

to become a missionary to the heathen and offered his services to the Presbyterian Church in Canada, which were accepted, the choice of a field being left to himself. His attention was providentially directed to Formosa, where he arrived on the 9th of March, 1873. His personal appearance is remarkable; rather under than over average height, he is "well built," dark complexioned, with a pair of piercing black eyes, an indomitable will, and perseverance in every lineament of his face. He must have an iron constitution to have survived the countless attacks of fever to which he has been subjected during the past ten years. In the spring of 1878 he was married to a Chinese lady who has since proved herself in every way worthy of his choice, and has rendered him invaluable assistance in the great work which he has in hand.

The Island of Formosa is on the eastern coast of China, separated from the mainland by a sound of about ninety miles in width. It is 250 miles long, and has a population of about three millions. A range of mountains, rising in some places to 12,000 feet, divides the island longitudinally. The western portion is inhabited by Chinese, the eastern, by aboriginal, savage tribes of the Malay type. The English Presbyterian Church has had, since 1865, a successful mission among the Chinese who occupy the southern part of the island. Until very recently, no attempt has been made to reach the aborigines with Christian instruction. Dr. Mackay made choice of the northern districts of Formosa, and established himself at *Tamsui*, a town of some importance with a British consulate and a large staff of Chinese officials. The surrounding country is very beautiful and fertile, and the climate, except in "the rainy season," fairly healthy. The prevailing religion, in Formosa, as in China Proper, is Buddhism. Rev. W. A. Mackay of Woodstock, in an article published some years ago, gives the following graphic account of Dr. Mackay's early attempt at church building:—

"As soon as he was able to speak the language more fluently, he began to travel from village to village and from town to town, preaching the Gospel, extracting teeth, and healing the sick, passing the night, wherever night came on, sometimes on the hillside under a tree, sometimes in a dark damp hole of a room, and sometimes in an ox-stable. He travelled

bare-footed over the mountain ranges into the savage tribes who inhabit the eastern part of the island, and several times he was nearly shot by them. Many times he was nearly swept away when wading or swimming across a mountain torrent. Once he was in the very act of drowning when one of his students plunged in, and, at great risk to himself, saved him. Often was he in the midst of an angry mob that was ready to kill him. One or two instances may be related. Bang-Kah, about 12 miles from Tamsui, being one of the largest cities in the north of Formosa, was from the beginning of the work considered as a most important centre. For five years Mr. Mackay laboured to remove prejudices and pave the way for the Gospel. Knowing the state of matters in the city he judged that an early attempt to establish a church there would mean defeat. The Literati and wealthy citizens, with three strong clans combined to keep him out; and the boast became proverbial in the district that where Bang-Kah was there would be no chapel, and where a chapel was there would be no Bang-Kah, that is, both could not exist together. As time passed on the country around became so far evangelized that a chapel stood on every side of this great and idolatrous city. In the end of 1877 a site was secured for a chapel and at once the enemy rose up to quash the work—a mob was excited, and about 3,000 began to move towards the house in which Mr. Mackay and his students were. The mob assembled three times in as many days, and at last a shout was raised and immediately the building was pulled down, and with such fury, that the very stones of the foundation were dug up and literally carried away. Mr. Mackay himself was away that day travelling in neighbouring villages, healing the sick and preaching. When returning about dusk he got word about the destruction of the church, and was advised to keep away as the mob was waiting to kill him. The students in the meantime got protection in an inn just opposite where the church had been. On the way he met one of his native preachers and decided to enter Bang-Kah to see the students though death should be the result. He walked with the native preacher at his side ready to die on the spot if such should be the will of God. The two walked straight through a large mob in front of a heathen temple and proceeded towards the inn, but before reaching it they had to pass through another mob. At length he reached the students. The mob remained all night yelling outside, while he and his students spent the whole night in prayer and praise. In the morning upwards of 3,000 were assembled shouting and threatening to kill him. Fearlessly he walked out into their midst and paced the street in front of the door for three days. Amongst the mob were many persons from other towns, some of them friendly, so that during these exciting days Mr. Mackay preached and dispensed medicine in the midst