

ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONS.

The *Messenger* of the English Presbyterian Church furnishes the following:—

FROM REV. WM. MCGREGOR, *Amoy*, 15th Aug., 1870.—We are occupied in visiting our stations, taking charge of our students and preachers, and attending to the affairs of our steadily enlarging diocese. Were we to agitate for an increase of episcopate, we could make out a good case. Within the six years that have elapsed since I came here the number of “charges” has been doubled, and the amount of travelling necessary to visit them tripled.

On Sabbath I baptized the wife of one of our younger preachers. She belongs to the class of wives (so numerous among the Chinese) who have been brought up in the family of her husband’s parents, being in infancy purchased by them to be kept till of age and then married to their son. The practise of having children growing up together in one family with the express view of by-and-by becoming husband and wife is discouraged by the Church, and would necessarily cease with the diffusion of Christianity.

Rev. Hugh Ritchie and Dr. and Mrs. Maxwell have been laboring among the Highland villages of Baksu in Formosa, teaching a simple-minded and intelligent people the Chinese Scriptures. Mr. Ritchie thus writes in the December number of the *English Presbyterian Messenger*:

“On Sabbath, 7th August, from among this interesting people, thirty-three men and ten women were received by baptism into the visible Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the occasion I had Dr. Maxwell’s assistance, with whom I carefully compared notes as to the merits of each individual candidate, so that I can assure you nothing like haste or irregularity characterized our procedure; but from the tenor of our intercourse with these inquirers, and their thoroughly consistent testimony of faith in a once crucified but now exalted Saviour, the question which pressed itself home to both of our consciences was, “Can any man forbid water that these should not be baptized?” The overplus inquirers are still over a hundred, and from week to week the chapel is too small to accommodate all the hearers; but before long there may be a call to move off in two different directions.”

FROM DR. J. L. MAXWELL, *Takao, Formosa*, 13th August, 1870.—On Sabbath last, Mr. Ritchie for the second time administered the sacraments at Baksa, and on that occasion received thirty-three men and ten women into Church fellowship. At the Lord’s table, the sixty-two members who have now been received at this station were all present. Many of these are isolated members of families, of whom no others have been received, but others formed family groups most pleasant to behold. Thus, a husband rejoined his wife, she having been admitted at last communion, and he at this. A wife rejoined her husband in the same way. A mother and her married daughter were baptized together, the son-in-law being now an inquirer. An old man and his wife, with their son and his wife, were baptized together; the old man’s married daughter, after having been beaten by her husband, and otherwise ill-treated for chapel-going, being now a hopeful inquirer. Two brothers were baptized together, their parents being still inquirers. Besides these, three fathers, each with a son, were baptized together; and there were other instances of a similar happy kind where the natural tie heightened the blessedness and beauty of the spiritual relationship into which the parties were entering.