

Our Foreign Missions.

The evening of March 28th, in the Presbyterian Church at Berlin, Rev. A. B. Winchester, was designated to work among the Chinese of the Pacific coast, and has since departed for his field of labor. This is the beginning of our work as a church among these people, of whom there are now several thousands in B.C.

Mrs. Merriman, of Nova Scotia, who is visiting Trinidad for her health and whose interesting letter to the young people is in the *Children's Record* for April, says in a private note:—"Mr. Grant's Sabbath School would put to shame many in our own country. The way they answer questions in Bible history and chronology is surprising."

Mrs. Morton of Trinidad, writing to the *Pres. Review*, says:—"Rev. Geo. Clarke of Ottawa, with Mrs. Clarke, spent last week with us. We had the pleasure of taking them to some of our schools. We would have been glad to have had them long enough to see the whole of this important and love'y district, but neither time nor strength permitted of so much travelling. Mr. Clarke was struck with the dense population of neighborhood. All the mission staff are well."

It is just twenty years since Dr. Mackay landed in Formosa, to be hated, scoffed at, despised, and the only place he could rent for shelter was a small thatch covered hole, named by courtesy a room, with earthen floor that in wet weather was a mire. Full of faith in the presence of Christ and the power of His Spirit, he went to work undaunted, and with the assistance of the others who have been there at times, and by the blessing of God, there are the glad results that we see to-day, 50 chapels, some of them fine buildings, 51 preachers, 71 deacons, 83 elders and nearly 3000 church members! What hath God wrought?

In our last issue was an account of the opening of the institution in Trinidad, for training a native ministry. In that account it was stated that the Rev. K. J. Grant, in his remarks at the opening services, whispered audibly that a collection of fifty pounds would enable them to open it free of debt. One interesting item was forgotten, viz. that the collection at the close of the meeting amounted to eighty dollars. One feature of the work in Trinidad has been the large amount that has been given on the field. Speaking generally, we may say that for every dollar which our church has expended on that mission, a dollar has been raised in the Island. Planters and estate owners have given largely. Friends of the cause in Port of Spain and other districts, have generously helped, while the Christian Indians themselves have not been behind in their efforts to help themselves and others.

The W. F. M. S., East, has bidden a sorrowing farewell to Mrs. Burns, who, since the inception of the society, fifteen years ago, has been its president. Gifted by nature in no ordinary measure, she threw herself with all the strength of a strong mind into the extension of the work, and had the satisfaction of seeing it increase to 130 auxiliaries and 50 mission bands, with between three and four thousand members, raising last year for Foreign Missions, over five thousand dollars. Mrs. Burns goes to Scotland with her husband, whose interest in Foreign Missions, made them in this, as in other things, true yoke fellows, and whose ringing address on Foreign Mission night, at the last meeting of the Maritime Synod, will not soon be forgotten.

Mission work has in recent years been developing along two lines that were but little followed in the earlier history of missionary effort, viz., that of medical missions, and women's work. In these two departments our own Church is bearing a part, and with regard to its wisdom, we quote the words of a heathen Hindu. Being asked by Dr. H. M. Clarke, a missionary of the C. M. S., "Which of all our methods do you fear the most," replied, "Why should I put weapons into the hands of the enemy? But I will tell you. We do not greatly fear your schools; we need not send our children. We do not fear your books; for we need not read them. We do not much fear your preaching; we need not listen. But we *dread your women*, and we *dread your doctors*; for your doctors are winning our hearts, and your women are winning our homes, and when our hearts and our homes are won, what is there left us?"

A few devoted Christians have gone to the mission field with no visible means of support, trusting to getting their living as best they might among those whom they have sought to save. Others who remain comfortably at home, enjoying all that this life has of creature comforts, sometimes teach that the apostles had no Church behind them and no salaries, and that modern missionaries should follow in their footsteps. All such experiments have, as a rule, proved short-lived, and have accomplished but little. And no wonder: they accord neither with reason nor Scripture. The soldier of Jesus Christ should "endure hardness," but the duty lies equally upon all. No particular class should deny themselves to the injury of health and the lessening of their power for good, merely that others may be eased. All are alike responsible for the proclamation of the gospel. Those who remain at home are as much bound to "endure hardness" as these who go. If some "go down into the pit," others should "hold the rope." "How shall they preach except they be sent."