

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

FORMOSA CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence, addressed to Dr. Wardrope, Convener, has been forwarded for publication by Mr. Hamilton Cassels, Secretary of the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee:

We have heard that the Church in Canada intends to call Mr. Jamieson away from Formosa. I therefore write this letter because I want to let you know a few things.

1. If Mr. Jamieson had long ago paid attention to what we told him about how we all worked just according to our ability, we would not now have this trouble. 2. Now we here have seen lately that Mr. Jamieson has wakened up to take hold of the work, and he is different in manner and more willing to listen to whatever will help him in dealing with our people. Formerly he thought he could not be useful unless he knew so very much of our language. Now he sees he can be useful with what he does know. 3. There are now in this field fifty chapels. The Church is large and there are many different kinds of work to be attended to. 4. As Mr. Jamieson has come to see differently from what he used to, he attends to all the local correspondence, to Amoy, Shanghai, Fuchow, Hong Kong, etc. for calendars, books, hymn-books, etc., anything needed for the mission. This is truly a great help and great relief to Pastor Mackay. 5. In the hospital are sick people, and he can go and make the Gospel known to them, have meetings with them, etc., teach them. 6. He goes every Sabbath to a chapel to exhort and encourage converts, help the preacher, etc. He can spend as many days as he pleases in a chapel, but if he spends one Sabbath at each it will take him a whole year to visit the stations. In one word, he is quite able and willing to preach the Gospel, etc., and he is now doing so, and with daily practice he is improving every week. Before he lacked the practice and kept at books. All the students and preachers in Oxford College just now say he is helping now, and is quite able. We have met and talked over the matter, and all see a change in Mr. Jamieson. There is variety of work here, and no doubt other things will turn up. Throughout the field two elders, deacons and people at their weekly prayer meetings have talked together, and say Mr. Jamieson does well now, and hope he will be allowed to remain. 7. Mr. Jamieson went with me to the east coast, and he preached with me, and all were pleased, and I found him very helpful to me the whole time. We had a profitable trip. Now I know whereof I write, for he was with me every day in the chapels, amongst the people, and he did well. O! if he had only done so long ago. Yours faithfully,

GIAM CHHENG HOA.

Tamsui, April 18, 1889.

In compliance with the request of the Foreign Mission Committee, as conveyed in your favour of February 28, I sent you some information by last mail, date April 17. That referred to the kind of work in which I am now engaged—in the mission—and in which I hope to be occupied in the future, if after all I may yet be permitted to remain in the field. Also I know that information of a similar kind has been sent by Dr. Mackay and others here, all of which I trust will be of some help in guiding the future deliberations of the Committee.

I thank you for the very kind manner in which you conveyed to me the decision of the Committee, and also for the interest you manifest in what I wrote regarding the experience through which I passed. In reference to that time of darkness and anxiety I will tell you some things that led me to think that I was not in religious life what I ought to be.

One thing that much impressed me was, I could see that the students and preachers whom Dr. Mackay was teaching in the study of the Bible and other exercises evidently had joy and happiness that I did not possess. This was in the ordinary course of daily study. There was no excitement or very remarkable manifestation of feeling, but as I was often present in the evenings I saw there was an earnestness about them in their singing and other acts of worship and in their manner—a something they had and I had not. I was thus led to ask the reason why I did not also possess the same enjoyment they seemed to have. I believed Bible truth as they did, and trusted. I trusted in the same Saviour and had preached the Gospel to others. How, then,

came the difference? Thus I questioned much and was in difficulty.

I had not the same eagerness which I saw others having to profit by religious exercises, and I was conscious of not having even as strong a desire as I once had to do good to others and bring them to Christ. It is wonderful how rapidly and unconsciously coldness and selfishness will creep over one. I can see now that what I should have done long ago was to stop going on as I was doing and take time to think.

I know that in the study of the Chinese language I thought I could accomplish more than I was really able to do; and in consequence of not attaining what I expected, this of itself brought me to a standstill, and I suppose caused me to think more than otherwise I might have done, and to see many mistakes I had been making; such as holding to an entirely wrong idea of duty, thinking it enough if I kept on in my own line of work, losing sight of the fact that I was one member of a living Church, and that the life of each affects the whole. For a time I was much troubled about these and other things. I read some books without seeming to get much benefit from them, and I often went to Dr. Mackay for counsel and help. Though busy with other work he was always ready to do what he could to make things plainer to me, and I got much benefit from his full experience. One day he gave me to read a small book called "Life in Earnest," by the late Rev. F. Hamilton, of London, having previously marked different passages to draw my attention. One of these on page 124, "It is an eye fixed on Jesus which kindles the fervent spirit," etc., struck me as full of meaning.

Once again when several of us were talking together, Dr. Mackay said one should not be sitting hoping for something wonderful to happen, but should do just as the man with the withered hand. He at once obeyed Christ's command to stretch it out, and in the act of doing so got strength needed. It seemed to me that was the right way, and so I set about trying at least to follow it. It was only by slow degrees, however, that I came to enjoy a measure of comfort. Now whatever past experience has been, this I know to-day, that the true and effectual way of preaching the Gospel to the heathen is by the daily life no less than by standing on the platform, and by being daily and hourly faithful in what I used to count the little unimportant things. However far short one may fall of such a standard it is a good thing at least to know it and aim to reach it. As to the work which I am able to do in the mission, the most important things have, I think, been already stated. Other ways of usefulness may be expected to open up as I gain in practical experience. This much is certain, that one's idea of duty and preaching the Gospel to the heathen makes a great difference as to the way in which he goes to work. Yours very truly,

JOHN JAMIESON,

Tamsui, Formosa, April 19, 1889.

We have got word that you are going to call Mr. Jamieson back to Canada. Of course we know that you must judge what is best, but you are so far away and do not see us. So I want to send you a few lines about our work here. 1. The Church is now very large, and Pastor Mackay so very busy that Mr. Jamieson now relieves him of many little things every day, which otherwise he would have to attend to himself. 2. I see Mr. Jamieson working now in a way he did not use to do and is now far more ready to be benefited by the advice and consultation of others with larger experience. 3. Mr. Jamieson of late has been going to our chapel at Tsui-tui-a near by every night and holding meetings there, whilst Pastor Mackay meets with us every evening in the college. He (Mr. Jamieson) will soon be going to other chapels, and will labour there as circumstances permit. 4. Not long since Pastor Giam and Mr. Jamieson went to the east coast and visited many of the stations. Now people have been here from that place since, and said all were much pleased with Mr. Jamieson this time, and understood his short addresses. The last time he was there they said he was not understood well. Now the change is due to daily practice. How much better if he had only wakened up two years ago and done as he is now doing. He was forever with book in hand like a man dreamy. I told him to go out and practise

—put to use what he had learned. Rev. Giam told him. Pastor and Mrs. Mackay advised him times without number. Alas! he heeded not till lately. Now he is improving every week, and so will continue more and more able day by day. 5. If you recall Mr. Jamieson and send another man to us, it is by no means certain that, after all, he will be able to help the Church so very much sooner than Mr. Jamieson has been. No one could now give real daily help in less than two or three years, and that would only be beginning. So with all here I hope you will permit him to remain here to help us.

Tamsui, April 19, 1889.

RESOLUTION OF THE FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE (W. D.).

The Committee, having read letters from Dr. Mackay, Mr. Jamieson and Mr. Tan, all of the 19th April, 1889, also a letter from Mr. Giam, of the 18th April, 1889, in response to the Committee's request for information respecting the work Mr. Jamieson is able to do in connection with the mission, record their satisfaction with the indication these letters give that Mr. Jamieson has entered on active work, and is in various ways rendering useful service.

The Committee, while still feeling that the decision to recall Mr. Jamieson, carried at the meeting held in February last was called for in view of his own assertion of inability to acquire the language, and his confession of incompetence for the work of the mission made not only to this Committee, but to the Church at large through the press, nevertheless resolve, as Dr. Mackay has urged, that he be allowed to remain, and as the native preachers unite in this request, and as they all testify that Mr. Jamieson is now addressing congregations in

the Chinese language, and is giving evidence of ability to do the work of the mission, to rescind the resolution of last February recalling Mr. Jamieson, and agree to allow him to remain another year with the hope that the result will justify the Committee in continuing him in the field.

The Committee further agree to record their gratitude to God for the light which has been shed upon a matter which has caused the Committee so much perplexity, and instruct the secretary to publish the letters above referred to for the information of the Church.

Comparing the recent reports of the American Church and our own it appears that the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society have raised, considered in relation to the limited nature of the field, their operations cover more in proportion than that secured by the sister organization in the United States.

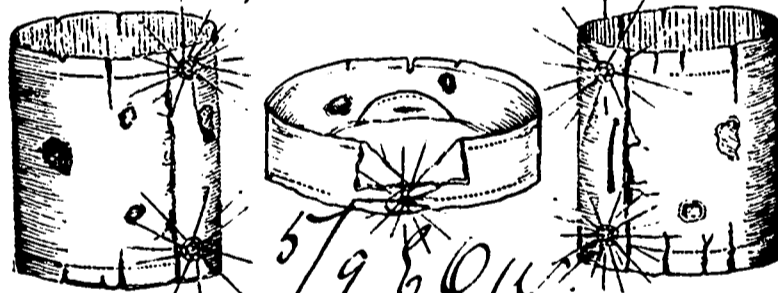
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