

day's journey would take me to Lai-sia (which was visited in Spring) I set out, and passed through a very interesting part of the north, which was not unlike a new settlement in Canada. The stumps of Camphor trees were quite numerous in the fields, and all the surroundings told the passer-by that a few years ago it was the hunting ground of the roaming savage. Indeed, though thus driven back, there was evidence of their presence in the vicinity. For Chinese laborers in their fields were guarded by armed men, who stood watching lest the hated foe should rush down upon them from their mountain retreats. Arriving at Lai-sia I received a hearty welcome from the Christians there, and before leaving had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Dickson and Mr. Campbell, who came up from Tai-wan-foo. Returning to Tek-chham I was invited by a Sek-hoan in the employ of the mandarin to preach in his house that evening. Thirty Chinese were present, and many came again the following morning, and the same day I distributed tracts in that city which is "wholly given to idolatry." A few months ago, a man came from a Chinese village up the river about 10 miles, and attended worship several evenings, then returned and began to tell the villagers about the gospel. A few weeks afterwards ten came and from that time till the present, from six to twelve have been here every Lord's day. They come down the river in the village junk every Sabbath morning. I went to their village and read the Commandments in the house of one who appeared to exert considerable influence there, he immediately removed a picture of Confucius from the wall and pasted a Commandment sheet up, in the presence of twenty villagers. He was here last Sabbath and 15 more with him. And as I have only a small space covered over, in which people can assemble, and as it was raining several were quite wet. I need scarcely state that I am in need of a chapel in Tamsui. This is the rainy season however, and I must wait until spring, then I trust the way will be clear to build, otherwise the cause must suffer. As month succeeds month, I become more and more convinced of the necessity of medical work amongst the people, in order to remove prejudices and thus pave the way for the reception of the everlasting Gospel. Is there in our Church a young man of medical skill who will volunteer to come to this needy part of the heathen world and labor for our Lord and Redeemer Christ Jesus? If so, I know yourself and the committee will send him forth and means will be forthcoming, for the Lord will provide. I have several times referred to the importance of this work, and I am glad to know that men who have been long in China lay great stress upon the same. Not long ago the Rev. Geo. Smith, of Swatow (of E. Pres. Ch.) wrote thus to me: "I think you should not cease to urge upon your Mission Committee the appointment of another Missionary to come out *at once*. I would advise you to plead for a medical man."

There is another part of the work which must not be overlooked. Very few of the people can read the character; but in five or six months men, women and children can learn to read and write the Roman colloquial, and by the labors of Dr. Maxwell the whole Bible in the Roman colloquial will soon be in their hands. To teach young and old to read the blessed gospel or Jesus will continue to be an important work in Formosa. And owing to the secluded custom which prevails amongst Chinese women, female teachers would doubtless be able to reach this class with the Word of Life better than other laborers. Several young men here are able now to read and write the colloquial, and I trust next summer will be employed to teach others, but the work cannot be carried on without materials such as copies