

of these there were 6 whites, 15 half-breeds, and 12 Indians. Of these 1 white, 4 half-breeds and 6 Indians were received on examination. The six Indians are converts from heathenism. In addition to these the Report gives the names of sixteen who are what may be termed "inquirers." In the School, there are 41 pupils, of whom 18 are Indians, 22 half-breeds and 1 white.

It is less necessary, on the present occasion, to enter into lengthened details in reference to the operations of the Mission, as Rev. Mr. Moore is a member of the Assembly, and will be prepared, doubtless, to supplement verbally whatever may be deficient. The presence also on this occasion of Rev. James Nisbet who justly holds such a high place in the esteem of the Church, and who from his lengthened experience is so well able to give information, renders a more ample report superfluous. His visits to different sections of the country have, your Committee believe, tended not a little to excite a wider and deeper interest in the great work to which he has devoted himself. The Assembly will, no doubt, desire to hear something from his own lips respecting the work.

In accordance with the instructions of last Assembly your Committee encouraged the two young women who volunteered to engage in the work of Christ among the heathen, to complete their preparation for foreign service by spending a year at the Ottawa Ladies' College. Pecuniary aid to the extent found necessary has been given to sustain them while prosecuting these preparatory studies. It is fully expected that they will be ready to proceed to the foreign field in the course of the present summer.

Your Committee have not been able to come to any final decision as to the field of labor to which they should be sent. Enquiries have been made in various quarters, with the view of ascertaining the most promising openings for such laborers; and they trust sufficient information will soon be in their possession to enable them to make a satisfactory decision.

It is with more than ordinary pleasure that your Committee report on the state and prospects of the work in the Island of Formosa. The fields are evidently white to the harvest, and this beautiful gem of the ocean promises at no very distant day to form a jewel in the diadem of Christ. Both among the Chinese Colonists and the civilized aborigines there appears to be a remarkable readiness to receive the message of salvation. Every letter from your Missionary makes it more evident that the Church has been wisely guided to the selection of this field of labor.

Mr. Mackay sailed from San Francisco on the 1st November, 1871, and reached Formosa early in December. After spending a few months in the south of the Island with the brethren of the English Presbyterian Mission, in learning the language and in observing their modes of working, he proceeded to Tamsui, a treaty port in the north-western part of the Island, where he found a large field entirely unoccupied. Here he fixed his residence and resumed the study of the language. In less than five months from his arrival in China, he had begun to make known Christ to the people around him in their own tongue, and in ten months from that time he was permitted to gather in the first fruits of what promises to be an abundant harvest. It is impossible to give a better idea of the actual state of matters in Formosa than by an extract from the last letter received from Mr. Mackay. It is dated the 5th of March, 1873. He writes, "Since April, 1872, I have been endeavoring to make known the only way of salvation through a crucified Redeemer. Last month, I found there were upwards of 20 enquirers, all of whom reside in this town. They not only observed the Sabbath; but also attended regularly twice a day throughout the week. As no one can be admitted into the Church who is unable to give evidence of being 'born again,' I have, in the meantime rejected all, except five. And although these have been almost daily in my presence, still, I spent a day examining them as to their spiritual state, and was thankful to the Lord for the evidence they gave of having been brought from darkness to light by the Spirit of the living God. We can do no more than judge by the gospel standard and leave the results to Him who knows the inmost thoughts of the heart and cannot be deceived.