

at once the importance of such an agency and the kind of men we require. He writes, "It is with very great satisfaction we view your Church's mind towards this field (Formosa), and we shall greatly rejoice, if you see your way to reinforcing Mr. Mackay in the north of the Island. I quite agree that you would do well to appoint a medically trained man, provided he has emphatically the heart of an evangelist. Our experience and that of those who have most used the agency of medical missions, is decidedly in favor of employing Christian medical men of zeal and devotedness, not trained for the ministry and not ordained. The fact is those men are chosen because of their thorough evangelistic spirit, and go out as evangelists, subordinating their medical knowledge and skill to the great primary object of saving souls. If you receive from the Head of the Church the gift of such a man as I have described, you will be to be warmly congratulated."

Surely, there are some such men in Canada. If there are, the foreign mission committee earnestly desire to hear from them. There is a noble field ready for them. I remain, my dear Sir, yours truly,

OTTAWA, 12th April, 1873.

WM. McLAREN

LETTER FROM REV. G. L. MACKAY.

China, Formosa, Tamsui, Nov. 6th, 1872.

REV. WM. McLAREN:

MY DEAR BROTHER,—On the morning of the 8th ult., I left Tamsui—went into the interior and spent three weeks there. I travelled across the same table land, over which we passed in the spring, remained the first night at Tiong-lek, and the second in Tek-chham, a walled city with 50,000 inhabitants. The third day I proceeded along a winding path, not far from the waters of the Formosan channel, and towards evening arrived at Sin-Kang, which I desired to visit. It is in a fertile plain three miles from the shore, along which extends a bed of sand. During the south-west Monsoon, this sand rises like snowdrifts, but the plain is protected by intervening hills. On the eastern side five mountain ranges (densely wooded), rise one above the other, amongst these are roaming tribes who approach so near at times that the smoke of their fires can be seen. In the plain are three Sek-hoan villages, viz: Tang-sia Sai-sia and Lam-sia. In all, more than a 1000 aborigines who speak the Chinese language submit to Chinese teaching, and bow before Chinese objects of worship. The young and middle aged are attracted by the outward display of Chinese idolatry, but the aged are not satisfied with this vain and worthless servitude, and I believe would cast tablets and idols into the flames, but at present there exists the fear of man. They are evidently afraid of the mandarin, and thus trample upon their own consciences and quietly submit. Whilst amongst them I enjoyed the hospitality of an old man who seemed anxious to embrace the gospel, and declared that his forefathers worshiped the *true God*. The appearance and disposition of himself and many more with hoary locks reminded me of Scotch Highlanders in their native land and Canada. On Sabbath I preached twice, forenoon 40 were present and in the evening the room was crowded with men, women, and children, and not a few around the door. After distributing portions of the Bible in the three villages, I left fully persuaded that the Lord in His own time and way will open a door of access to the hearts of these perishing ones, which all the despisers of His Eternal Truth can *never* shut. Finding that one