect them from all persecution, to board any one free of charge who will go to them to study the doctrine, to provide free schools for the education of their children, and promise financial aid as well as promising to employ as many as possible.

In the town mentioned above the foreign priest took up his residence in the town until he had all into the Papist fold. We did expect that one man at least would hold out. He was a scholar and seemed so grounded in the Gospel, but the promise that he might still worship as we had taught him, as well as the promise of permanent employment, caused him to fall into the net of Rome.

We knew that they were trying to induce some of our converts to the South East of this city to join them. We took steps to warn the converts of the designs of Rome and cautioned them about being misled. Imagine our disappointment when we found that eight men, the representatives of our work in that region, had gone over to the Romanists. This happened about two weeks ago. It means the sweeping away in a week of the work of years.

Some of them have been seen, and they say they don't leave us because the Papists preach a better doctrine, indeed they say they don't believe in the doctrine that it is necessary to salvation to believe in and own allegiance to the Pope of Rome, but present necessity forces them to take the step.

Many of them are poor men. The priest has offered to give several of them a free education for two years, and at the end of that time will take them on as teachers. Others are promised temporal aid. Free schools are to be started in two of the towns for the education of their children, while all have been promised protection from their persecutors.

We could offer no such inducements, and we have a horror of making "rice Christians."

These priests prove themselves to be the offspring of the father of lies because they have lied about us in every imaginable way. Among other things they told our people that it would be vain to look to Protestants for aid or protection in time of persecution, for, said they, the

Protestants have no consuls or ambassadors in China and cannot protect themselves even.

We cannot fight Rome by competing with them in buying up the people, but we will continue to preach the word and let the light shine in.

I am sorry to have to tell you of these things, but the Church should know through you that danger threatens the cause in Honan.

Let the people of the Lord unite in prayer for us. One of the brethren remarked the other day that this was the most discouraging thing we had met with since commencing work in Honan.

Yours sincerely,

J. GOFORTH.

THE NEW HEBRIDES SYNOD.

The New Hebrides Mission Synod met at Anelgauhah, Aneityum, 3-10 June. The minutes of Synod covered sixteen closely written pages of foolscap, copied by the manifold process. The items recorded are numbered consecutively, 69 in all, some of them consisting of several sub-sections similarly numbered. This makes them very convenient for reference, and might with advantage be followed in the Records of our Church courts at home.

Four new missionaries were present, viz. Rev. Thompson MacMillan, from the Presbyterian Church of South Australia, Rev. Frederic Gatherer Bowie, from the Free Church of Scotland, and Revs. F. H. Paton, and James Sandilands, from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. This is one of the largest accessions ever made to the mission staff at one time.

Messrs. MacMillan and Paton are to settle in Tanna. Mr Sandilands, will also be stationed in Tanna if there is an available opening. This will make four missionaries on that Island. If there is no suitable opening there he will go to Santo or Malekula. Mr. Bowie is to be stationed on Santo.

The matter that occupied the largest share of the time of Synod was the "Dayspring." This is fully given on another page, as is the general condition of the work in the whole group. Mr. MacKenzie's interesting letter adds to the New Hebrides feast in this issue, so we will reserve some of the Synod's work for next month.

THE DAYSPRING

AND THE NEW HEBRIDES SYNOD.

THE New Hebrides Synod at its recent meeting, 3-10 June ult., after nearly two days discussion of the subject, resolved to:—

"Accept the Dayspring as the mission vessel to give her a fair and sympathetic trial."

They could not well do otherwise under the circumstances than give her a "trial."

These circumstances were as follows:—A year ago, after the vessel had been ordered by the Foreign Mission Committee of the Presbyterian