

# World of Missions

## Notes from Honan and Formosa.

### Mr. Goforth's Narrow Escape.

Owing to the recent disturbances in China, Rev. R. P. Mackay, Foreign Mission Secretary, has had many enquiries with regard to the safety of missionaries, and he is pleased to announce, from letters received a few days ago, that there has been no trouble so far in Honan. After the Empress issued her recent edict the Honanese were a little surly, and acted as if the Europeans must go, but everything has quieted down again, and no unpleasantness is expected.

Mr. Goforth, one of our missionaries in Honan, had a narrow escape from a maniac, who attacked him with great ferocity, but the man was overpowered, and his knife taken from him. Escaping to his house he then attacked with a cleaver his own brother, who attempted to prevent him from doing further mischief, and severed his head from his body. The man was again making his way toward the missionary compound when he was captured, and will no doubt be beheaded, as in China insanity does not prevent the carrying out of the death sentence.

News has also been received from Formosa, where Rev. Dr. G. L. Mackay is stationed, of severe storms, doing great damage to church property and destroying many of the natives' houses.

### A Christian Brahmin.

Half a century ago, or thereabouts, a thoughtful young Brahmin of highest caste was brought face to face with the most important problem the human mind can consider, namely, how to be reconciled to God and be saved from the punishment, power and love of sin. He sought peace for his soul from the Hindu shastras, but failed, of course, to find it. Finally he studied the Bible, especially the New Testament, and was instructed by earnest missionaries, eventually becoming convinced that Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, is indeed man's true and only Saviour. He believed on this divine Saviour who receives all who comes to Him without respect of persons, and soon found the peace which Christ alone can give. He personally realized the Saviour's power to forgive sin and to cleanse the heart. With the courage of a true seeker of truth he resisted all attempts to dissuade him from becoming a Christian, and was duly baptized into the Christian

faith. Afterwards he became a highly esteemed minister of the Free Church, and was honored in an especial manner as a servant of Christ in Great Britain, the United States and Canada, which countries he visited more than once. The name of this good man was the Rev. Narayan Sheshadri, D.D., a Mahratta Brahmin.

After many useful years in the service of Christ, Dr. Sheshadri died in the faith which had stood all tests and which had brought him true peace with God and abiding rest of soul. He once gave the following reasons why conscience and reason, through the gracious influence of God's Spirit, induced him to forsake Hinduism and become a Christian:

1. Hinduism furnishes no proper, consistent and intelligible account of God.
2. Hinduism gives erroneous and absolutely inadequate views of sin.
3. Hinduism reveals no satisfactory way of salvation by which men may find peace and rest.
4. Hinduism furnishes no rational account of the world to come.

Christianity demonstrates its divine origin and infinite superiority to human religions by its teachings on these momentous subjects — teachings which commend themselves to the wisest and best of men as reasonable and soul-satisfying.

[Dr. Sheshadri was well-known in this country. We heard him in Old Goul Street Church, when he preached there for Dr. King, more than twenty years ago. His was a striking personality; and the marked Scotch accent of his speech was in strange contrast to the Brahman turban and robe which he wore. If our memory serves us he died at sea, on his way to Britain, after spending a few days in Canada, and looking in on our General Assembly, then in session, in Kingston.—Editor.]

### Forward!

I WILL go forth 'mong men, not mailed in scorn,  
But in the armor of a pure intent.  
Great duties are before me, and great songs,  
And whether crowned or crownless when I fall,  
It matters not, so as God's work is done.  
—Alexander Smith.

God is bounteously rewarding the labors of the United Presbyterian missions at Nyassaland, Africa. In a land where twenty years ago missionaries entered at the peril of their lives, 4,000 converts recently gathered, spent five days in meditation, prayer and song, and one day 284 converts were baptized, 195 of them adults.

The spread of Christianity in Uganda continues its remarkable progress. Bishop Tucker estimates that at least 6,000 persons put themselves under instruction during the first six months of this year. The Waganda purchased 2,382 Testaments and 5,091 portions of Scripture during the same period.

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Follow with reverent steps the great example  
Of Him whose holy work was "doing good;"  
So shall the wide earth seem our Father's  
temple,  
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.  
—Whitther.

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The Sultan, says "The Moravian," is evidently determined to forestall the Zionist movement as far as he can. He recently issued instructions to the Turkish authorities in Palestine forbidding the transfer of real estate to Jews, even if they are Turkish subjects. This has put a stop to all transactions in landed property in the name of the colonies projected by Barons Rothschild and Hirsch and the Israelite Alliance. This severe action is the outcome of the proclamation of the recent Zionist Congress at Basle in favor of the reassertion of the Jews as a nation and a state, and the determination to make Palestine the centre of Jewish power. But the Sultan is not satisfied with prohibiting the transfer of real estate in Palestine to the Jews; he has caused impediments of various sorts to obstruct the return of the Jews to Palestine, even as visitors. It is forbidden to Jews to proceed from Jaffa to Jerusalem, or to other places in Palestine, unless a non-Jewish resident of Jaffa guarantees that the visitors in question will leave Palestine again within thirty days of their arrival.

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A medical missionary gives the following instance of a Chinese mother-in-law's cruelty, the results of which came before him in his mission hospital at Ningpo: "One of our female patients presented us with a sad illustration of Chinese cruelty. This was a little girl named Ah-dzing, who was admitted in a shocking condition, having had both her feet destroyed by gangrene. The child had been betrothed, and, in accordance with an old custom here, was living with her future mother-in-law. The latter treated her very harshly, and at length one day, for some trivial offence, she tied cords tightly around each of her legs, and, heedless of the visible suffering produced, kept the ligatures on until the limbs dropped off! The stumps have healed up nicely after secondary amputation, and our bright, smiling little friend may now be seen on Sundays walking to church on her knees. We are having stilts made for her, and in a year or two, when she is fully grown we hope to provide her with a pair of artificial feet."