

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE RECORD.

DEAR SIR,—The Canada Presbyterian Church having at last found a suitable labourer to break ground in the Foreign Mission field in the person of Mr. Mackay, I trust the interest of the Church in the conversion of the heathen to Christ will be greatly quickened ; that, as an evidence of this, I trust that much prayer will be made in Mr. Mackay's behalf; and also that a great increase of liberality will be manifested, not only for the support of Mr. Mackay, but that the Foreign Mission Committee may be encouraged to speedily call for more labourers to publish the glad tidings to the nations yet unacquainted with "the way of peace."

For upwards of a year I have felt my mind much interested in behalf, especially, of the perishing millions of China, and in my own humble way have endeavoured, as opportunity offered, in public as well as private, to interest and awaken the sympathies of others for the countless souls perishing for lack of knowledge in the "Flowery Land." My special efforts have been to devise and propound a *partial endowment* scheme, to establish and maintain not only one, but several missions to the heathen, which I am persuaded can be easily done if my plan is favourably received and acted upon by fellow-believers. Observing that the great drawback hitherto has been either the want of funds or else the irregular, uncertain manner in which the mission funds have been contributed to, I propose that every head of a family in connection with the C. P. Church will be invited to give an *annual contribution* for the space of ten years, which may be done by adopting and filling up a form something like the one found below. Some may be inclined to cavil at the number of years over which the promise to pay extends, but I am persuaded that no serious objection will be found in this, by those who may *really* be desirous of promoting the great work. Promises to pay are daily entered into by business men, for periods of time of less or greater length, without a fear but that they will be able to meet their engagements. Farmers, likewise, do not hesitate for a moment to add another field or farm to what they may already possess, by a purchase, the payments of which frequently extend over ten years; and do so without a fear but that they or "their assigns" will duly meet and pay the specified sums. Such being the case, why should Christian men hesitate to carry *the same principle* into the Lord's cause, feeling assured that the work being His, He will undoubtedly grant the ability to pay, if first a willing mind can be found to make the promise with a *reasonable* prospect of being able to fulfil. Amidst great *apparent* difficulties God is evidently doing great things for China; and, respecting that nation, is making the Church's duty very plain; as witness His work in Formosa;—the action of the British Government, proclaiming protection to both missionary and convert.—the evident adaptation of the Chinese believer to become a missionary to his fellow countrymen; and lastly, from the great numbers now annually pouring into the western ports of this continent, and already finding their way to eastern cities in considerable numbers.

Believing that practice should accompany precept, I have initiated my scheme by filling up a form as annexed with \$50 per annum. My brother William, of St. Helens, has filled up another for the same sum, mutually trusting that if not spared in life to see the end of the ten years, the will and ability will be granted of the Lord to enable those who come after us