

## LETTER FROM REV. DR. MACKAY.

TAMSUI, Formosa,  
Sept. 13, 1892.

**M**Y DEAR MR. CASSELS:—Note the destruction of chapels and mission property here by a terrible storm and terrific typhoon. The former raged in July and the latter the 7th inst., with the thermometer 78° and my aneroid 29.3. The typhoon was beyond all comparison the most devastating that has swept its course here since 1874.

When repairs have to be made our usual way is to execute them, then report as finished. Even at this time I cannot give details although it is high time the church in Canada should know very thoroughly this phase of mission labor here.

We just closed Oxford College and girls' school 31st ult., and were preparing for a tour southwards when the messenger arrived with our usual monthly mail of eighty or more letters, containing accounts of extensive damages to mission buildings. Beginning at this port we have:

1. Doors, windows, shutters, and tiles, of college and school smashed.

2. Whilst the typhoon was raging we were nearly flooded out of the bungalow. Roofs, walls, and floors have to be repaired.

3. The bamboo fence on three sides of college grounds is lying flat. There is this satisfaction, however, it may be the last time that a fence will require to be erected. For several years I have been growing a hedge inclosing college and school park-like grounds. One row of a Formosan thorn bush is in the middle and a row of evergreen privet on each side. When fully grown this thicket of shrubs and trees will be five feet across, and on account of wind and weather will be superior to any ordinary wall, not to mention its lovely appearance and aesthetic effect when unfolding its purple blossoms for the purpose designed by the creator.

I might say in passing that the public road running in front of the Imperial customs, mission houses and British Consulate, has been named "College Road" by the foreign community out of respect for Oxford College. We appreciate that for the work's sake.

5. The hospital, a thatched house and stone wall, suffered greatly from the fierce tempest.

6. The following buildings were razed to the ground, Bang-Kah school room and no less than six chapels. Several of these were levelled the second time this year, and still the people themselves persevere in rebuilding. It is well though to remember such trials to these poor aborigines struggling for an existence.

7. Several other chapels were more or less damaged.

8. At three places where converts were preparing to build, the storm reduced thousands of their sun dried brick to mud.

9. But the solid stone churches which we have at five of the stations have stood so far, unscathed from rumbling earthquakes and howling tornadoes in our fire shaken isle.

However the above statement may effect others, to us it is a sufficient cause for thought, anxiety, and action, to restore the disordered stations to their wonted order, stability and usefulness. We cannot look on with apathy and expect people who were yesterday in the black depths of heathenism to arise like giants in faith and zeal and accomplish all the work themselves.

Sept. 17th.

**M**ARCH 17th I wrote about the opening of a Chapel at Lam-khain, which was constructed by the natives there, and had a thatched roof. For its site the owner demanded six dollars (\$6) per annum. We consulted and decided to pursue another course. A Hoa (Rev. Giam) went down, and during the first week visited forty-six families: the second week he bought a new site: the third he raised subscriptions, the fourth he began to build, and, at the end of the eighth week, finished the edifice.

I was there on the 21st ult., and addressed nearly three hundred people assembled, on Col. 1, 18. "That in all things He might have the preeminence." It was animating to see such a substantial, artistic and comfortable hall, roofed with tiles and completed at a cost of \$150 (Mexican) \$126 of which were given by the poor peasants, who cultivate soil not remarkable for its fertility.

Two destitute women, one having bound and the other natural feet, one a wife, the other a widow, walked every Sabbath four miles to attend services. When asked for a subscription they went home, caught two fowls, and brought them as an offering to the Lord. These were sold for fifty cents, and five hundred tiles purchased with the money. It was inspiring to see these daughters of Ham sit near the platform and listen eagerly to some thoughts on the preeminence of our Lord and Redeemer.

Note also, I-khat-a, about midway between here and the above place, will have a preaching hall ere long. A man who heard the Gospel at Pat-li-hun is taking the lead in that work. The typhoon destroyed recently made bricks, but he is active as ever. More about this anon.

Then at He-io-a, north of Tamsui, and near the sea, from fifty to a hundred are exerting themselves to have the Gospel preached amongst them. Four months ago they bought one hundred hymn books for use, secured a spacious site and will supply all the labor apart from the mechanics.

And again at Pak tan instead of renting another year, I am giving the rent money to assist the Pi po noan in building a chapel. All rentals should be done away with as soon as possible.

Let any man weigh the above facts carefully and tell me if the Gospel is not spreading in these parts? I state, declare, and insist, that the glorious Gospel of Jesus is living, spreading and conquering, in North Formosa.

"Rise gracious God and shine  
In all thy saving might;  
And prosper each design,  
To spread thy glorious light.

Yours sincerely,  
G. L. MACKAY.