

The Presbyterian Review.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, DRAWER 2464, TORONTO, CANADA.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Under 3 months, 15 cents per line per insertion; 3 months, \$1.00 per line; 6 months, \$1.75 per line; 1 year, \$3.00. No advertisement charged at less than five lines. None others than unobjectionable advertisements taken.

Toronto, December 5, 1895.

From Far Formosa.*

A BOOK, regarding which it may be safely predicted that it will rank among the greatest of the books which contain the record of missionary experiences, whether in India, with its Duffs, Wilsons, and Careys; in Africa, with its Livingstone, MacKay and Macdonald; or the new Hebrides, with its venerable Paton, was given to the public last week, with the above title the fitness of which depends not on its euphony only but also on account of its truth. For Formosa is a far country in almost every respect, though it will be brought near to many minds by the perusal of Dr G.L. Mackay's much expected volume, now in the hands of our readers. It will bear not only perusal but study and careful study at that ere its varied and valuable contents can be assimilated and adequately digested. Dr Mackay has given a book to the world which will command readers wherever the English language is known and wherever students of science extend their studies beyond books published in their own language. France and Germany as well as Britain and the United States will read it, for its chapters dealing with the ethnology, history, geology, botany and Zoology of the Beautiful Isle, and for the fund of information it contains with respect to the government, industrial, social and religious life and customs of the people. It is not merely a record of missionary work, or rather, we should say, of the work of evangelizing, for Dr Mackay has shown that alongside the dissemination of Gospel truth in the dark places of the earth, the missionary has the important duty to perform to mankind, of chronicling the facts of the country and people he may be labouring in and among, in their pre-Christian condition. But when due testimony has been borne to Dr. MacKay's learning in many fields of science as indicated,—and that learning is not shallow, but thorough to an extent which considering his scanty opportunities is simply amazing and puts many ministers in Ontario to the blush,—we feel that the great interest of the book lies in the record of Gospel power among the heathen, in which the renowned missionary has been the honoured agent. With what thankfulness and pride should the Church regard Dr Mackay's work! Canada has given a great man to the heathen, a man greatly owned by God, a man who links her in the record of the illustrious with Scotland's great men of the second quarter of this century.

What he has suffered, what accomplished will not be found in his book, but there glimpses, vivid and enduring of the man and his work may be had. Not

*FROM FAR FORMOSA. The Island, its People and Mission. By George Leslie Mackay, D.D. For twenty-three years a Missionary in Formosa. Edited by Rev. J. A. Macdonald. Maps and illustrations. 8vo, cloth, \$2.00. Published by Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, Chicago, Toronto.

the least interesting chapter is the introductory one describing the early years and ancestry of the author. His father was a Sutherlandshire Highlander who with his wife left Scotland in the memorable days of 1830. The "Fathers," the "Men" of Sutherlandshire were famous for their piety and their love of evangelical truth and there will be found the soil from which sprang to life the holy zeal of Formosa's great missionary. When the MacKay's the MacKenzies, the Sages, the Gunns, and the Cooks were sowing Gospel seed in tears on the rocky shores and fertile valleys of the Scottish North, they saw, in their life-time, many a glorious harvest, but far beyond the circle of their ken went their holy influence and from many lands (from the emigration of the people) come now and then a striking example that the Word returneth not void.

Dr. MacKay's early aspirations were for the foreign field and in pathetic sentences he tells his hopes and fears and the trembling yet persistent steps taken to that great goal. He lovingly remembers the kindness and Christian sympathy of the then Convener of the Committee, Rev. Dr. MacLaren, now of Knox College; and the account of his journey to Formosa and settlement at Tamsin read like a page from a romance. His "first views of Formosa" show the graphic style of the narrative—which is characteristic—and the ease with which Dr. MacKay could grasp the salient features of his subject. Much of the book, as has been said, deals with the Island itself and its people from a scientific standpoint, but he is clear as to the main object of his mission and he thus puts it: "My commission is clear . . . 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.' Whatever else may be done, must have a real and positive bearing on the fulfilment of that commission, whatever of history, geology, ethnology, sociology, or of any other subject may engage the missionary's attention must be regarded in its relation to the Gospel. To get the Gospel of the Grace of God into the minds and hearts of the heathen, and when converted to build them up in their faith—that was my purpose in going to Formosa. I had it clearly before me at the beginning, and nothing has been allowed to obscure it or make it less supreme." No one can read the book without feeling the fidelity with which the author held to his plan thus set forth. That he has gathered much scientific lore and has given some of it in his pages does not obscure the singleness of his every effort in making known the Gospel, and as has been remarked the evangelizing efforts and experiences are what shows the great man as well as the great missionary. But he is great because as his work shows he is a wise man and a many-sided one. To enter into these experiences as related is not at present contemplated, nor to enlarge upon the interesting information of the popular customs prevailing in Formosa. These will form subjects of subsequent notices, for the present what has been said must suffice.

But a sentence must be devoted to the editor's work. In the selection of Rev. J. A. Macdonald of St. Thomas, Dr. MacKay was most truly advised. The arduous and difficult work could not have been placed in better hands. To a literary facility and power, Mr. Macdonald adds high critical ability, and a sense of proportion absolutely necessary where varied, detached, and technical material has to be handled, every scrap of which has a living interest. It was Mr. Macdonald's first attempt on so large a scale in this field and it is but scant justice to him to say that the impress of his hand marks every chapter and that he