

because as yet, it is a dark, unbroken field without the glorious Gospel of Jesus in the midst of perishing thousands. The Lord will bless those who give liberally for His own cause, amongst the heathen. As Tamsui is to be the basis of our mission, you will doubtless be anxious to know more respecting it. The town is built on the north bank of the Tamsui river, about a mile from the sea shore on the west, and thirty miles from the northern extremity of the Island. A long narrow street runs parallel to the river, and the houses are built on each side. From the west-end of the town the street widens, and extends to the sea; near it the Europeans have their dwelling-houses and hongs. From a few yards behind the whole line of houses, the bank gradually rises to the height of eighty or ninety feet, then falls back into a beautiful table-land. On the sloping bank are groves of firs and other trees, and an excellent road along the edge. Further back there is a Chinese burying ground, where women weep and howl daily. A short distance to the east, a hill more than 2000 feet in height stands boldly above all, with its green-clad peak lost in the clouds. On the opposite side of the river there is a corresponding hill, also green to its summit, with several villages at its base. In entering the harbor on board a ship, it is like an arm of the sea, because above Tamsui the river takes a sudden turn, consequently the bank stands in front like a wall, as if the waters dashed against its sides, then rolled back into the sea. In reality, however, beyond that turn there are three branches of the river, and one flows from the east-side of the island. European vessels cannot sail up further than this town, but the largest that cross the channel, can enter the harbor and ride safely at anchor. Steamships and sailing vessels come regularly. A British "man-of-war" runs between this place and Fu-chow on the mainland, and a Chinese "iron-clad" comes semi-monthly. The exports are tea, hemp and camphor. Tea cultivation is rapidly extending and that causes an increase of trade. Since my arrival in spring, two Amoy merchants have established themselves here, and now there are five hongs in Toa-tin-tia, a town ten miles up the river. Ban-kah, the largest city in Northern Formosa, is about a mile beyond, and has a population of 70,000 or 80,000. It is impossible to pass through this northern country without admiring the beauty and variety of the scenery. Here is a fertile valley with rice, the sweet potato and vegetables growing—there is a table-land interspersed with the thistle, flowers and bushes. And there too, hills decked with the fir, and fern rise in pleasing variety. Northern Formosa is beautiful, but its inhabitants have debased hearts which bring forth vile and corrupt fruit. They are without a knowledge of the True God and His well beloved Son, the World's Redeemer. Since April I have been in the midst of those idolaters, studying their language, and every morning and evening endeavoring to make known the blessed Gospel of Jesus,—of course with a stammering tongue, still I have reason this day to bless the Lord for His great goodness. From five to fifteen have attended regularly. On Sabbath, Sept. 22nd, I preached for the first time in Chinese, 40 were present. Forenoon of the same day Commander Bax, of H. M. S. "Dwarf" came ashore with 40 marines, and I addressed them in English. In the evening, the same noble christian commander came to Chinese worship. Four young men of this place, who know the Chinese character very well, have been studying with me all summer, and now can read the Bible in the Romanized colloquial, and can write it also. One of them has been with me since April and I have reason to believe he has been "born again." At worship the other evening I asked him how long he desired to follow Jesus. With tears in his eyes, and without a moment's hesitation, he emphat-