

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Immediately after the Union of the four Presbyterian Churches of the Dominion, at Montreal, in June last, the General Assembly decided to appoint two Foreign Mission Committees for the present year, the one representing the Maritime Provinces, and the other Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba. In appealing, on behalf of the Western Committee, to the liberality of the Christian people of their constituency, for the funds necessary to carry on and extend the missionary operations already commenced, it is proper that a brief statement should be given respecting the present condition and demands of the work.

The Missions which the Western Section of the Church requires at present to support are three in number, viz. :

1. Mission among the Indians in the North-West Territories.—In this department, two ordained missionaries and an interpreter are sustained. At Prince Albert, on the North Branch of the Saskatchewan, Rev. H. McKellar is labouring with vigour and a goodly measure of success among the Cree Indians. He is aided in his work by Mr. John McKay, as interpreter and missionary catechist. Around this mission, which is 450 miles to the north-west of Fort Garry, there has sprung up an English-speaking settlement, with a population of nearly 400, which until a few months has been entirely, and is yet very largely dependent on our mission for the ministrations of religion. Mr. McKellar preaches regularly in four different stations in this settlement, and is thus laying the foundations of a work which must tell powerfully on one of the finest regions of the North-West. It is most important that a second ordained missionary should be sent immediately, to help Mr. McKellar in this work. Near Fort Pelly, the capital of the North-West Territory, a very promising mission has been commenced among the Cree Indians. Rev. George Flett, recently ordained, has charge of this station. Mr. Flett, who is a native of Manitoba, speaks the Cree language with as much fluency as the English. He has selected as the headquarters of his mission one of the Reserves set apart by the Government for the Indians where a considerable number of them is likely to be permanently settled.

2. Mission to China.—Ground was broken in China nearly four years ago. Rev. G. L. Mackay, the first representative of Canadian Presbyterianism to the Celestial Empire, sailed from San Francisco on the 1st November, 1871. The field which he selected was the northern part of the Island of Formosa. This island, which is nearly as large as Ireland, and has a population of about three and a half millions, has proved a most encouraging mission field. Few missions have yielded such early fruit. In less than four years Mr. Mackay has been privileged to receive thirty-seven converts into full communion, while the applications of many more have been delayed. A band of nine or ten native helpers has been gathered, who are rendering valuable missionary service, while receiving a careful training for future work. Nine chapels have been built, almost without aid from Canada. These facts proclaim, in a manner which cannot be misunderstood, that Formosa is a field "white to the harvest."

Last year, Rev. Dr. J. B. Fraser was sent out to re-enforce Mr. Mackay, and has entered on his labours as a medical missionary at Tamsui. Dr. Fraser had a full medical and theological training, and will be found equally prepared to minister to the bodily ailments, and the spiritual diseases, of the natives. The Committee have resolved to