

free life on the sea-shore, the more I wonder at parents being willing to trust their daughters so far from home, even for the advantage of better education. Their confidence in Dr. Mackay must be almost unbounded, and I now understand better his meaning when he used to say the care of the girls was a constant anxiety to all the teachers.

A Pi-po-hoan mother here said to me : " My heart was so sad without my daughter. She was learning fast at home, and I could not see why she should go so far away, but Pastor Mackay said she must come to Tamsui." " Who was teaching her at home?" I asked. " The preacher was ; he teaches all the girls and boys every day in the chapel." " What preacher?" " It used to be _____, now it is _____."

The girls who cannot come to live at the Girls' School are yet having their share of teaching. " This is more," I said to myself, " of what I have been learning all this time." There is a regular system of teaching and training and other mission work going on all over the field. Tamsui is only headquarters, whence everything is controlled ; the great bulk of *practical* mission work is done in the country.

I say PRACTICAL mission work, for in Christian Canada our ideas of preaching the Gospel to the heathen used to be so vague and sentimental (at least mine were), that by contrast the importance of the *real* and *practical* has here been strongly impressed on my mind. I often wish I could show you, as contact with mission work in a heathen country has shown me, the power of what some call *little* things and the influence of many *humble* workers. I give you one example out of past experience.

Mr. Jamieson is going to preach at a station, and on Saturday I go with him. As soon as we arrive the neighbours crowd in, curious to see Pastor Jamieson and his wife. Now they are not savages, else *we* are too, for we were all curious enough to see " Dr. Mackay's Chinese wife." The preacher must order all out, and be strictly within the mark according to Chinese ideas of propriety, but he only says : " Come, don't crowd round just now, plenty of time ; come in by and by and see them," perhaps finding fault with them in a bantering way for bad manners. Only a few words, but this preacher has a pleasant manner ; he has *tact*.

The first *little* thing ; but oh, how important in one who must win his way into the hearts of those round him ere they will even *listen* to the doctrine of " Jesus' Church ! "

2. The chapel and preacher's house and his wife and children are neat and clean.