

There are ten missionaries sent out by our Church, assisted by about thirty native evangelists and helpers. These are distributed as follows :—

Our oldest missionary, Mr. Burns, has been for four years actively engaged in mission work at the capital, co-operating with the agents of other societies. By the latest accounts, he has gone on a visit to New chwang, the most northerly of the Free Ports, and situated in Moulchuria. A short notice of this promising field of missionary labours is given in the present number.

In the Amoy district, Messrs. Douglas, Macgregor, and Cowie divide the work of visiting and superintending the native churches. They also conduct a class for training promising young men for the ministry. Nine of these are at present under instruction. Mr. Swanson, who is now at home on furlough, hopes to return to Amoy with Mrs. Swanson next month.

In the Swatow district, Messrs. Smith and McKenzie carry on the work of preaching the Gospel, while a large blessing has rested on the hospital work under Dr. Gauld, the medical missionary.

On Formosa, Dr. Maxwell has been labouring single-handed as a medical missionary for the last two years, but we hope he has by this time been joined Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie, who sailed from England in July last.

Looking at China generally, as a mission field, it seems everywhere ripe unto the harvest. The old idolatries seem to be loosing their hold of the people. Government colleges are being established at the Free Ports for instructing Chinese youths in Western science and arts; and there is, along with such hopeful signs, a remarkable readiness everywhere to listen to the Gospel message.

There is no finer field for missionary enterprise in the whole world. God's time to favour China seems to be come, and we may esteem it a high privilege to have been permitted to share so largely in the reaping of this harvest of souls".

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#### LETTER FROM THE REV. W. C. BURNS.

NEW-CHWANG, Sept. 9, 1867.

*His movements after leaving Peking.*

DEAR MR. MATHESON,—When I last wrote you from Peking, I mentioned that I had thought of setting out for this place, either as a terminus for the time being, or possibly as an intermediate step in going south to head-quarters. I also mentioned, that in consequence of the opposition of some kind friends to my finally leaving Peking, I had so far altered my plan as to propose, in the first place, paying a visit to Shawntung and seeing the people among whom there has been manifested, as we have heard, so interesting a work of grace. God in His providence, however, prevented me from carrying out this latter purpose. On the day when we were to have left Peking, the rain fell in torrents, and next day, although the weather was fine overhead, we found, after proceeding a certain distance, that the roads were quite impassable. Added to this the country we had to pass through was infested by mountain banditti, and so no course was open but either to return to Peking or go on to Tientsin by boat from Tung-chow. I preferred the latter course, and so, sending from Tung-chow to Peking for my boxes, I proceeded down the river to Tientsin. This was on Monday, Aug. 12th; we had left Peking on the previous Wednesday, Aug. 7th. At Tientsin I found no vessel ready to sail for New-chwang, but hearing that there was one at Takoo, I hurried down to over-