

mind, give nothing. So far, or in four months, I have received £4 for marriage fees, which I paid over to teachers who got little or nothing in 1896.

Since May last, therefore, up to the present time, I have received, in all from Sunday collection, £30, towards the support of teachers, and £4 marriage fees, towards the same object.

Then personal friends in Toronto, whose little son, now deceased, became deeply interested in Foreign Missions while I was with them and whose parents afterwards, with his own earnest wish, had devoted him to that work, sent me, through Dr. Cosh last year £12 for the support of one of my teachers for 1896 and 1897. Besides these sums I receive annually from £5 to £5 10s 0d interest on the Talbot Fund, for the support of one teacher. So that from Erromanga and from other outside sources I received £51, which enabled me to pay the 10 teachers unprovided for by my church and thus tided over 1896, but it is impossible to forecast how far I shall succeed for the present year for any number of teachers I may have beyond the 30 for whom the Canadian Church provides.

If I except the large numbers of men and youths taken away by labor vessels, and the high death rate on the island during 1896-97, I do think the year, covered by my report, may be regarded as highly encouraging.

In February of this year, the chief and people of Sufu (only two miles north of Dillon's Bay), gave up heathenism formally, and have come to live at Dillon's Bay. Sufu, as a village, though many of the young people joined the Christian party, stubbornly held out since the days of the Gordons. At last, however, they have come in of their own accord.

Then last year the Christian people prepared the largest quantity of arrow-root ever prepared by them in any one year.

#### Statistics.

Missionaries.. . . . .	1
Elders.. . . . .	14
Teachers.. . . . .	40
Principal Stations.. . . . .	2
Out stations or district schools	38
Church members, about.. . . .	300
Marriages.. . . . .	25
Contributions, in cash, Teachers'	
Fund .. . . . .	£34
Contributions in arrow-root	3,000 lbs.

Manual labor, cleaning of mountain road, cutting 4 miles of new bridle track, thatching and repairing thatching, keeping the Martyr's graves clear and the roads in Dillon's Bay; putting on and removing storm-rigging of mission building, etc.

H. A. ROBERTSON,  
Missionary.

#### LOCUSTS IN FORMOSA.

Of a remarkable illustration of some of the Bible pictures, which he saw recently in Formosa, Dr. Mackay writes as follows:

"On the 27th ult., when travelling inland, indistinct sounds were heard far ahead. These grew louder as we approached. Looking towards the east was seen in appearance a perfect snowstorm advancing rapidly westward. We halted on the pathway, and with a rushing noise swarms of locusts on the wing flew ten feet over our heads. On and on with the wind the insect army pressed forward, until the air was thickened and the sun darkened. In a moment they settled on the waving rice fields of green, and with great rapidity that color gave way to a brownish hue.

Crowds of farmers, their wives and children, were wild with excitement, and were jumping, running, yelling, and cursing the destroyers. What accurate observers the inspired naturalists were! Bamboo groves have been stripped of their leaves and left standing like saplings after a rapid bush fire. Rice crops have been made to resemble oat fields in Canada after the army worm has marched through. And grass has been devoured, so that the bare ground appeared as if burned. Hence the name locust."

What accurate descriptions are the following: "And when it was morning the east winds brought the locust." "All thy trees shall the locusts consume." "The locusts have no king, yet they go forth all of them by bands." "The land is as the Garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness."

As there are countless numbers in the larval condition, and as eggs are being deposited in the ground, it is to be feared these dreadful armies may next year invade and devastate vast regions in North Formosa. As this is their first appearance here the natives are amazed and alarmed. Many declare there are letters on their wings and are a scourge somehow connected with the coming of the Japanese, and many have burned incense sticks and invited the locusts to leave Formosa and go elsewhere. Christians declare they understand better than ever one of the plagues of Egypt.

In a crowded schoolroom one very warm afternoon a visitor was talking to the children. "Can you tell me what peace children do?" he asked.

One said, "Love your enemies"; another, "When others strike one cheek, turn the other"; a third, "Overcome evil with good."

At length a little girl in the middle of a seat, looking very uncomfortable—she was so crowded that she could not move her elbows—said in a plaintive tone: "Peace children don't hunch when others crowd."—*Ex.*