

THE FORMOSA MISSION.

Question.—What is Formosa?

Answer.—An island 250 miles long by 80 miles broad, lying off the east coast of China.

Q. What are its physical features?

A. A high, rugged, densely wooded range of hills runs north and south through the island, with fertile plains on either side between the mountains and the sea.

Q. What are the natural products?

A. The chief products are rice and tea, sugar and camphor, coal and petroleum, sulphur and indigo.

Q. What are the fruits?

A. Plums, peaches, oranges, pine-apples, bananas, etc.

Q. What are the chief domestic animals?

A. Cattle, water buffalo, pigs and goats.

Q. What are the wild animals?

A. Wild boars, bears, deers, panthers, etc. Birds and fish are plentiful.

Q. What kind of people live there?

A. Three kinds, the unconquered savages of the mountains, the conquered peoples of the plains, and the Chinese conquerors.

Q. What are the two former called by the Chinese?

A. *Chi-hoans!* and *Pé-po-hoans!*

Q. What is the population of Formosa?

A. About three millions.

Q. Is there any mission there besides our own?

A. The Presbyterian Church of England has a mission in the southern part of the island.

Q. Where is our mission?

A. In Northern Formosa, where no other Church has given the Gospel.

Q. Who was our first missionary to North Formosa?

A. Rev. G. L. Mackay, of Oxford Co., Ont.

Q. When did he land there?

A. At 3 p.m. on the 9th of March, 1872.

Q. Where did he make his headquarters?

A. Tamsui, a treaty port, with 6,000 people.

Q. How did he learn the language?

A. Went with herd boys at their work, or any who would talk with him.

Q. How long was it before he began to preach in Chinese?

A. Five months.

Q. When did he have his first communion?

A. 16 Feb., '73 with five converts, less than a year after he landed.

Q. What difficulties did he meet with?

A. National pride, hatred to foreigners, ancestral worship, avarice, etc.

Q. What were his methods of work?

A. Travelling, giving medical help to overcome prejudice, then preaching, and founding churches with native preachers.

Q. In what ways did he give medical help?

A. By giving medicine to the sick on his journeys, and by founding a hospital at Tamsui, the first year he was there.

Q. How long did Dr. Mackay labour alone?

A. For three years.

Q. What was the state of the mission at the end of three years.

A. There were 7 preaching stations and 37 communicants.

Q. Who were then sent to help him?

A. Rev. J. B. Fraser, M.D., and his wife.

Q. What was Dr. Fraser's special work?

A. Healing, and teaching the Gospel to the sick in the hospital at Tamsui.

Q. How long did Dr. Fraser remain?

A. About two and a-half years.

Q. What then took place?

A. His wife died, and he had to bring his little children back to Canada.

Q. What was the state of the mission after Dr. Mackay had been there six years?

A. There were thirteen churches, with a native preacher in each, and 214 communicants.

Q. When and to whom, was Dr. Mackay married?

A. In 1878, to a very worthy Chinese lady, one of his own converts.

Q. Who went out to his assistance when he had been there six years?

A. Rev. K. F. Junor and his wife, in the summer of 1878.

Q. How long did they remain?

A. About four-and-a-half years, when, owing to ill-health, Mr. Junor had to resign.

Q. When did Dr. Mackay make his first visit to Canada?