

their first feeble yet growing apprehension of the truth as it is in Jesus ; to put down in black and white the deeply-interesting story of one and another of the *thirty-six* adults baptized by us last year—all this is no easy task.

CARE IN TESTING INQUIRERS.

To have received only 36 of the 200 or so of applicants for baptism whom we have examined at one time or another during the past year, may seem strange and disappointing. That we have kept back none whom the Lord has already received, I dare not affirm ; but I am sure that there seemed to be good and reasonable grounds for delaying the baptism of this large proportion of those who came forward seeking it. At times we may err in this matter from excessive caution, and perhaps we should find it difficult to justify to those unacquainted with the character of this people, and the influences that are at work among them, our carefulness as to the admission of those who seek connection with us. But I am persuaded that there is need for this caution in China, and more especially at the beginning of the work. Experience proves the necessity of guarding the entrance of the Church by repeated and searching examination, and it is only when, so far as we can learn, there is *credible* evidence of repentance towards God and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ, that we venture to receive the candidate for admission.

SIX AGED CONVERTS.

Of the thirty-six baptized last year six are old men and women, who, for threescore years and ten or more, had lived "having no hope, and without God in the world." Their sun had almost gone down in utter darkness, when lo ! a great light shone upon them, and now we may hope that as their journey draws to its close they look beyond, and find that where there was only darkness there is for them the sweet light of hope—the hope of the glory of God. Only two have been baptized under twenty years of age, and both of these are sons of a man who was himself baptized last year. Of those between twenty and seventy years of age the greater number are men in the prime of life, and it may be that from among them the Lord will send forth some to preach His Gospel among their countrymen.

ENCOURAGEMENT MINGLED WITH DISAPPOINTMENT AND TRIAL.

On the whole, we have thankfully to report growth and progress. Many of the members, we trust, are getting clearer views of what the Church exists for, of what is required of them, and of what they may expect from us in joining it, of their duty to contribute for the maintenance and extension of the truth.

While, then, we are encouraged by the progress which we think has, through God, been made, we yet feel encompassed by difficulties, and have not a few sorrows and trials in connection with the work committed to us.

Home Ecclesiastical Intelligence:

CALLS, &c.

Rev. D. Beattie has been called by the congregation of *St. Columba and St. Paul, Madoc* ; Rev. J. Scrimger, M.A., has been called by the congregation of *Knox Church, Ottawa* ; Rev. W. Armstrong, M.A., has been called by the congregation of *Daly Street, Ottawa* ; Rev. P. Wright, M.A., has been called by the congregation of *Chalmers Church, Quebec* ; Rev. J.