

## BUYING BRIDES IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.

**O**UR missionary, Mr. Annand, writes that girls are betrothed and married very young in most of the islands. In some places the infant just beginning to toddle about, is spoken for. There are no old maids in the New Hebrides because none can refuse to marry there. The girls have no say in the matter.

What is the price of a girl? They are bought for so many pigs, and are passed over to the buyer, just as a horse or cow may be in Canada.

The selling price varies on different Islands. In Futuna where women are plentiful, even more numerous than men, they sell for one pig each, while on Santo, where pigs are plentiful and women scarce, a bride sells for as high as twenty pigs.

Should not the little girls of our Sabbath-schools and mission bands be thankful for the land they live in. Remember that it is the Gospel which has made our land free, and that same Gospel can raise these girls and women from being classed with pigs, and bought and sold like them, to their rightful place on earth and to heirship in heaven.

What are you doing to send the gospel to those who have it not.

## A STORY FROM FORMOSA.

**R**EV. Dr. Mackay, our senior missionary in Formosa, tells the following story to Mr. Hamilton Cassels, of Toronto, Convener of our F. M. Committee, showing wh the gospel did or one poor heathen woman. Scenes like this should encourage us in the work.—Ed.

FORMOSA, TAMSUI, Dec., 1892.

MY DEAR MR. CASSELS,—

In 1872, twenty years ago, shortly after I first came here, a woman and two sons came from the country to my little Chinese dwelling, and heard and believed the Gospel.

In March, 1873, I established a chapel in their village and appointed A. Hoa, Rev. Giam Cheng Hoa, as preacher.

On 17th September, 1876, she was baptized,

being then hale and hearty though sixty-two years of age.

As time rolled on, from year to year she became a firm believer, consistent member and zealous worker, being indeed a true "mother in Israel."

Monday, 14th Nov., a little more than two weeks ago, I bade her farewell for the last time on this side of the river. On entering the room I inquired about her condition. She replied in a whisper, "We will meet in Heaven," then placed her hand to her heart and gazed upwards. Friends standing around sang

"I to the hills will lift mine eyes."

"Thank you, peace to you all" came softly from the dying Christian's lips as we retired.

Friday, four days later, a letter was handed to me from the Preacher there, containing seven words:—

"Last night 'Thah So' ascended to Heaven."

The next day I led the funeral procession a mile distant and saw her remains laid in the shallow house, as we sang

"For ever with the Lord."

A daughter, an elder's wife, told me, as follows, about her mother's departure from this land of sin and sorrow:—

"For two days she was quiet and silent, when, all at once the relatives were aroused by hearing the familiar voice in clear, strong tones sing

"I to the hills, etc.,"

and, immediately afterwards,

"For ever with the Lord"

to the verse beginning

"My Father's house on high."

A moment's pause and the following was heard in tones that hardly seemed earthly:—  
"Heaven's gate is opened, a large white sedan chair is coming for me. Daughter don't call me again. I'm going, I'm going."

Thus an aged Christian in North Formosa passed into everlasting glory.

No more at this time, save "Bless the Lord all ye who love His glorious name. Bless the Lord, O my soul."

Yours sincerely,

G. L. MACKAY.