

EDITORIAL PREFACE

FORMOSA, at one time far off, has been brought near to the Western world. All eyes were turned upon it when it became the storm-center of the China-Japan War. But there were those who had been looking across the seas to the Beautiful Isle for more than twenty years before the war-cloud darkened the sky. They were interested in its fortunes because of one who had given himself, with Pauline faith and self-renunciation, that it might be redeemed from error and sin. George Leslie MacKay has long been the missionary hero of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

During his second furlough, which closed when he sailed from Vancouver on October 16, 1895, Dr. MacKay was elected moderator of the General Assembly of his church, and visited many points throughout the Dominion, in the United States, and in Scotland, addressing congregations and conventions. Everywhere and on all occasions the impression made was that of a great man and a hero. The demand for a fuller record of his life and work became increasingly urgent. Friends who knew that his information about Formosa was more extensive and more reliable than that of any other living man, and who believed that an account of his experiences and work would stimulate the faith and zeal of the church, but who feared lest, amid the uncertainties and perils to which his life is constantly exposed, his career should be cut short before any record that