

## Our Foreign Missions.

THE FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE met in Toronto on the 8th of October. Rev. Dr. Wardrope, *Convener*, Mr. Hamilton Cassels, *Secretary*. A large number of letters from missionaries were read, the intelligence thus conveyed being on the whole of a highly encouraging nature. Some of these letters we shall have the privilege of laying before our readers later on. The growth of the missionary spirit in Canada is evidenced by the fact that in September last no less than *seven* newly appointed missionaries of our church left for work in India and China: viz.—Rev. Murdoch Mackenzie, Rev. John MacDougall, Rev. John MacVicar, Misses McIntosh, Graham, and Harris of Toronto, and Miss Jamieson of Quebec, to whom should be added the wives of three ordained missionaries, making *ten* in all. Those designated to China went *via* Vancouver, and those to India *via* New York. Let us hope they have had prosperous breezes. They were sure to receive a hearty welcome in the lands of their adoption from those already in the field.

### FORMOSA.

DR. G. L. MACKAY writes from Tamsui, July 31st:—The band of preachers and wives who have been here since January last studying, have returned to their different fields of labor. We had a very busy, enjoyable and profitable season together. Do not wonder at the idea of having preachers thus to come, and with students study the Word of God, etc. Just think of their "*environment*" day by day, and it will be clear as noonday when there are no clouds. The Bible engaged the greater part of our time. We gave many days and nights to Genesis, especially the first and second chapters, and very particularly, 1st ch., 1st verse. That universe in an atom—that ocean in a drop—I believe Dr. Dawson is right, and I love to teach thoughts that cluster along the main line of his views. It gives a grander and nobler conception of the Universe's Architect whom we worship and adore to believe "that the days of creation are not the days of popular speech," but are God's days, and therefore of duration corresponding to the greatness of His magnitude and the vastness of His infinitude. Whilst the 24-hour days agree with man's acknowledged littleness, preachers and students here love to think of this, "God's days" and man's days. We also gave attention to Exodus, Joshua, the whole of Ruth and Esther, much

of Job, many Psalms, numerous Proverbs, the whole of Ecclesiastes and Solomon's Song, portions of Isaiah, Daniel, and Jeremiah, the whole of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum and Malachi, the whole of the acts of the Apostles, Rom. 7, 8 and 9 chs., Epistle to the Philippians from beginning to end; so, too, Titus, Philemon and Jude; also Rev. 21st and 22nd chs. "The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." North Formosa is not like it was even six or seven years ago. The Governor, who resides in the new city near *Bang-Kah*, is progressive to an amazing degree. There is electric light, a steam saw mill (circular saws) for preparing railway sleepers, an arsenal for making shot and shell, a steam roller for levelling the streets, a railway with trains running eight or nine miles already, a steam dredge for clearing harbours, an English school with an Englishman as teacher, etc. About what more in the near future I write not yet (it is not my custom.) Now preachers and students must make up for not knowing English by having knowledge, *practical* and *useful*, and always ready at hand. As China is at present, native preachers don't need English. There are translations being made every day, so that they can easily keep abreast of the times. Preachers here must be bright, sharp, clean, intelligent fellows. This day they command the respect of all classes, and only two weeks ago a mandarin arranged to come an evening to the college to hear them, when word from his superior called him away on business. In a few days I will write you about other studies, etc. Jamieson is at Palm Island, near Keiung, for his health. He will return soon. Fever has been raging for weeks, malarial fever, I mean; the thermometer in the shade varying from 88° to 95°.

### TRINIDAD.

LETTER FROM MISS BLACKADDER

(To the Maritime Presbyterian.)

AS School is closed for a few days, we have two weeks vacation, I thought perhaps we would jot down a few items for our dear home friends. I left New York Saturday, July 7. On Sunday we were tossing on the deep. We will draw a veil over the suffering of that sad time, all who have suffered from sea-sickness will feel for us, and understand our feelings, so nothing more need be said on that head. We had a very pleasant voyage in the *Bermuda*, Capt. Fraser is a personal friend to us all, and his kindness added greatly to the pleasure of our voyage. A fortnight from the day we left New York we were in Port of Spain. I confess we did miss the dear home faces, but we got into our boat, and seated among boxes, trunks, deck chairs, and all the small bundles that are the pleasure, as well as the sorrow of women's lives, we went to the Custom House, and had our array of boxes