

constant intercourse among the people, as well as I do this now: at the same time losing nothing by my removal in my knowledge of books. I have never studied the Hokken dialect, but a few weeks at first, and now I understand much that they say, and should soon know this as well as the Maccao dialect were I to turn my attention to it.

Indeed I now think of going up to where the British army is gone, the first opportunity after hearing that they have landed, and taken possession of territory—John Bull seldom lets his foot slip in the East—therefore I feel persuaded they will maintain their hold. Nor do I think it probable that I shall soon return, perhaps never, to Macao. There are many advantages in several missionaries commencing a spoken language together to learn it fast. I should be truly glad therefore, if a missionary or two were to arrive from your Board in the course of this year. The two Misses Parkes can speak the local dialect nearly as well as I can, but I have been more than half the time studying it—not because they have studied it more diligently since they commenced, but because two are better than one in the acquisition of the languages as well as every other missionary engagement. But if such do not come—the will of the Lord be done. I will do what I can alone!

You are aware, I suppose, that when I go to this new place, that I shall need an immense amount of books! And your society is all the dependence I have for the means of making such. The American Tract Society has constantly professed to do something for me in this way; but they do it in such a way as to keep up a constant unpleasantness between the missionaries here; hence I have determined to have nothing to do with any assistance from *any quarter*, that does not come directly to me, or through your Board!! Please to ascertain whether the Baptist G. T. Society could not assist you a little in publishing tracts in China: and whether the A. & F. B. Society would not assist you in publishing portions of the Chinese scriptures, from which “washing ceremony” for baptism will be scrupulously excluded.

I doubt not but by Christmas next that, if the Lord will, I shall be occupying a new field: and if so, I should extremely regret that my hands should be tied for the want of means. I think it very probable that from \$1,000 to \$2,000 will be needed by your missionary or missionaries in China for the publication of tracts and books alone in 1841. The Chinese can print and make the books themselves cheap and well, under my superintendence, (as they are now doing,) or that of my assistant in the printing line.—Schools and the various means of enlightening the

heathen should, as soon as possible, be commenced under the new auspices!

My dear brother and brethren pray for me and China, and assist me as far as you can. This is a day of wonders here. The Lord intends good for China, blessed be his holy name. It is getting a little lighter around about me than it was on the 6th of April, 1836, when brother B. in Mississippi, told me that I was “taking a leap in the dark.”

My health is very good, and my spirits rather better—higher than usual, in view of the commencement of our new station, where I may preach the gospel and distribute books without restraint. I. J. ROBERTS.

SUMMARY OF THE MISSIONS OF THE  
AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR 1840.

Having completed the annual survey of the year, it remains to sum up the whole. The receipts have been \$241,619.04, and the expenditures \$246,601.37, exceeding the receipts \$4,910.33. The debt of the Board has of course been increased by that amount, and is \$24,083.42. The number of the missions is twenty-five, the Cyprus mission having been connected with that to Turkey. These missions embrace eighty stations, at which there are 134 ordained missionaries, ten of whom are physicians, 10 physicians not preachers, 14 teachers, 10 printers and book-binders, 11 other male and 166 female assistant missionaries;—making in all 365 missionary laborers from this country, or ten less than were reported the last year. But to these we must add 15 native preachers and 107 other native helpers, which makes the whole number 487, six more than the whole number reported a year ago. Five ordained missionaries, one physician, two male and ten female assistant missionaries, in all eighteen, have been sent forth during the year now closed.

The number of printing establishments is 15; of presses 32; of type founderies 5; of churches 55; of church-members 17,234; of those received into the church the last year 10,810; of seminaries for boys 8, containing 412 boarding scholars; of preparatory boarding schools for boys 6, containing 100 pupils; of female boarding schools 10, containing 295 pupils—making the whole number of boarding schools 24, and of boarding scholars of both sexes 807;—of free schools 415, containing 21,606 pupils; of books and tracts printed, about 685,000 copies and 45,202,506 pages the past year; and from the beginning, according to the reports of the several missions, 233,156,081 pages.—*Mis. Herald.*

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