

might grow populous, but if there were no preaching of the Gospel they would only grow more careless, and Sabbath-breaking and all kinds of evil would come in, and our country would become heathen instead of Christian, and there would not be peace or safety for anybody.

But even if a boy does not grow strong and able to provide for himself, it would be very cruel not to help him, and if there are some child congregations that do not grow strong, because new settlers are not coming in, yet it would be very selfish and wrong, while we are enjoying our pleasant "Church homes," to refuse them help.

#### A STORY FROM FORMOSA.



OUR missionary, Rev. Mr. Gauld, writes the following interesting story from Formosa;

"A short time ago, at Teng-sang-khoe, a village in North Formosa, a certain man, a heathen, died and left a widow and four sons, one of whom is a Christian. According to their custom, the heathen members of the family feasted, and worshipped the spirit of the dead, and called on the Christian to join with them. He declined.

His heathen brothers beat him severely, his mother and wife sanctioning the harsh treatment. He still remained firm, and all joined in turning him adrift from the household. The property of the deceased was divided, and the heathen members of the family refused to allow the Christian to share with them.

"Against all this treatment he did not complain, but his wife went further than merely joining with the others in turning him out. She determined to marry another man, and, of course, take her little boy, an only child of two or three summers, along with her.

"The heart of the father could no longer quietly submit. He wrote to Rev. Giam Cheng Hoi, asking his advice and assistance. On Saturday, September 25th, Pastor Giam went to Teng-sang-khoe.

"First he met the Christian member of the

family, who told him that he sought no compensation for the beating he had received, nor for being turned out; nor did he ask to share the property left by his father. However, he could not give up his little child without an effort. His wife seemed determined to marry another man. This he could not very well prevent, as it seemed to him; so, if in accordance with the law of Christ, he would first give her a writing of divorcement. Still he was not very clear with regard to his duties as a Christian, therefore he wished to be taught. Mr. Giam told him that first they must very earnestly endeavor to persuade his wife to return to him, and if this failed, to then consider what further course to pursue.

"After this Mr. Giam went to visit the three brothers in succession, taking care to leave the worst till the last. His first thought was not to interfere with the property, but as he pondered on the nature of the situation a little longer, he thought that it would be proper to reward the unselfish conduct of the Christian, if possible, by a share of the patrimony, as well as by a renewed enjoyment of the state of matrimony.

"He came to brother No. 1, who thought their Christian brother should not share the patrimony with them, but expressed himself as willing to have him do so if the other brothers were of like mind, and asked Pastor Giam to interview these others. Brother No. 2 expressed himself in like manner, and asked the pastor to see No. 3.

"No. 3 was very bitter; he told Mr. Giam that it was no affair of his. "Oh, yes it is," was the answer; "for your brother is also our brother, and we have a right to help him to obtain justice." No. 3 told him that as their Christian brother did not honor the spirit of the dead father, he could not be allowed to share the father's estate. "Whose law are you propounding," was the reply, "the Emperor's or your own?" But talking would not prevail, so Mr. Giam warned him that if by Monday morning he was not prepared, according to the law of China, to share the property with his Christian brother, the case would be put into the hands of the dis-