

FROM CHINA.

A LETTER from the Rev. Dr. Hart, dated Chentu, June 14, 1892, brings the gratifying intelligence that the mission party have secured suitable premises, and are settling down to steady work. It will be remembered that the party sailed from Vancouver in October, 1891, but were detained several months at Shanghai, owing to disturbances in some of the central provinces. Then considerable time was consumed in the long and necessarily slow journey up the Yangtse River, and the Conference year was about ended when they reached Chentu. The waiting time was not lost, however, as the new men were busy with the language, and Dr. Hart was able to make some evangelistic tours. Of the present state of affairs Dr. Hart writes :—

“We have rented a property in the best location to be found. It will accommodate, when repaired, two families—three if absolutely necessary. Further, there will be sufficient rooms, not adapted to dwelling purposes, for dispensary, wards for eight or ten patients, a reading room and chapel combined, and rooms for servants. It is our intention to open the chapel and reading room about the 20th, and dispensary so soon as Dr. Kilborn, who will reside here with Mr. Hartwell, feels competent to undertake the work. I have been living in the house, in great confusion, of course, for the past week. I gave the city a thorough inspection before deciding upon the place, and believe we have as healthful and commanding a site for work as any to be had at present.”

In a previous communication Dr. Hart urged the appointment of two additional missionaries (unmarried) to reinforce the present staff. Referring again to this subject, he says :—

“It will not cost more to maintain two single men in the field than a married couple, taking all things into consideration. You need not have any fear of our inability to use such new reinforcements. If fifty men were sent they could be used as efficiently as the three new men you have. There are sufficient open doors around us for a hundred men, and then they would be far enough apart. It must also be remembered that it takes quite two years for a man to gain a competency of the language for the simplest work. During that time the missionary should be considered as a student—simply that. At the end of the two years the man, if in good health during the time, and apt to learn, will be able to take up some independent work. One reason that led me to plead for the recruits was the fact that I must go to the coast for Mrs. Hart, and it would be as easy to bring a large party as a small one. No matter when you send out men, some one who can talk and knows China and its customs, ought—really must—escort the party up. Further, two single men could be housed upon our compound without expense to the Society, thus saving, for two or three years at least, quite a considerable sum. The other brethren will be pleading for 25 or 50 men.”

The concluding paragraph of the letter shows that it was written before the sad occurrence that bereft Dr. Kilborn of a loving companion, and the mission party of one of its active members :—

“This leaves us in good health, and all the young folks

struggling with the language. The Lord has thus far greatly blessed our every undertaking, and we can safely trust Him for the future. Remember us at your gatherings.”

In another letter of a few days' earlier date, Dr. Hart refers to the property rented for mission purposes, and adds :—

“I have another place in view which will be the place for two homes and the expected hospital. It is near the Tartar City, in a healthy quarter, well wooded and good outlook. I can get the plot, houses and all, for \$1,100. We cannot afford to rent when we can purchase at such a figure. We are using all the wisdom we possess, and are moving cautiously. This is an immense city—grows upon me the more I go about it. It is really 15 miles in circumference; besides there are two immense suburbs, containing not less than 150,000 inhabitants.”

RITUALISM RUN MAD.

IN a late number of the *Nanaimo Free Press*, we notice a letter from the Rev. J. B. Good, rector of St. Paul's Church, Nanaimo, giving an account of religious services at Hope, on the Fraser, on which occasion a large number of Indians and a few white people were present. The letter is interesting, as showing the extent to which ritualism prevails in the diocese of New Westminster, and the necessity for a pure and simple gospel among the Indian tribes to counteract the evil tendencies of ritualism run mad. Describing the “high celebration,” Mr. Good says :—

“The Bishop of New Westminster (our own Bishop not being present) was arrayed in gorgeous cope, purple cassock, jewelled mitre and his staff or crook was borne before him by the Rev. C. Croucher, also specially vested. The celebrant at this service was the Rev. E. Small, the Indian missionary at Lytton. He wore a richly wrought surplice and over this a very elaborate chasuble or vestment, with colored stole, and he was attended by the Catechist Meshall as assistant and attendant also vested.

“According to the general usage of this diocese, what are termed the ‘Five points of Ritualism’ were punctiliously observed—the eastward position, lights (four blazing candles), mixed chalice, wafer bread and vestments. To this we may add the singing of the ‘Agnes Deo’ and eucharistical adoration.

“As all had already communicated there was no one but the celebrant to partake of the consecrated host or elements, which consecration was made with many crossings and ceremonies not laid down in our Book of Common Prayer, and which can only be understood by the initiated. It was solely an assisted spectacular mass in direct contravention to the Rubric that requires that ‘four, or three, at least, communicate with the priest.’

“I must leave such matters to be reconciled as best they may with the plain letter and context of our Rubrics and services.”

And this is the kind of thing that is set before the Indians as “the Queen's religion,” and they are taught that it is disloyal to attend any other church or listen to other religious teachers.