

agency it would be vain to expect very much; and much injustice has often been done them from expecting more than a due consideration of their circumstances would warrant. As well might you expect the raw recruit to exercise, in all circumstances the unquestioning obedience and steadiness of the disciplined soldier, as that those whose early years were spent in heathenism should manifest all the graces of Christian nurture in a Christian land. These teachers or assistants from Amoy are of more use in assisting the missionary than in working independently.—they teach more by their lives than by their words.

The only agency to which we can look for the evangelisation of these islands is the European, and our duty evidently is to endeavour by every means in our power to get this agency increased as much as possible. Could we have European missionaries settled all round such an island, for example, as Tanna, we would be able, I believe, to show greater proportionate results. It is my firm conviction that we have erred grievously in this respect in the past; instead of concentrating on one or two islands, we have scattered far and wide. To my mind, although it would be grand to have one missionary settled on every island, more real work would be done by having several settled on one of the larger islands. As a body, we are not in every case responsible for this scattering. We have not always been able to effect a settlement where we would, and we have been compelled to go where we would rather not.

Year after year we have been endeavouring to add to our numbers, but our efforts have been crowned with only partial success. We increase but slowly. It seems to me as if the present were another most fitting occasion for redoubling our efforts, and making another earnest appeal to the different Churches supporting this Mission. Neither new South Wales nor South Australia have any representatives here, and even Victoria has but two.—*Rev. W. Watt.*

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**—As the present number of the RECORD contains so many pages of acknowledgements of receipts; and as the most of these sums have been paid in at Synod, and marked by the Treasurer's Deputy, it is requested that all parties, who have paid over money, will examine the printed statement, so far as their own payments are concerned. If there are any errors it is very desirable that they should be detected and corrected at once.

### THE AMOY MISSION.

The Gospel is making progress, slow indeed but sure, in China. Much has been accomplished in the way of preparing the necessary means for further work. Dictionaries have been completed. The word of God has been translated into languages and dialects spoken by millions. Native missionaries and teachers are being trained. We give the following as the substance of the most recent intelligence from Amoy:

The work had during the past year been vigorously prosecuted by the nine missionaries in the field and their native helpers in the various departments of preaching and teaching, healing the sick and training the native ministry. There were above fifty stations, and forty Chinese evangelists. A school for Chinese girls had been commenced at Swatow by the missionaries' wives. Since last annual report was given in, the number of adults reported as received into the church at Amoy by baptism was forty-eight, and these had been admitted from a large number of inquirers. In Swatow, which Mr. Burns first occupied, Mr. George Smith had been actively engaged for the last sixteen years, and had succeeded in working a transformation in that lawless region. In Formosa there were twenty-two stations and twenty-three evangelists, and the work during the past year had presented a fair share of prosperity in some directions and a good deal of trial in others. There were now three great groups of stations in Formosa associated with the English Presbyterian Mission, and a fourth group was being begun in the extreme north in connection with the work of the Canada Presbyterian Mission. The southernmost group of stations, ten in number, were under the care of Rev. Hugh Ritchie. In a few places the civilised aborigines formed the larger proportion of members and adherents, and lately quite a number of Hakkas had been received into the Church. A new station had been opened in the south this year, in a bartering village at the very base of the high ranges inhabited by the savages.

There are three Missions engaged in the work in Amoy,—the London Mission, the American Reformed Church, and the Amoy society's mission; but with the view of economising their strength they had made a territorial division of the district, so that each mission worked in its own field, and there was not much interlacing with one another. Amoy is the headquarters of all the missions because it is the only point in the province where foreigners can reside. They have at present 17 stations, with a membership of 600, giving an average of 40 members to each congregation. When they find a number of persons from a point