

## MORTGAGING THE HOMESTEAD.

Suggested by seeing an artistic painting on the above subject, by G. A. Reid, F.R.S.A., Toronto.

Don't mortgage the homestead, my brother,  
'Tis the greatest mistake of your life,  
Take courage, and help one another,  
For the sake of your children and wife;  
Far better a crust in contentment  
Than a mortgage and well-buttered bread,  
Don't risk a mortgagee's resentment,  
He may yet make you wish you were dead!

Oh, don't mortgage the homestead, my friend,  
Rather work like a slave and be free!  
You will find this advice in the end  
Is the best that a friend could give thee:  
Rise bright with the dawn of the morning  
And let hope cheer you on till the eve,  
Last not to the world's proud scorning  
Let them see that in God you believe!

Don't mortgage your homestead, my neighbour;  
Hark! the voice of your own loving wife.  
"We now must dispense with hired labour,  
Let us pull well together through life;  
Our children will soon be a help, dear,  
We'll have no heavy mortgage to pay,  
Let us leave well alone, never fear,  
I will help you by night and by day!"

Don't mortgage your homestead, my brother,  
Do not risk all the savings of years,  
And leave in the hands of another  
What has cost you toil, worry and tears;  
Be a man! your wife will adore you,  
Ne'er give up while you've courage and health,  
You will find this good motto is true:  
'Tis the diligent hand maketh wealth!

—John Inria

## THE MARCH OF CHOLERA.

When some months ago the Turkish authorities asserted the extinction or non-existence of cholera in Syria, while Russian consular agents maintained that it was still hovering about on the borders of the Persian and Ottoman empires, we expressed our conviction that the subsidence of the epidemic was merely what might be expected at that season, and that it would reappear with the return of spring. And so it is; cholera is reported now as having broken out on the Imperial domains of Djedil and in the village of Bellek, near Bagdad, where six persons have died out of thirteen attacked. Bagdad was the headquarters of the epidemic last year, whence it was carried by the river boats far up the Tigris. We believe that the Foreign Office received information of its occurrence as far north as Diabekr and Erzeroum, though in the latter case it was more probably conveyed by road from Tabruz. But, though it may thus appear to have receded, such a phenomenon would be without precedent. When, in 1817, it seemed to invade India from Turkestan, or, in 1865, it appeared in Armenia after it had ravaged Constantinople and Saloniki, it was not retreating but performing a flank movement, and doubling on its own advance, as we have seen in the spread of influenza to India and Australia after it had overrun all Europe. Cholera requires human intercourse for its conveyance, certain meteorological and local conditions for its development, and the ingestion of specifically infected water, etc., for its communication. Thus, while it will cross the Atlantic in a fortnight, it marches by slow stages through lands where railways are still unknown, retiring into winter quarters when traffic and travel are suspended, to reopen the campaign with the return of warm weather, which is naturally earlier in the south and the plains than in northern or mountainous regions. In the winter of 1846-47 it had reached precisely the same points as it did last autumn, and in like manner withdrew for a time to the lower valley of the Euphrates and Tigris, recrossing the mountains and plateau of Armenia in the spring, reaching Astrakhan and Jaganony in July, and Moscow and St. Petersburg in September, when, with the approach of winter, it disappeared only to break out with renewed intensity, and, as it had travelled with tenfold greater rapidity along the good military roads between the Caucasus and the capitals than it had previously done through Persia, so when once it touched the margin of the restless life and commercial activity of Europe it was drawn into the vortex, and there was not a country or large town but had been invaded before the summer was over. If we may venture to prophesy, we would say that it will not proceed further up the Tigris Valley, but, travelling by the Euphrates, will be next heard of at Aleppo, and perhaps Beyrout, and it will enter Egypt via Yiddah and Suez, and then leave Alexandria for the Levantine and Mediterranean ports. From Tabruz it will take the route via Erzeroum and Trebizond to Constantinople, Odessa, and by Baku, Tiflis, Derbent, and Astrakhan over Russia. —*British Medical Journal.*

In India a specific for cholera is stated to have been discovered. The name of the drug is salol, and out of eighteen patients treated with it not one died, although some of them were in a state of collapse when the drug was administered.

## A MODEL RAILWAY.

The Burlington Route C. B. & Q. R. R. operates 7,000 miles of road, with termini in Chicago, St. Louis, St. Paul, Omaha, Kansas City and Denver. For speed, safety, comfort, equipment, track and efficient service it has no equal. The Burlington gains new patrons but loses none.

## THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

## LETTER FROM MRS. ANNAND.

In a letter dated Santo, New Hebrides, March 26, 1890, which appears in the *Presbyterian Witness*, Mrs. Annand says:

Your kind and interesting letter reached us on the 17th of this month. The receiving of letters so quickly after they have been despatched is a new experience to us. The steamer was three days late owing to a hurricane which prevailed over most of the group, though not here in any force. We rejoice to learn that you are all well and meeting with encouragement in the Lord's work. We were grieved to read of Mrs. Cornelius' serious illness. We trust that she may be spared to her family and the work if it be His will, but the Lord does all things well, and we know that she is resting upon her Saviour, and that it will be well with her. Please convey our love and sympathy to her. We often think of them all. You speak of Christmas, and think that it is an ordinary day with us. It is most likely that I told you all about our doings last Christmas Day, as I wrote to you in January. It is always a very busy day with us, as it is, invariably spent in trying to entertain the natives. In regard to goose, plum pudding and mince pie, we do not indulge in such indigestible things, but as turkeys thrive well here we have one of them on the table at Christmas. We had a fine one last Christmas, on which Mr. and Mrs. Landles and our two selves made a hearty meal; afterwards ten natives had a large share of it. In place of a plum pudding we had a snow pudding.

A hurricane passed through the group on the 6th of this month. It did no damage here, but was heavy on Malekula. There was a very sad shipwreck there. The *Eliza Mary* was wrecked on the reef between Mr. Morton's and Mr. Gillan's stations. Of those on board fifty two are missing, five of whom were white men, the rest natives. Some were drowned and others killed by the natives. Had they obeyed orders and stayed on the ship all might have been saved. One Tanna man succeeded in reaching Mr. Morton's, but was wounded on the head and chin, and he reported that he had killed two Malekula men in self-defence. The steamer had the captain of the *Eliza Mary* on board, also the mate government agent and some of the crew and natives. The captain, whose name is Campbell, is a native of Belfast, Prince Edward Island. There was also a small vessel lost at Saseon Bay, Malekula, and one native drowned. Four others we hear of being drowned off a cutter in the group. The mission premises did not suffer much. The heavy sea did some damage to Mr. Morton's station. Their house is too near the sea. We were expecting at least two new missionaries down this year, but by last mail we got the news from Scotland that Mr. Shanks, who is a nephew of Mr. Watt, lost his young wife. They were married on a Thursday evening, and that night fortnight they laid her in her coffin, once more wearing her bridal veil and orange blossoms. Their passage was taken and their goods all ready for shipping. They went visiting, but she was taken ill on the second day, and on the seventh day she returned to her widowed mother, and after a week of terrible suffering from pleurisy died. She is said to have been a very fine young woman and fitted in every way for the mission field, and was looking forward to her work and the meeting with some she knew in the mission with joy. Are not the Lord's ways very hard for us to understand at times? Her poor young husband does not know what to do. If he could come to the mission unmarried he would do so at once, but that cannot be. If it be the Lord's will we expect Mr. A. H. Macdonald and his bride down in May or June. You have Mrs. Watcher, of Siam, in Canada now. We had a long letter from her this mail, and were so glad to hear that she is improving in health. She is a cousin of Mr. Annand. I am thankful to say that we are both well and busy. Mr. McKenzie sent us another teacher and his wife by the last trip of the *Truganine*, so that now we have two teachers and their wives. The one who has been with us seven months addressed the people briefly for the first time in the Tangoan language last Sabbath and did fairly well. He will be a help to Mr. Annand now in carrying on the work in the regions beyond. We have only two of the Santo lads with us now. We had to send the little boy away some time ago, he was so very disobedient and sulky that we could do nothing with him. He had a very bad leg, which required dressing twice a day, to which poor little was much opposed, and we could not have him about unless it was dressed, it being so offensive. Mr. Annand worked with it for over three months, and it was nearly well when he left. Hani also left last week. He is the lad who was turned from the village for breaking tabs ten months ago. We feel sorry that he has left the premises, he was doing so well and always so bright and cheerful. The reason he has left is that there are heathen dances going on once a week at one of the mountain villages near by, and the temptation to attend them is too great for him. He went off one night to one of them unknown to us, and stayed away all the next day. Mr. Annand told him that he did not wish him to attend heathen dances and feasts, so he said he would not go again. However, when the next came he could not resist, so off he went, and two days after came back and asked for his wages as he wished to return to the village. Poor lad, I do not think that he feels quite happy. He is on the premises nearly every day. He promised to attend school as usual, but has been away two or three days this week. So it is with our work here, hopeful at one time, then cast down. How little we can do unless it pleases the Lord to open the hearts of these poor people. They are so deeply wedded to their heathen worship. Do not cease to pray for us, dear friends.

## THE ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN MEDICAL MISSION IN NORTH FORMOSA.

## SEARCHING FOR AND SETTLING THE CENTRE.

The Rev. W. Campbell, who some time ago passed through Toronto on his return to Formosa, writes to the *English Presbyterian Messenger*:—

Dr. Russell and myself have been roving about this region for the past three weeks, and it seems to me that a few notes about our work will not be unwelcome. As you may be aware, he spent the greater part of last year in the city of Chin-chew, one of the out-stations of our Amoy centre, having been asked to go there and take the place of Dr. Lang, whose health was rather poorly. His short experience at that post did him a great amount of good, and he returned to Formosa about a couple of months ago, remarkably well up in the language and thoroughly at home in the daily routine work of the medical missionary in China.

We did not lose much time then in conferring about the centre in Chiang-hoa, where his future work was to be carried on; and as I happened to know the region pretty well, it was arranged that we should both proceed to the north and see what could be done in the way of securing suitable premises for residence and hospital work. The county of Chiang-hoa is the most northerly in the wide field we occupy in Formosa. It is reached after about four days' journey in a northeasterly direction from Taiwanfoo. We started on March 1, and arrived in the county city about sunset on the 5th, having spent the Sabbath among our brethren in the village of Hoan-achhan. The chapel premises in this city consist of two front and two back rooms, with a narrow open court between, and a little yard behind. They serve very well for residences of the native preacher and accommodating the few persons who come daily to listen to him; but we almost at once decided that it would be out of the question to find room here also for the doctor to put up and carry on dispensary work, to say nothing at all about the treatment of in-patients. We found Chiang-hoa unsuitable.

## CENTRE FIXED AT TOA-SIA.

We accordingly continued our journey northward and reached the village of Toa-sia early in the afternoon of our first day from this place. Christian work in the village of Toa-sia began in the autumn of 1871. The inhabitants belong to the Sek-hoan branch of the aboriginal population; and about 116 of the adults among them are members of the Church. The village has nice cleanly surroundings, a fine and bracing climate for the greater part of the year, and an abundance of fresh water from the neighbouring mountains.

I confess that the prospect of his tramping through the country dispensing doses of quinine, and putting up a night here and a night there in filthy Chinese inns was not an attractive one. It would have been hurtful to him in every way, and an entire waste of time, as the only effective way of doing medical work in China is to have carefully-selected cases under our care for perhaps weeks at a time. The doctor can then, with all his appliances around him, do work which will be followed with good results; while all the time every favourable occasion is taken to bring the poor patient to hear and understand something of the way of salvation through our Saviour Jesus Christ. I am, myself, very hopeful that with God's blessing good and abundant work will be done in Toa-sia. Four-fifths of the in-patients in the large city of Chin-chew come from outside towns and villages; and so it is with nearly all our city hospitals; so, too, I believe it will be with the hospital in the northern part of Chiang-hoa. It will be presided over by one who is an out-and-out enthusiast in the profession, still eager to learn, and filled with the desire of doing good honest work for the mission.

I have seen Dr. Russell under every mood during the past three weeks, while travelling, eating and sleeping with him, and my deliberate opinion is that you have every reason to be proud of him. I could only have wished that my own duties had allowed me to come up and see him comfortably settled down in his new home. I may yet be able to arrange it. In any case, I am looking forward to pay the autumn visit to our Chiang-hoa stations, when the opportunity will be given of being with him for three weeks or a month. We came down south at this time, and reached this village of Gu-ta-nan on our way to pay a short visit to the Pescadore Islands.

## THE OUTLOOK IN JAPAN.

The *Pittsburg United Presbyterian* says: Japan is now undergoing another revolution. Apparently a period of reaction has set in, and there is a strong outburst of hatred to foreigners. In some places there has been violence, and in general there is an uneasy feeling that for a time bodes no good to missionary work. The Government has felt the pressure, and in the presence of the discontent, violence and even assassination of prominent progressive statesmen, has in a measure yielded, so far at least as to recommend that Confucianism be taught as the system of morality to be acknowledged in the nation. In all this there is nothing remarkable. The changes effected already have been so great as to modify the whole structure of society, as well as of government and to place business on a new footing. Taxes have increased, and the people feel that their burdens are becoming heavy. At the same time Japan has been treated with great indignity by the treaty powers, in being held as a barbarous nation whose administration of justice could not be trusted, and whose right to manage its own affairs in their relation to other nations could not be allowed. There may be temporary hardship, and we may have to be taught again that the kingdom of God does not advance without suffering, but the issue will be great gain. We look for vastly better things, even in the near future.