

Missionary Intelligence.

LETTER FROM REV. G. L. McKAY.

FORMOSA, TAKAO, Jan. 24th, 1872.

REV. D. INGLIS,

MY DEAR SIR:—Since my arrival here I have been anxious to write to you, according to promise, and now that I am fairly at work and settled here, I drop you this note. On the 1st day of Nov. last I left San Francisco in the steamship "America" of the Pacific Line, and after a pleasant voyage across the ocean she entered the harbor of Yokohama (Japan) on the 26th, where she remained until the afternoon of the 28th. Again setting sail and pursuing her course southwards, we arrived at Hong-Kong on the morning of the 5th of Dec. The harbor there is excellent, surrounded by rugged hills so that from the shore the entrance cannot be seen. Thus it appears like a small lake. From this place I went up a large river in a fine steamer to Canton and on the way I observed the demolished fortifications which were battered by British guns several years ago. Lofty pagodas were to be seen, many of them hoary with age. When within a few miles of the city the scenery was truly charming. Tall bamboos, bananas, &c., overshadowed the river's banks. In general appearance the city itself is a mass of ancient looking buildings, which like the pagodas are hoary and weather beaten. A closer inspection, however, reveals narrow streets two or three feet in width with sign boards marked with glittering characters hanging down. On each side are busy shop-keepers dealing out their various articles, and at short intervals workmen carrying idols, and devotees bowing before them keep up a continuous noise, not to mention their gongs and trumpets, &c. In walking through that great heathen city one is reminded of the Psalmist's words of old, "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands," and from that one is constrained to follow him farther and say truly "They that make them are like unto them." From brethren there I gathered the following facts concerning the city, viz: Chinese population 1,000,000,—quarter of the population of our own beloved Canada;—Foreign population, 109; no. of Missionaries, 15, 14 ordained and one in the hospital; native helpers, 20; churches represented, American Presby., English Wes. Methodist, English Independent, United Pres. of U. States, Baptist Church of Southern States; chapels, 15, three for women in connection with schools for girls, converts, 250. Here, as well as in all seaport towns, foreign influences interfere very materially with mission work. It is sad to think of the conduct of foreigners from Christian lands in these dark places of the earth.

From Canton I returned to Hong Kong and then came up to Swatow and spent about two weeks with the laborers there, and came on then to Amoy and crossed over at once to Formosa, not knowing at the time that I would be led to remain here. In crossing the Formosan strait I was sea-sick, for we were in a strong typhoon, and our sailing vessel (which was not large) was tossed on the billows. We were not long, however, in coming to this port, and I thought it a suitable season for reflection and self-examination for fellowship with the sinner's hope. In safety He brought me over earth's widest ocean, without being laid low, and in safety He brought me across this strait, suffering from sea-sickness to show me my