

A word of explanation may be added in connection with the number of the communicants reported as now in good standing. In the absence of Mr. Macrae, it was thought best not to receive any new applicants. The "Return" is therefore about as last year.

This field, more than others, has had trials and difficulties, but it is hoped that these are now things of the past. In the face of them all the work has prospered and the outlook for the future is very encouraging.

The past year's work is ended. It has been thoroughly enjoyed. There is but one regret—so little done.

Reviewing the past and looking forward to the future, we "thank God and take courage".

LETTER FROM REV. DR. MACKAY.

TAMSUI, FORMOSA, Oct. 17th, 1891.

REV. DR. MACLAREN,

MY DEAR BRO.—Nearly south of North Hill or Tai-tun Mountain and nestled at its base stands *Pak-tau*, a Chinese village, with upwards of 100 aborigines in hamlets around.—It is two hours sharp walk from here—three from *Bàng-kak* and four from *Sek-khau*. Sulphur springs roar in the vicinity and a warm medicinal stream runs within five minutes walk from our place of worship there. It was secured in the beginning of this year, but not formally opened till April 26th. Dr. Rennie referred to it in our report of the "Mackay Mission Hos." for 1890.

I had in view the establishment of a chapel here fully twelve years. We know that Scabies can be completely cured by bathing in these waters and Tinea in various forms can be so far removed that other medicines eradicate the *fungi* with increased facility. In conducting a Mission few things demand more attention than the placing of suitable men in right places. Who should be sent to *Pak-tau*? A young, able, earnest Chinaman whose wife is a *Pi-po-hoan* from the East coast and received six years instruction here.

But then a dozen other stations needed precisely such labourers. Hence the difficulty and anxiety connected with the superintendence of our Master's work here. I now report success attending the above appointment. Sab. 11th, Mrs. Mac. three children, women from the girls school and students from the college went to *Pak-tau*. The chapel was literally packed full, whilst scores sat on the branches of a tree in front. These could both see and hear, because boards were removed as the building was formerly a trading shop.

Here comes another important matter. Who should be speakers that day? Why, *Tim-Sui*, who was once a Taoist Priest, because his old associates, the *Lun à-téng* people were present.

Béng Tsu, an East coast man, and *Téng chheng* a native of *Sin-kéng* (he is a *B.A. Sin-tsai*) both *Pi-po-hoan*, because their blood related friends were amongst the hearers. Then four *Pi-po-hoan* women whose homes are in *Kap-tsu-láu* stood up and rang out "Jesus loves me," &c. because their Malayan sisters sat near by. These were followed by six Chinese Bible women from the girls school who sang, "Ther happy land," &c. because Mongolian cousins were listening. Profitable variety made the services of enjoyable interest. Not one was left without a suitable portion of the "bread of life."

I addressed them on Josh. 2, 4:15 and at the close called on them to decide for or against the world's Mighty Creator and Redeemer. Twenty-five women who were sitting on front benches rose and sang "I'm not ashamed to own my Lord."

Between 30 and 40 assemble every Lord's day. Three have already learned to read the Bible in Rom: Col. Twenty-five are able to repeat and sing 20 Psalms and hymns. Ten *Pi-po-hoan* women came out here yesterday purposely to see the Girls School—College—Museum &c. Agreeable and intelligent, they took a lively interest in all that pertains to our work here. Warmly welcomed by old and young they reciprocated fine feelings—sang at our eve-meetings, and left this morning hopeful and happy. One of our students photographed the group at 8 a.m., and I forward a copy to you. I again state what has been written from here so often, viz. the extreme difficulty of getting *one* soul to forsake idolatry and worship the one Living and True God. It is in view of that fact, I now *emphasize* the successful work at *Pak-tau*. Means have been blessed by God and to Him alone we ascribe the power, glory and dominion for ever.

Yours sincerely,

G. L. MACKAY.

LETTER FROM REV. J. H. MACVICAR.

TIENTSIN, December 3, 1891.

MY DEAR MR. CASSELS:—I have received a telegram from the interior informing me that all is quiet in Hsin-Chen, and that I may now return from Tientsin, where I have been staying, at the Consul's request, till such satisfactory word should come.

In the meantime fresh cause for alarm has arisen in connection with the general situation in China. When your cablegram came, three weeks ago, asking Mr. Bostwick to "warn" us and "urge retirement to the coast if necessary," not a cloud was to be seen in the horizon in any direction, and we therefore concluded that your solicitude on our account had been caused by imperfect or inaccurate reports in the newspapers. Whether this was so or not, the clouds are now