

lith of this party or that should be pronounced with due energy and distinctness, but that men of conscience and honour and uprightness should more fully and more generally do their duty to their country, their neighbours, and themselves, at whatever risk of obloquy, or by whatever amount of unthanked toil; that they should remember and act upon the oft-repeated maxim that liberty can only be secured and retained by "eternal vigilance," and that, come what may, it is for them to do their part in making politics anything rather than dirty, and politicians the very reverse of unscrupulous tricksters, or of anything that can be bought and sold either in the market or anywhere else.

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FORMOSA.

LETTER FROM REV. K. F. JUNOR.

REV. PROFESSOR McLAREN—DEAR BROTHER,—I have just returned from visiting our lower stations and thought I would drop you a few lines. The place called Tiong-lek, one day's journey from here, where we always stop on our journeys south, is mostly a Hakka town. They, of course, speak a different dialect from the other people of Formosa; were not this the case, no doubt we would have had a chapel there long before this. These Hakkas are a most industrious people. You meet their women everywhere, in the fields or on the roads, at work. They look always clean and comfortably dressed. They carry all kinds of burdens on their shoulders to the towns for sale.

They wear a black scarf over their heads in the shape of a hood. Their feet are nearly always bare and not bound. I had an opportunity of seeing one of their religious feasts for the first time last week. On starting from Tiong-lek last Monday, the people were holding a feast in honour of *Thin-Kong*, the god of heaven. One very noticeable difference between them and the people of Fukien province, in their theatricals, is that the actors speak in the language of the people, whereas, in the case of the Fukien people the actors speak in a language unintelligible to the audience.

The Hakka theatricals make their impression by the words and gestures. The others by their gestures and gorgeous dresses.

In the theatricals of the Hakkas which I saw, the actors were all dressed in the ordinary costumes of the people. I had not much time, however, for observation, for it was just twelve o'clock, midnight, and I had to hurry on my journey.

While at Tek-cham there was a pleasing and encouraging incident, shewing how the Gospel spreads among this people. While in the chapel on Sabbath two men came in, in a great hurry, and laid before me two good sized bundles of something or other, accompanied by red cards. These were presents for me which of course I had nothing to do with. I found that the men had come from a place on the sea shore or near it, one day's journey south from Tamsui. They had been to Tamsui, had gone to the hospital, and had also attended worship several times on Sabbath. I recognized the men as having seen them. My first thought was, "these men have some difficulty in which they wish to gain my favour and help." This I found to be correct. They wished us to go to their place on our way back, and preach. We, however, sent them off telling them that just now we could not, but for them to continue going to Tamsui on Sabbath.

Last Sabbath, yesterday, they did come, arriving here on Saturday night and going home to-day. I learn that the trouble in which they wish to gain my aid had been settled by the Tek-cham mandarin, and here is a very important point. This man (of the deputation) had told the mandarin that he was going to enter the Church of Jesus. The mandarin told him that if he wished to do so, that was very good. We have great reason for thankfulness to God that we have a mandarin in such an important city, favourable to the Gospel. In one or two things that

have transpired during the last two months he has shewn himself very friendly indeed. In fact, we have very little to fear from the mandarins at present in office here, I think. The new Hal-koan or Tartar representative of the Tartar government, has spent nearly half a day with me, not long ago, and, like the one that preceded him, he is very friendly.

When one thinks of it, how sad, that now the opportunities are so great, but cannot be taken advantage of for lack of men and means. We have prayers fully answered. The harvest truly is ready, but the harvesters are few. I received word that the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society had made Formosa a subject of special prayer for a month. Let there be constant prayer. There is no fear about the promise we rest upon. That has been fulfilled too often to leave us any room for doubt.

But I must now close. We are now entering upon our hot weather again. Mrs. Junor and I have only occasional attacks of fever now. It is the summer we fear, but we are in good hands. Whatever the Lord sees fit to send us, we are satisfied. K. F. JUNOR.

Tamsui, March 29th, 1880.

REV. G. L. MACKAY, D.D., IN JERUSALEM.

REV. WM. McLAREN—MY DEAR BROTHER,—By travelling second and third class in different places we have been enabled to visit this city and its surroundings. Thank God, I have at last seen Jerusalem, and I feel an indelible satisfaction. You can easily understand how I have not time for writing letters in such a place of *overwhelming* interest, with Bible in hand and other writings too, I am busy night and day familiarizing myself with the sacred spots in and around the Holy City. Thousands have seen these places and have penned their views from different standpoints, I am following no man's opinion, but just looking at things as they appear to me. What shall I say then of the city of David? Just what he said himself: "Walk about Zion, and go round about her; tell the towers thereof, mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces." "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion." "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people from henceforth even for ever." Yes, *beautiful for situation* is Zion's top. I have gazed on cities in the far west and east; I have seen "Edina, Scotia's darling seat," and cities in India's burning plains; but never looked upon a finer site for a palace than Zion, and finer position for a temple than Moriah. Micah said, "Therefore shall Zion, for your sake, be ploughed as a field." Last Thursday morning I walked all around the walls of Jerusalem, and saw men ploughing on Zion. The same prophet said, "and Jerusalem shall become heaps." One walk through it is enough to shew that it was all laid in ashes, for the present city is evidently built on ruins. It does one's soul good to be here and see places mentioned in the Bible, just as there represented. I visited the valley of Jehoshaphat, valley of Gihon, upper pool of Gihon (2 Chron., xxiii. 30), also lower pool, and stood in the valley of Hinnom, and "field of blood," stepped in the pool of Siloam, walked in the bed of the Kidron, wandered around Gethsemane, ascended the Mount of Olives, sat on the hill-side at Bethany, bathed in the Dead Sea, drank out of the Jordan, and slept in Jericho. Through the English consul I got permission to visit the Mosque of Omar and examine the site of Solomon's temple and the "golden gate." I have been through and through the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, saw the reputed tomb of our Lord, and Mount Calvary. Alas! alas! alas! I repeat for Jerusalem. This, you know, is the Greek Easter week, and yesterday, Greeks, Armenians, Copts, and Syrians, all had processions around the tomb, whilst two rows of Turkish soldiers guarded and protected them. Never have I seen in heathen China, fanaticism, ignorance, and superstition run riot to such a degree. O, pray for Jerusalem, don't forget *Formosa*, but remember dark, dark, dark Jerusalem. The Bible is *true*, every word of it, from "In" to "Amen." Thanks for ever to all who remember Zion. O, pray for Formosa. You will see us in June. Farewell. G. L. MACKAY.

Jerusalem, April 26th, 1880.

TOTAL abstinence from alcohol has been proved by thousands to be safe, sound, and sensible practice; always, everywhere, and for everybody.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

KNIGHT'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND. (New York: I. K. Funk & Co.)—This cheap and excellent reprint of an excellent history is nearly complete. The publishers deserve all credit for their enterprise and we trust that they will find it as profitable to them as it is to the community at large. With such publications at such prices, none need be without abundance of wholesome reading, or without good and more or less extensive libraries of their own. There is nothing sadder or more cheerless than to see homes without any supply of books and yet there are too many such, ay, and these not the homes of poverty either. Even in this Canada of ours one may often stumble upon houses where the furniture is good, nay expensive, where the food is abundant, nay even superfluously so, where all the dwellers dress well if not extravagantly, and where in short there is every indication of moderate well-doing, if not absolute wealth. But when one looks at the books provided, a very different tale is told. In that department all is on the most meagre, mean, and contemptible scale, as if anything of that sort were entirely superfluous. Pity that it should be so. Yet such is undoubtedly the fact. If the members of many a household were to spend on books what they every year expend on whiskey and tobacco, what handsome libraries they would soon have, and how much more cheery and homelike everything about them would become, ay, and how much more contented and intelligent both their children and themselves. For a few dollars even the poorest may provide good and attractive reading for all the year round, as is evident when Knight's History of England can be had for \$2.40.

NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, for June, 1880. (New York: D. Appleton & Co.)—The "North American" for June, is a fully average number of what has long been justly regarded as one of the best monthlies published in the States. The Rev. Dr. Shoup writes very keenly, nay, even with a good deal of bitterness, in reply to some strictures lately passed by the Rev. D. Swing, of Chicago, upon the past and present of the Southern pulpit, and especially in opposition to the assertion that that pulpit had been substantially a failure as far as all the higher and better ends of any pulpit are concerned. In very strong terms Dr. Shoup characterizes Mr. Swing's statements as resulting simply from his ignorance of the state of matters in the South, combined with a certain amount of prejudice against all the social arrangements, and all the special aspirations, of the Southern people. We cannot say that Dr. Shoup's general defence of Southern ways is a very effective one, while certainly, his apology for the Southern Church and its support of slavery is of the lamest. The Dr. says that that Church did exactly the same thing as the Apostle Paul directed his immediate converts and churches to do, in reference to Roman slavery. He forgets that while the apostle did not directly assail the institution of slavery which he found among the heathen Romans, his teaching had such an effect that in a very few ages slavery disappeared like snow before the sun. On the other hand, the people of the Southern States have always, even when slavery was first introduced, professed to be Christians, but instead of the preaching, teaching and discipline of the Church in that region breaking slavery down, it has been the great instrumentality in riveting its fetters and in making its burden even more galling and intolerable. Had the professedly Christian men of the South been animated by the same spirit which Paul inculcated, the terrible four years of war would not have been necessary to the destruction of slavery. But they were not, Dr. Shoup himself being witness, for though he says his countrymen are all glad that slavery has come to an end, they are not, he adds, conscious of having done anything wrong in fighting for its continuance as long as they could. What they did was done, it seems, conscientiously as in the sight of God, and would, in the same circumstances, be done again. Evidently a good deal of "education" is still needed, when men like Dr. Shoup can allow themselves to indulge in the language of this article. The other articles of this number are all very readable, and all have the great recommendation of being comparatively short and to the point, so that whether or not their readers approve of the line of argument pursued they have no difficulty in knowing what is aimed at, and are in no danger of being lost in mere jungles of involved sentences and cumbrous quasi-argumentation.