

Formosa.

LETTER FROM REV. DR. G. L. MACKAY.

Tamsui, Nov. 24th, 1887.

I WAS engaged teaching in Oxford College every day until 29th ultimo, when accompanied by several students, I boarded a steam launch bound for Bang-kah at 6.30 a.m. We arrived three hours afterwards, then crossed the river and passed through *Sin-tsing* and on to *Pang-kió-thun*, where by special invitation we again enjoyed going through the gardens of the richest chinaman in all Formosa.—We extracted many teeth &c., and in the evening, I preached to 100, who listened with marked attention in the chapel. Sabbath 30th, we were off before day-break, and were in the *Su-kak-éng* chapel at 9.30 a.m. Where all the students who went by boat were waiting our arrival. I preached at once to a jammed house. In the afternoon I preached at 3 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. On Monday, 31st, started before day-break and at 9 a.m. we were in the *Thó-d-háq* chapel, where beating of the gong soon brought a full house, many being the regular hearers, as they heard I was passing through they came in from the hills. After again preaching I extracted teeth and dispensed medicines. We arrived at *Trong-lék* in good time and put up for the night. Tuesday, November 1st, made an early move and were at *Aúg-núg-kàng* in time to see many sick people &c. In the evening preached to a packed house; seven repeated Christ's sermon on the mount &c. Wednesday, 2nd, went off to *Tek-chham* was met by many converts and got a tremendous reception. In the evening, 150 listened with profound attention. Thursday the 3rd., at dawn set off towards the mountains, away from the main road, led by several *Hak-ka's* who attend pretty regularly in the city chapel. They speak a different dialect; but the most of them understand the one we speak. We have had several of these people and one as student for 5 or 6 years. There are several towns and villages in Northern Formosa of the same. *Hak-ka* means "stranger." They are Chinese from the Canton Province. Under a burning sun, on and on we went along the sides and ridges of hills mostly covered with sugar cane and clusters of ever-green trees. About noon we halted a while near the bank of a charming stream, and soon found our way to a village called *Géh-bái-à* which means like the 'New Moon.' Nearly 1000 souls could find shelter under a beautiful Banyan tree where we sat and spoke to the villagers who were delighted. Then we were led to the house of a fine old man and invited to put up for the night. The house was by far one of the largest and cleanest I have seen in Formosa North or South. The old man walked many Sabbaths to *Tek-chham* to hear the Gospel, and was there waiting for

me nearly a week. In the evening a large crowd assembled in the open court to hear the gospel and, when about through, another crowd came with torches in their hands and wished to hear, so I addressed the whole of them and we sang for hours. Friday 4th, very early, marched off amongst the hills with the towering mountains to our left. The sun was melting hot. At *Thán-hán* under a large tree I had my dinner and extracted teeth. About the middle of the afternoon we halted at *Kún-tsin-à* by invitation. Preached to a large number of *Hak-ka's* in the evening. Saturday 5th, at cock-crowing, went on over the hills and valleys to *Aú-làng*. Spoke a little and sang a hymn in the chapel, then round about to *Trong-Kang*. Upwards of 150 came out of the town to meet me, and soon the chapel was full of people glad to know more about the Gospel, I addressed them for one hour, and many returned to their work in the hills and on the seashore. Afternoon, I went all round the town speaking and healing, and in the eve people who came out to welcome me poured in from their homes in the country, and I preached to an audience who seemed moved. Many sat up late whilst others went home in the country.

To be continued.

Missions in Muskoka.

FROM REPORT OF REV. ALLAN FINDLAY TO THE PRESBYTERY OF BARRIE.

DURING last summer, twenty-four missionaries were employed in that portion of the mission field under your care known as the Muskoka field. Of these, two were ordained missionaries, viz., Messrs. Rondeau and Hewitt, both of whom are labouring on the line of the C.P.K. Three were Catechists, viz., Messrs. Garioch, Jackson and Wilson. The remaining nineteen were students from our colleges. Seven of our fields were occupied by labourers under the Students' Missionary Association of Knox College, who on this, as in former years, have manifested a deep interest in the important work being carried on within the bounds. As the greater part of the six months was spent in the Algoma field, I have not so much to report from personal observation. Yet, from what I have seen, and from reports which have come to me, I believe that the present year has been one of progress in every department of the work. This is all the more satisfactory, as many of our student missionaries this year are new to the work. While from many of the fields have come reports bearing testimony to the zeal, and, above all, to the exemplary Christian character of our young labourers—from not one has any report been heard, so far, indicating a failure in duty. As early in Spring as I could get through the