

FORMOSA MISSION.

Letter from Dr. McKay.

Hong Kong, Dec. 12th, 1884.

REV. DR. WARDROPE:

My Dear Sir,—A few weeks ago I wrote that the British Consul at Tamsui ordered all foreign ladies to leave by first steamer. Mrs. Jamieson, Mrs. McKay and children made ready, and as Mr. Jamieson was still studying the language we all thought he would better accompany them. I remained behind. Being weak after a severe attack of fever (brought on mainly through anxiety for the mission) I thought as all were quiet (the French doing nothing) of taking a round trip on a steamer for the sea breeze and return at once. Arriving here I found Formosa was blockaded, and that without one moment's warning. So I have been shut out since. All attempts to get back failed, and I can't swim across the channel. Noble Dr. Maxwell, of South Formosa, is similarly shut out. So are four more of their missionaries and wives.

No mission work could be done before I left—all, all at a stand still. Impossible to do any work, College and school closed, chapels either levelled to the ground or closed. On Palm Island, where the house purchased from Rev. K. Junor stands, there are no Chinese.

In Kelung there are no Chinese, as all fled when the French took possession. Since I left Tamsui, up to this date, all has been quiet there. There is that consolation to a poor bleeding heart; also the fact that if in Tamsui I could render no assistance to converts, and could carry on no work whatever.

Still to be there—to be there—to die if need be amongst the poor people for whose salvation I had the privilege of laboring so long. It makes me tremble to think of Romish priestcraft in dear, beloved Formosa if the French should take possession and hold it. Jamieson is busy, every day studying the language.

I am trying to gain physically, mentally and spiritually to be ready for the first chance of returning to uphold the blood-stained banner again in that beloved Isle. Did Canada ever pray? O! pray now; pray Almighty Jehovah to come forth and scatter the darkness! Psalm 125, 2.

Ever yours,

G. L. MACKAY.

Zion's Watchman gives the following: "A quaint writer tells of a very good prayer which was once offered: 'A brother was praying with much noise for faith—soul saving faith, sin-killing faith, devil driving faith. There was a quiet friend near to him, to whom the noisy brother owed a large bill. 'Amen,' said the quiet friend; 'Amen, and give us debt paying faith too.' My friends, we need that faith now-a-days. People do not believe in religion that does not do that. And they might well not believe in it, for he that does not do his duty to his brother, whom he has seen, how will he do his duty to his God, whom he has not seen?"

THE TRINIDAD MISSION.

General Report for 1884.

The Mission Council in viewing the work for 1884 offer most cordial thanks to the friends of the mission for their continued interest and support.

A year of hardship and trial closes with very many reasons for thanksgiving. Mr. Grant who was absent on furlough has returned. Two new female teachers from Canada are to begin work with the new year, and Rev. John Gibson has arrived to prepare for work in Demerara.

Progress is noticeable in every part of the field and department of the work. During the year some converts have passed away in confidence of a better world made theirs by faith in our Divine Redeemer; others have proved themselves worthy amid the toil and temptations of earth. 152 have been admitted to the Christian Church by baptism. 27 couples have been united in Christian marriage. 42 schools have been in operation during the year, with an average daily attendance of 1307 and 1962 on the roll at the end of the year.

Two new churches have been built, one at Oropouche and the other at Princetown. The cost of the former is included in the table of Expenditure. The church at Princetown has been built at a cost of \$2888 00 (in round numbers). By an effort spread over three years the sum of \$2585.00 has been raised for this object partly in Trinidad, and partly in Canada leaving a debt of only \$215.00. A new Concrete house has been built for Mr. Grant at a cost of \$3000.00. Of this sum \$2500.00 has been provided in Canada and the balance of \$500.00 remains meantime as a debt. These two special items are not included in the subjoined accounts.