

there were only three or four hundred Chinese; but the best of all was that thirty-one of the books sold were Malay, whereas in Bandong, a place at least five or six times the size, I sold only fifty-three Malay. We all returned to Beutenzorg next day, and on the Monday following went down to Batavia to prepare for starting.

On one occasion, late in the evening, going home from house to house work, we offered some books in an open space where a large number of Chinese were gathered together round a shed in which gambling was going on, and there we were regularly besieged by Chinese and Malays desiring to purchase, and very soon sold out every book that we had, to the number of some sixty or seventy.

AMONG RUSSIAN SHIPS.

I have sold a large number of Russian Scriptures at the Island of Onrust, about seven miles from Batavia, where the Government has a floating dock, and to which place we had free passages given us by the master attendant. The first time I went there I took on-board forty-nine Bibles that I brought down with me from Singapore, and I had not been on board one ship certainly twenty minutes when every copy was sold and paid for. Had I then had them with me I could, I believe, have sold at least 150 more, and I was requested by the men and several of the officers to send to Singapore for 200 more.

I sent for 100 Bibles and Testaments and as soon as they arrived I went to Onrust again and found that the ship was in dock. The Island of Onrust itself is, I think, the hottest and is said to be the most unhealthy place about there, but when I went on board the vessel the heat was something insufferable—going up the side of the dock the wooden rail of the ladder was so hot as to blister the hands, and owing to the heat a good number of the officers and men were on shore. I sold a few books but I almost fainted twice, and was at last obliged to give it up. I, however, left Chin Hong down there for two days, and he effected a few more sales. We also sold a few Chinese and Malay Scriptures at Onrust.

I think I never felt such heat in all my Eastern experience as I did that day—it was heat like the inside of an oven without a breath of wind. Had it been possible for me to remain there for a day, I think I should have sold all the Russian Scriptures that I had with me. We also went to a place called Tjianjore by rail, about thirty miles from Beutenzorg, selling at all the small stations on the way and at Tjianjore we disposed of some thirty books, but it was raining so hard that we were prevented from doing much, besides which there is a good missionary there by whom the people had already been partly supplied.

IN THE HIGHLANDS.

From Tjianjore we went on to Sindanglayah a village (with a Sanitarium) about 3,500 feet high, and there both natives and the few Chinese settlers were very anxious to purchase, and in two or three hours before dark we sold about sixty books—the people running after us and sending for us, and after we had sold out all we had several came to the hotel to see whether we had any more there. It must be remembered that not Malay but Sundanese is the language of the interior of this part of Java, and that the Malays and Sundanese who can read Malay are very few.

I think I have now given you as detailed an account as is necessary of the places we went to and the sales we effected (I only hope you will not consider that I have occupied your time with too minute particulars), which amount in all to 4,447, of which about 3,000 were absolute colportage sales by Willie, Chin Hong, and myself, and the remainder were sales made to missionaries and others, including a few donations.