MISSION FIELD

[From the S. P. G. Mission Field for May]

OPENING OF THE TIENTSIN MISSION.

By THE REV. W. BREAKTON.

At the request of the Bishop I removed with my family in October from Pekin to Tientsin, to take charge of the new work of our Church in this place. The Bishop came down later, arriving on the 51st, with the Rev. F. H. Sprent. On Sunday, November 2nd, the Church room was dedicated, and I was instituted as minister by the Bishop. The services of the day were these: Matins began at 10:30 c'clock; after it came a form of Dedication, and then Holy Communion. The congregation numbered 38, and the communicants 8. At six o'clock came Evensong, when I was instituted. The Bishop used an adaptation of the Office of Institution Ministers from the American Prayer Book. Twenty one persons were present in the evening, bosides the clergy. Such is the bare record of the formal beginning of the work of the Church of England in Tientsin. It is something to be thankful for, and there is good hope in its issues if we, who are responsible, do our duty in the fear of God. Yet there are drawbacks. I have been told our beginning was a 'success,' and I know several were sincerely glad at the prospect of a regular ministration of our Church's services But I could not get rid of the idea that we were beginning thirty years too late, and that some of the greatest drawbacks are the natural out come of this prograstination.

The compound which contains the Church room is situated in the middle of the British settlement. The Bishop pays a high rent for the premises, which are taken till the end of 1891. Their chief recommendation is the accessibility to the public of our house of prayer. Whither we or our successors are to move alter and hearth when these premises must be vacated is a perplexing question. The Church room has been formed by throwing into one, four rooms and a passage from the superabundance of the Lervants' quarters. The congregations contain a stoady nucleus, a fact which gives much encouragement to the parson. Yet they are smaller than they might be. Infinenza, typhoid fever, and sorer afflictions have helped to thin our numbers.

About a month or more after my institution I received a letter from a gentleman, then unknown to me asking, on the part of himself and other English Churchmen resident at Tangehan, if I could visit them oc casionally and administer Holy Com munion. This letter corresponded exactly with my own wishes, for I was just then preparing to visit Tangahan on speculation. You will Tangahan on speculation. find some particulars about the place in a letter of mine printed in the Mission Field late in 1889. I went there by train on December 3rd and celebrated Holy Communion the 70 per cent, on their original cutnext day, Thursday, at 8 a.m., in the lay.



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reading room, four communicants being present. Rvensorg, without preaching, is said every Sunday in the same room by the surgeon of the railway and mining companies. This practice has been continued without interruption, though with opposition and rivalry, since November, 1889 A similar service was begun by a former engineer in charge of the coal mine. When he left, the resicoal mine. When he left, the resident English Methodiet Missionary obtained the management of the service, and after a while it was dis continued, These efforts on the part of lay members of our Church to preserve something of old habits of public worship were wholly spontaneous and unprompted by suggestions of clergy in North China so far as I know. The foreign community consists of English only. It numbers twenty five, including three children. Tangshan and its neighbourhood ought to be kept well in view in regard to Church work among Englishmen. The mining and railway operations are quietly growing and spreading in a way which necessarily wi linvolve steady increases to the English staff, for the Chinese have no trained mining or railway men of a superior grade, nor are they attempting to have any trained.

Much the same might be said of Tanghu, where the railway connects with the seagoing traffic. Mr. Kinder, whose opinion is of importance said to me, 'Buy land for a church at Tanghu, a church will be needed there in twenty years. Land is very cheap now, it will be very dear then.' Of course this does not seem to be an opinion to be acted upon in the present strained condition of Diocesan funds, at the same time it contains sound advice not to be for gotten. The Jesuits acted upon this principle when this port was opened to foreigners thirty years ago, and now they are receiving from 50 to

I hope to be ab'e to make arrangements very soon for spending a Sunday at Tangshan and Taku alter nately at regu'ar intervals.

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