

Europeans were in the line of fire behind the forts, the residents were advised to go on board the British gun-boat then lying in the river, and which was to be moved further up, so as to be out of reach of the French missiles. Next morning, instead of 10 a.m., at 6.30 cannonading commenced. The Chinese it is said were trying with blank shot how one of their guns would work, which the French interpreted as the beginning of the action, and replied accordingly. We were at once under fire in earnest. As best we could we made our way to the gunboat, dodging the falling shells and fragments as we went. The sensation is anything but pleasant, as one hears volley after volley fired from those huge floating forts; while overhead or alongside there is the whirr or bang of a shot or shell going on its deadly work. Firing lasted pretty steadily until about 11 a.m., when the forts were silenced. Fortunately, no Europeans were hurt, nor any connected with our mission. The mission property is very little damaged. My own house was struck twice, fragments of shells coming through the roof. In the evening we returned to our homes, and all was quiet. This bombardment took place on 4th Oct. On the 8th we had another day of excitement, when the French landed about 600 men to attack the Chinese soldiers stationed near the coast. About 9 a.m. a heavy cannonading was begun to cover the landing of the attacking force. Then followed a sharp contest with small arms, with the result that the Chinese had the advantage, and the French were obliged to make a rather hasty retreat to their ships, with loss, as reported, of some 20 killed. But though repulsed at this time, it was well known that the French would but wait the arrival of more troops to make an attack more vigorously than before; the Chinese were also collecting more forces, and it was evident there would be a severe struggle. In consequence of this an order was issued by the British Consul that all women and children should leave the port, it being considered unsafe for them to remain longer. Mrs. Mackay and three children, Mrs. J. and myself, left on 12th, accompanied by other two English ladies. Dr. Mackay decided to remain for a time, at least, to look after the interests of the mission. We are ready to ask the reason why these things are allowed to take place, but we wait in patience, trusting that the light will yet shine brightly where now it is dark, and that these trials will yet issue in a greater extension of the Kingdom of our Redeemer. Dear friends in Canada pray for your tried and afflicted brethren in Formosa. The dark night of suffering has come upon them, but while many have been called to pass through deep waters, we are glad to know that they have proved true to the faith which they professed. By their example may we all be stimulated to press on, fight on, even amidst trial and difficulty, till the warfare is over and the crowns are won.—JOHN JAMIESON.

Field Notes.

TRINIDAD: *Rev. John Knox Wright* writes from *Couva, Feb. 2*:—We have fairly entered upon the work of another year. The schools are all in running order and give promise of even better things than last year. The Government Inspector was heard on Monday and Tuesday of last week, and examined California, Exchange, Milton, and Esperanza. In the first mentioned school we presented over eighty for examination. Most of these passed over very creditably. In Exchange we presented over forty. The average in January in this school is forty-six. To present a child we must show by record of attendances that he has been over 100 full days at school during the year. The Calcutta school is doing well. Mr. McLeod was here to-day. He seems better. Mr. Gibson is now in Princes Town studying as much as possible, but also giving help to Mr. McLeod in the working of his field. However, I am pretty well on the whole. We had quite a stir on Wednesday of last week. There was a collision of a passenger train with a gravel train near St. Joseph station. Two persons were killed and many injured. Two or three have died since from injuries received. The C-mblay festival will soon be upon us. We trust that there will be no disturbance. Such disturbances have a fearfully demoralizing effect upon the Coolies. There are very many causes which tend to hinder our work in bringing these poor creatures to the truth. Pray for them. Pray for us. We are grieved to learn of troubles in Formosa. May God give His blessing upon India, Formosa, Trinidad and all lands in which the gospel torch is held aloft, and remove all hindrances.

HONOLULU, Hawaii:—*Rev. Hugh A. Robertson* and family arrived here on the 24th of February, en route for Eromanga, all well. *Mr. T. M. Henderson*, formerly of Montreal, now settled at Honolulu, writes as follows,—The mission work of the Hawaiian Islands has met with a sad loss, in the death of two of the oldest missionaries. Mrs. Lowell Smith departed this life for her "rest" on Saturday, January 31st, after a few days' illness. She came to the islands with her husband, the Rev. Lowell Smith, M.D., in 1832, and up to her death had been an active worker. They devoted themselves especially to the natives. Though 75 years of age she taught a class in Sunday school, and literally died in harness. She was present in the school on January 11th, and closed the exercises with prayer. Mrs. Smith attended Evangelistic meetings conducted by Mrs. Hampson of England, from Jan. 4th to 14th and it is supposed she overtaxed her strength. The funeral services were held in Kaunakapili church (native Christian) of which Dr. Smith was the first Pastor, and were conducted in both Hawaiian and English.