

His mother could earn a little money by sewing to buy some rice for food, but could not buy fuel, and from the time he was five years old until ten, much of his time was spent in gathering dry grass, or little sticks, to cook their little meal of rice. Thus mother and child worked hard together to get their daily bread.

But little *A-Hoa* did more than that. He used to learn lessons in the evening from a friend, for his mother did not wish him to grow up ignorant. You know that the Chinese while they are heathen and worship idols are not savages. Some of them are very learned in their own way, and they think themselves wiser than any other nation.

From ten to seventeen years of age *A-Hoa* gave much of his time to studying to fit himself for some office.

When he was eighteen years old he was engaged by a mandarin, as the men in Chinese government offices are called. *A-Hoa* had different kinds of things to do. Sometimes he worked in the kitchen, sometimes doing the officer's writing for him.

In his work he was sometimes called upon to travel to other places, and at one time spent six months at Peking, the capital of China.

When Dr. Mackay, our missionary, first landed at Tamsui, Formosa, about fifteen years ago, *A-Hoa* was then living there in his native place. He was then a young man of about twenty-two years of age, intelligent and well educated and a worshipper of idols. He heard Dr. Mackay telling of Jesus, and it was not very long until he accepted that Jesus as his own Saviour and at once went to work to help Dr. Mackay in his mission work. He studied his Bible faithfully, made good progress in different kinds of knowledge, and in May, 1885, he and another young man *Tau He* were ordained as ministers and are now your missionaries in Formosa.

Let me tell you two interesting facts about this man and Dr. Mackay.

(1.) When Dr. Mackay landed in Tamsui, Formosa, he could not get a decent place to live in, so much did the people hate the

Gospel. At length he rented a little hut with a mud floor, all damp, dirty and unhealthy. Strange to say this was the very hut that *A-Hoa* was born in more than twenty years before.

(2.) *A-Hoa* was Dr. Mackay's first convert on Formosa.

(3.) He has been the best native helper that our missionaries there have had.

Pray that he may be the means of bringing many of his fellow-countrymen to the light of the Gospel.

### BABIES IN CHINA.

"One day while travelling through China on my bicycle tour around the world, I came upon a very novel and interesting sight. It is the first thing of the kind I ever saw or heard about. My overland journey led me through many out-of-the-way districts where the people are primitive and curious in many respects. In one of these obscure communities, in the foothills of the MaeLing Mountains, I saw about twenty Chinese infants tethered to stakes on a patch of greensward, like so many goats or pet lambs. The length of each baby's tether was about ten feet, and the bamboo stakes were set far enough apart so that the babies wouldn't get all tangled up. Each baby had a sort of girdle around its waist, and the end of the tether-string was tied to the back of this. Some of the little Celestials were crawling about on all-fours; others were taking their first lessons in the feat of standing upright by steadying themselves against the stake they were tied to.

"What queer little Chinese mortals they all looked, to be sure, picketed out on the the grassland like a lot of young calves whose mothers were away for the day! In this respect, they did indeed, resemble young calves; for I could see their mothers at work in a rice-field a few hundred yards away. All the babies seemed quietly contented with their treatment. I stood and looked at them for several minutes from pure amusement at their unique position."—*Thomas Stevens in "Babyland."*