

might be overruled for good to China, and made instrumental in raising up at least five helpers." The following year, 1862, "the first of the five thus asked of God arrived in China, and before the end of April, 1865, four others followed." At that time, China with its population of 400 millions, had only 97 missionaries, or but one missionary to about four millions of people. These missionaries were then all in the six sea-board provinces while the 11 inland provinces, with a population of 150 millions, had not even one resident Protestant missionary. These facts were presented in a pamphlet by Mr. J. Hudson Taylor entitled "China, its spiritual needs and claims," and resulted in his sailing for China in 1866 with his wife and fourteen missionaries. Prayer was offered for the money necessary for the outfit and passage and in less than six weeks over £1700 was received, thus was the China Inland Mission inaugurated—on an unsectarian basis and without any pledged or guaranteed support. The number of missionaries has increased from 5 to 112, of which there are 72 laboring now besides 29 wives of missionaries.

More than a thousand Chinese have professed their faith in Christ as a result and have been received by baptism. Of these about 100 are engaged as helpers in the mission in the capacity of pastors, evangelists, colporteurs, Bible women, etc. Altogether 68 stations are occupied which are situated in 11 different provinces. In four of these provinces the members of the China Inland Mission are the only missionaries. Lady missionaries are now laboring 1500 miles from the coast.

A letter from J. Hudson Taylor, editor of "China's Millions," specially requests more medical helpers. This Mission has co-operated with the Bible Society by the sale, last year, of 145,000 copies of parts of the Word of God. The opium traffic is spoken of as a great hindrance to the work.

It is a source of regret that these 3 are the only Christian female workers among the 23½ millions of their own sex in four provinces of Western China."

While this mission is situated on the mainland, Dr. McKay's labors are directed to Formosa, an island on the East coast of China. There is need of many more laborers if it be true that "a million a month in China are dying without God."

D. MACGREGOR.

Visit of Rev. Dr. Mackay of Formosa.

During the past few weeks Dr. Mackay has been visiting some of the centres in the Maritime Provinces and thrilling the crowds that gathered to hear him by the narrative of the great door and effectual that is being opened in the island of Formosa for the entrance of the gospel into the Empire of China with its four hundred millions of souls, or nearly one-third of the population of the world.

"The island of Formosa lying off the East coast of China is 250 miles in length by 70 in breadth. 300 years ago it was an immense jungle inhabited by roving savages of the Malay race. In the early part of the 17th century the island was visited by Japanese, Chinese, Dutch, Spanish, and Portuguese. The Chinese finally drove out the others and for over two centuries it has formed a part of their vast empire. During that time they have been steadily pouring into it and now it has a Chinese population of 3,000,000, who have turned two-thirds of the island from a waste, howling wilderness into a garden. 80,000 aborigines still occupy the unbroken forest which covers the Eastern part of the island. They are degraded savages, far below the Micmacs of Nova Scotia. Miserable, cruel, cut-throats, brutal in character and life.

The island is beautiful, hence its name "Formosa" meaning "beautiful." So deeply did its beauty impress the ancient mariner that it was given this proud pre-eminence above all other islands of the sea, and like a certain gate of the temple it was called "beautiful." It has lofty mountains, rushing torrents and well tilled fertile fields.

The Chinese are on a level intellectually with any other nation in the world. They had their schools and sciences for ages before the dawn of western civilization. They had a daily newspaper the "Peking Gazette" in the year "78" when our forefathers were half naked barbarians, and when London was a village of savages on the banks of the Thames.

I speak thus because it is well that we should remember the history of this wonderful people, lest we be puffed up with vain conceit of our superiority over others, because their shade of color may be a tinge deeper than our own. The school and schoolmaster is as common in Formosa as in Canada. They have a literary his-