

take her. We succeeded in reaching this vessel, but were disappointed to find that she was now bound for Chefoo. At Takoo I waited till Thursday, the 22nd, when through the kindness of Mr. Goddard, the English vice-consul, and of Mr. Field, in charge of the Foreign Customs (who both spoke in our behalf to the officers of the native custom-house), we had a free passage offered us in a native vessel going to New-chwang for grain. We embarked so hurriedly that I was able to make too little preparation in the way of food. The junk people were very kind; but such food as they could supply me with didn't suit my stomach, and, in consequence, I landed here on the following Tuesday a little unwell; and though I have been taking medicine and keeping quiet, I am not yet in my usual health. Dr. Watson, from Edinburgh, the medical officer here, has been very kind in his attentions, and I trust, if the Lord will, to be soon again in possession of my usual vigour.

*Description of New-chwang.*

This is a large and very important centre of trade. The river Ledow, which is two or three times the size of the Peiho, is filled with shipping, native and foreign, and during the shipping season the town is crowded with people. During winter, when the river is frozen, the town is, as may be supposed, comparatively deserted. The region round, to which this is the door of entrance, is very extensive, fertile, and well peopled, the inhabitants speaking a dialect almost identical with the mandarian of the capital. It is indeed high time that a Protestant mission were established here, as the basis from which ultimately the truth might spread throughout Moulchouria and the regions beyond, such as the province of Kirin, in which mandarian is also the spoken language. Mr. Meadows, the British Consul here, has been many years in the south and middle parts of China, and he has told me he thinks the climate here on the whole better than that of any other place where he has been located. I am well aware that our church has a sufficiently large field of labour at Amoy, Swatow, and on Formosa, and I would not even suggest to your committee the propriety of their attempting a mission station here; but I hope that some other body which has more strength to spare may take up, without loss of time, this important field. Whether I shall remain here after the shipping season closes or not, I cannot as yet decide, but if spared and in health, I shall certainly be very unwilling again to leave this post without a single missionary to raise a testimony to the truth among the Chinese, from our countrymen. One of the subordinate difficulties here is the high rate of rents that is demanded for shops and houses; 120 taels (£40 sterling) per annum is asked for a shop and rooms behind, which, in most places, would be worth not more than a tenth of this sum.

I have a native Christian with me—a member of the London Mission Church, Peking. He is a small farmer from the neighbourhood of T'se-Yuh, 20 miles to the S.E. of Peking, and was one of the first fruits of that station, when opened in 1865. He is not a talented man, but I think has felt the grace of God. Hoping, if spared, to write you soon again, and begging an interest in the prayers of God's people, I am ever, yours truly,

(Signed)

WM. C. BURNS