

region is violently disturbed. The disturbance began with the refusal of the people to allow the Roman Catholics to build a chapel on some ground which they had purchased. From this time, there began a systematic spreading of all manner of false reports in regard to the missions and missionaries, that they were poisoning the wells, &c. Afterwards an attack was made on the chapel, the Christians were seized and plundered, and subsequently one of the native catechists was murdered. Dr. Maxwell gives the following account of the catechist, and of his cruel murder: "Just twelve days after the outrage on the chapel was perpetrated, a severe trial came upon our already bewildered little flock, in the cruel murder of our catechist Cheng-hong. His name is well known to you as that of the young man who walked from the north end of Formosa to find a chapel where they worshipped the true God. For some time since his baptism, he has been employed by us, first as my hospital keeper, but latterly as one of the native catechists in Pittau, or in itinerating journeys through the villages making known the Gospel. On the 23rd of April, while he was at evening service in the chapel here, his wife a young woman whom he married but lately, and of whom, after Chinese fashion, he knew almost nothing beforehand, left his house, and did not return; in fact, she had run off, displeased with the order of a Christian's house. Cheng hong made up his mind that he would go and seek her, and endeavour to persuade her to return.

"From what we can learn, he seems actually to have come upon his wife and mother-in-law at Cho-ia, five miles distant, and was endeavouring to persuade his wife to return with him, when his mother-in-law raised a cry that he was a Roman Catholic come to carry off her daughter. Instantly there was a crowd; Cheng-hong was recognized by some of them as having preached in the village, and the cry was raised for his destruction.

"From a house in which he took shelter, the mob burst in the door, pulled our poor brother out, dragged him a considerable distance along the street, and then, near a tree beside which I have several times stood to speak, and where Cheng-hong, doubtless has also stood to preach the Gospel, they stoned him with stones, and beat him with clubs, till he died. Their brutality did not end even with his death, one of them with a knife cutting open the poor crushed body. His remains were thrown into a ditch close by, or carried in a bag to the sea-shore, and there sunk in the sea. The place of Cheng-hong's death is distant some five miles from Takao, and about the same number of miles from Pittau.

"Except a proclamation from the mandarin at Pittau, complaining strongly of the intense malice displayed in the murder of a Christian, nothing as yet has been done by him to punish the murderers. Tiong, also, is still in prison at Pittau, though not ill-treated, and the mandarin professing to keep him only till the people are a little quieter; and there are seven men and four women living as refugees in the hospital, unable as yet to return to their homes. Here in Takao we have had to exercise considerable watchfulness, in fear of attacks from bands of marauders from the interior, who have loudly threatened to drive foreigners from the island. The residents have had to take turns in patrolling through the night, and in watching at the batteries erected to command the approaches at Takao.

"I think our danger is now over so far as this place itself is concerned; but, as to the future working of the mission in the country, we are as yet quite in the dark. How God shall open up our way we know not; we can only cast ourselves upon Him with the petition, that He would lead us and show us His will; and we rejoice to know that at home you will strengthen us with your prayers. It is very, very dark at present; but