

at another Russia, at still another, France, is to fight the hated Japanese. Do not wonder that the poor Formosans have been like vessels tossed on troubled seas.

The Japanese under the upright administration of Governor General Nogi, became more friendly towards Formosans. Christians especially, have nobly exerted themselves on behalf of the natives.

It is not all sunshine yet; but we thankfully recognize progress and improvement.

The new Governor, Kodoma, will soon occupy the place of his predecessor. Time will reveal his administrative ability.

At several places on account of rebels it was impossible to maintain laborers, even if there had been men to spare. Therefore we mark fifty-six stations only for the past year.

Several preachers left their vocation during the year. This bare statement alone would be very unjust to them and the Lord's work here. In every case there were family troubles which westerners at a distance cannot well understand. Besides, there is a subject which has engaged attention for twenty years. That is, the support of a preacher's wife and little children should disease or death lay him aside. An ordinary preacher gets \$8 per month (about \$1 gold at present). At his death his wife and children must leave the chapel—leave it as nearly on the list of beggars as possible.

There is provision made in Canada for aged and infirm ministers and also for widows. Now the men referred to above had their families in view and sought other business that they might better their condition. But mark well. They not only continue as living Christians; but labor zealously for Christ's cause and contribute out of their earnings. We never cease discussing with the native church about devising some means of relief for the widows and orphans of preachers. French, then Japanese troubles have kept the people in such a state of anxiety that this important matter has not yet been settled. We make no apology for the preachers; but state that they have our sympathy for the above, and many other reasons.

Three preachers died of consumption whilst "in harness." One of them contracted the disease whilst exposing himself to rain and storm to help the captain and crew of an American ship wrecked on the Kap-tsu-lan coast. He passed away triumphantly rejoicing in the Lord Jesus and exhorting all around his deathbed to follow Jesus. He was a model pastor.

Twice a week the hospital enjoyed the useful services of Dr. A. N. Wilkinson, from London, England. Apart from that assistance Dr. McKay carried on the work when here.

There were no Chinese soldiers to swell the lists, and no crowds from long distances, because robbers harassed travellers. 1166 new and 5245 old patients were treat-

ed during the year from Jan. 1st, to Dec. 31st. Japanese medical men confirm the usual statements about the prevalence of malarial fevers.

Though Mr. McKay visited, more than once, every station on the west side of North Formosa, the greater part of the year was occupied in Oxford College. There were four times as many students as in 1896. Two had been Confucian Teachers and one was a Taoist priest. The progress made right up to Christmas was very satisfactory. Oxford College was built for this express purpose and no other.

The church here and the church in Canada should know once and for all that a deaf ear is turned to all talk by young Japanese about English, bookkeeping, and a western education, because our work should never be to give a secular education to help heathen men in business and use the cents and dollars given by Christians to spread the Gospel of Jesus amongst the perishing millions. The most distant station feels the beat of the pulse in Oxford College.

The Girl's School had ten in attendance for half the year; but the greatest benefit to the mission was the training of a number of women and wives of preachers at the same time. Some of the Bible women are doing glorious work for the Kingdom of Jesus.

Rev. Wm. Gauld and Rev. Giam Chheng Hoa visited, on Sabbaths, the stations on the western side of North Formosa. Jap Sun also preached in chapels around Tamsui. Rev. Tan He labored as usual, doing faithful and honest work. Dr. McKay says "Whatever I accomplished personally, was by the continual assistance of Koa Kau."

After prayerful conference with preachers, elders, deacons and people in Tekchham, Bang-kah, Toa-tui-tia, Pat-li-hun, Sek-khan, Sin-tiam and other places, they bestirred themselves and fruits are already visible. Believers are more numerous, more devoted and more hearty than in 1896. Dr. McKay writes, "The other day I saw Christians of twenty-five years' standing, shed tears of joy as they shouted praises to the eternal God for His loving kindness—yes, praise Him—

"For His parting promise dear  
Of His presence always near;  
For the blest assurance made  
Of His intercessory aid."

