

sing to come Wednesday night and he has a large attendance.

We expect to take the girls into the home next Monday, although my freight has not yet arrived, but we will do the best we can until it comes.

There is need of clothing as well as knowledge. One little girl came to meeting on Sabbath, wading through the snow, which was a foot deep, without either boots or stockings on. Two old women came on Monday in the same plight. It would move a heart of stone to see them.

I would like to tell you how much we need a new school-house also. It does not exalt the religion of Jesus to need to worship in the building now used for the purpose. Let us ask God to open the hearts of those who have means to give to His cause, and may His be all the glory.

Sincerely yours,
ELIZABETH LESTER.

LETTER FROM REV. DR. MACKAY.

FORMOSA, TAMSUI,
Oct. 28th, 1892.

MY DEAR MR. CASSELS :—

JUST a month ago to-day Mrs. MacKay, our three children, and several students, started with me to visit our Southern stations.

After spending some time with the *Patli-hun* Christians across the harbor, we proceeded to the plateau further south, and on entering a hamlet called *In-khut* (round pool) were welcomed by five heathen in official dress and many children, "with squibs and crackers armed to throw," the rattling of which is to me disagreeable enough.

The young preacher there soon led us into a large room neatly arranged for Divine service. Immediately men and women filed in and we sang of Jesus and His dying love. Close by lay long heaps of red earth, which, before the late storms, were sun-dried bricks in rows ready for chapel building. That was the third destruction of materials. With determined energy the peasants are again actively engaged arranging all necessities for erection.

The night was spent at *Lâm-khâm* near a mountain torrent bed south of the elevated land. Clean, artistic, and cheerful looked your new house dedicated to the Lord of Hosts. On the black-board was well written in Chinese characters five divisions of the words, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." The preacher discoursed thereon the previous Sabbath and referred to the same every night since. It was so appropriate that I just spoke on the same glorious and adorable gift to sinful men. Two dozen were questioned on some truths embodied therein and we were greatly delighted, still no one was baptized.

Did the apostles baptize right on the spot at once? We don't. They acted according to their

surroundings and we are trying to establish a church in the midst of our environment. We think the *grand principles* of our Lord's disciples are followed here; but not their very acts imitated in apish form. There are mighty problems to be faced by men on the ground which the ordinary Christian at home may not fully comprehend.

In *Hhō-a-hūg* we proclaimed salvation to a full house. Our Bible woman there did excellent work, the fruits of which were quite visible. Theng, one of our oldest helpers, was only getting into work as he came recently from *Kelung*.

The *Hoa-kho'ham* evangelist had our rented chapel full as the result of hard, persevering labor. It is a rough town influenced by gorilla fighting and camphor distilling. Hymns were sung and hearers examined. A young man learned the Romanized colloquial, studied a New Testament Catechism, and closed his shop on Lord's day. Several women boldly stood up and declared themselves in favor of Christ's church.

On hearing that their preacher was needed in another place, there rang out one loud, long and united voice in his favor.

Ang-mug-kang, is a country village situated not far from the sea in a rather barren region of sand and red clay. Yearly the farmers suffer from drought during the growing months. At 7 p.m. a large audience greeted us in the spacious building, but only a small number are comparatively members and regular hearers. Still, a young Hak-ka and his mother are earnest in exhorting others to attend.

The people plead poverty as the cause of non-observance of our Lord's day. Hundreds are convinced that idolatry is useless though fashionable. Christian lands may view such a state very differently. We should regard it as progressive and encouraging, and should praise the Lord God for advancement and beseech Him to touch those *dead hearts with life giving power*.

Have I ever written my conviction regarding thousands here in a condition similar to the above? Perhaps not, well, here it is. If we persistently plead and preach there will be such an awakening as Formosa never witnessed. This is no mere visionary sentiment conjured up in a dreaming missionary brain, but a belief based on the eternal power of God which is an actual, potential influence, softening, refining and changing the souls of men in North Formosa.

Liong-kang is a large town, whilst our chapel is only a rented house. The teacher brought before us fifteen children who acquitted themselves creditably on the arranged subjects. An interesting meeting of old men was held in an inner room. One of the number has been suffering persecution from wife and family for six years. It was equally pitiful to hear his trials and delightful to see quivering lips uttering praises to the Lord our Redeemer.