

W. F. M. SOCIETY.

MRS. JAMIESON'S LETTER.

TAMSUI, August 16th, 1884.

DEAR MRS. HARVIE,—

Thank you for two letters with good news of past year's work. I wish you could have seen how the converts seized on your report and carried it off to exhibit the picture.

During hot weather students are all at their own homes; we cannot be too thankful for safe return of so many girls. They were committed to Dr. McKay's care, never before having been far from their own doors. Nearly all were from Rap-tsu-lân (east coast), and when taken back whole villages ran out to meet them; the look on a mother's face as she asked for her child you can only imagine. What if one had been missing? Their ages ranked from 10 to 25 years; their parents—Pi-po-hoans—are of those who threw away their idols and are being taught. They are a simple-minded, hard-working people, getting their food chiefly from the sea. When the girls came they had no idea of where or what Formosa is, much less of lands beyond the sea; they knew of course nothing of books. However the *minds* were there and through hard toil and perseverance on the part of teachers your girls carried home their testaments, able to read and write in the Chinese language printed in Roman letters, besides learning something of their own and other countries and many things around them. A children's Scripture Catechism was used as a text book, and had they learned nothing else what they saw and heard of those who have long followed the Master will be invaluable to them.

I suppose you have already news of bombardment of Kelung, on the 5th inst. Providentially the old chapel had just been pulled down for repairs. The place is deserted, English refugees here; three French vessels destroyed the forts and lie in the harbor. We wait for news, hope for peace, but are ready for anything. I do hope you are praying for the converts. Their lives are threatened by excited ignorant people—enemies to the work.