

17 professed faith in the Lord Jesus and were baptized, thus making the number of communicants on the roll 182. At both places we commemorated the dying love of our Master and enjoyed sweet fellowship with Him. Have we not abundant reason to lift up our voices and shout Glory and Honour, Power and Dominion be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and to the Lamb for ever? This has been a most extraordinary wet season. I never witnessed the like either in the far west or in these ends of the earth, we have been many days without seeing the sun. From the beginning of Dec. last until now there have only been a few dry days. The roads are simply winding paths of mud. Last week, going to one of our chapels with the students, we walked barefooted through mud two feet deep. We are here now cold and wet every day, for there is no fire-place and the grass roof is leaking and the cold wind is blowing the cold rain over me as I am writing this letter to you. Still I teach every day and my students never complain. We must forget our little discomforts and think of the Lord of glory, bleeding on Calvary's cross for us poor hell-deserving sinners. Yes, we must be willing to die if need be in serving our Master. God help us to fight on in endeavouring to save perishing souls.

Sabbath evening there was a total eclipse of the moon, and thousands were out beating gongs, firing guns, &c., to save that luminary from the monster they supposed was about to destroy her. Pray for poor benighted China, that her sons may arise and cast off the superstitions which enslaved the millions for ages past.

You will be glad to know that an English Surgeon arrived and is to reside at Kelung and Coal Harbour, so that Dr. Ringer can now give all his time and energies to the Tamsui Hospital.

You will also be pleased to know that at no distant day there will be a native church, with a native pastor, supported by a native congregation here. Though I never wrote about this before, it has been my aim from the first day I landed until now. That's what I long to see, that's what I labour and pray for, and that's what our blessed Master will accomplish in His own time. Surely friends of the mission in Canada should be willing to help those who are willing to help themselves.

Juvenile Mission Scheme.

FROM Poona we have some little items of information about orphans. We learn that Dorothea, supported by St.

Andrew's S. School, Kingston, "has had an offer of marriage from a young man who bears a very good character, and will, I think, make her happy. She is not bright, but affectionate and hard-working, so that she will make this young man an excellent wife." We are told also that Venoo gets on well with her work at Indore, and takes great delight in it, and that Mr. Douglas has named her the "Mission mouse," because she is so very quiet. From Sealkote we hear that the children have received gifts, catechisms, &c., from Scotland, with which they have been much delighted, and one of them, Pharo, writes a very nice letter of acknowledgment. Louisa, one of the elder girls at Poona, has been removed by death, and, though young, seems to have been very useful, and to be much missed and lamented for her missionary efforts in the Zenanas, and her lovely Christian character.

The Chinese Famine.

WE speak of "hard times" and "dull times," and commercial disasters, and all the operations of our Church feel those things with greater or less severity. But all the while there is bread enough and to spare in all our borders. There is abundance of the necessities of life for the poor as well as the rich. How awfully different with our fellow-men in northern China! For three long years no rain has fallen and no crops have grown, and this is the case all over vast provinces, containing a population of nearly seventy millions! The food of the people has been wholly devoured. Cattle have perished. Every effort has been made, of course, to obtain provisions of some sort, and dry grass, withered leaves, rotten wood, and even clay, have been used as food. Hideous reports come of children killed and eaten. Parents have sold their children, and husbands their wives for a little temporary relief. There is no prospect of immediate relief, and multitudes are perishing. We are glad to note that the Government of China is helping the sufferers, and that even private contributions are being raised among the Chinese in the provinces not affected by famine. England, that has done so nobly for sufferers, and our brethren in the United States, are contributing very liberally. Wherever missionaries are stationed the starving multitudes flock to them for relief, and thus many lives have been saved. Had Christian missions been planted all