

led on with the main-
 h fibre, dyewoods, &c.
 ships and steamers,
 into the hands of
 the trade of Formosa,
 which is the main
 port best suited
 port of Tai-wan-fo
 very had anchorage
 of sand at its mouth
 th end of the island,
 name, but the natives
 destined to become the
 a fine town of 50,000
 plain highly cultivated
 verdure, and present
 the island is said to
 lions to strangers; but
 water has been brought
 the had water of the
 fall from November 2

e surrounding popu-
 y by day for ten days,
 gerly accepted by the
 ness, and listened atten-

known of it before 1624
 ound Tai-wan-fo, with
 d over Formosa at the
 asted about thirty years
 terests of the natives, a

appointed minister to the
 city among the natives. It
 of propagating the Gospel
 circumstances of the people
 his labours, so that during
 in studying the language, the
 number of Christians in
 and natives was practical-
 thousands of the islands
 ch Governors in India were
 lest it should give offence
 whom Christianity was the
 erests of true religion were
 ce of salvation withheld for

ained to expel the Dutch
 of the Dutch stronghold
 nd in 1662. During the
 hus narrated:—

was one Mr. Hambroock, a
 ernor to propose terms he
 would be taken on the Dutch

prisoners. Mr. Hambroock came into the cast's, being forced to leave his wife and children behind as hostages, which sufficiently proved that if he failed in his negotiations they had nothing to expect but death from the chieftain. Yet was he so far from persuading the garrison to surrender that he encouraged them to a brave defence by hopes of relief, assuring them that Koxinga had lost many of his best ships and soldiers, and began to be weary of the siege. When he had ended, the council of war left it to his choice to stay with them or return to the enemies' camp, where he could expect nothing but death: every one entreated him to stay. He had two daughters within the castle, who hung upon his neck, overwhelmed with grief and tears to see their dear father ready to go where they knew he must be sacrificed by the merciless enemy. But he represented to them that having left his wife and children in the camp as hostages nothing but death could attend them if he did not return; so unloosing himself from his daughters' arms, and exhorting everybody to a resolute defence, he returned to the camp, telling them at parting that he hoped he might prove serviceable to his poor fellow-prisoners. Unfortunately, he and many others were soon after beheaded."

Koxinga was afterwards taken into the pay of the Chinese Government, and their authority was established on the island. From time to time disturbances have arisen owing to the distance of Formosa from the Imperial Court, and the consequent peculation and oppression of the local government. In particular in 1788 a bloody rebellion occurred, which was only put down after the Emperor had lost a hundred thousand men by disease or the sword, and expended more than two million taels of silver.

A terrible disaster overtook the island in the year 1782, when a fearful storm threatened to overwhelm the island. It occurred in the month of May. The public buildings, granaries, barracks, &c., were destroyed, and most private houses were in ruins. About 200 ships were lost. The Emperor directed that all the houses thrown down should be rebuilt at his expense, and provisions supplied to the people. Subterranean convulsions are supposed to have in part caused the calamity.

In 1842 two English ships, the *Nerbuddah* and the *Aur*, were wrecked on the coast, and nearly the whole of their crews put to death by the authorities. Sir Harry Parkes, in reference to this, observes: "This was the character which Formosa bore to us: wrecks in the north and south, judicial murders on the part of the Chinese, and bloody murders made by the aboriginal tribes. We have now turned over a new page in the history of our communications with Formosa."

Let us hope that our own missionaries may be the humble pioneers of a pure and living Christianity, which instead of being extinguished in blood will add another province to the kingdom of our Redeemer in the far East.
 M.

LETTERS FROM CHINA.

THE correspondence from China received for publication this month is very interesting. Dr. Maxwell continues to describe his first impressions of the mission-field in his own graphic way in a letter written on board the Gospel-boat on the way to Pechua. It will be observed that he still abides by his purpose of going to Formosa as soon as he has qualified himself by acquiring the language, even should he have to content himself with a native evangelist instead of a brother missionary. We trust the late appointment of Mr. William Macgregor by the committee in Scotland may enable one or other of those now in China to accompany Dr. Maxwell to Formosa.

From Swatow we have the cheering intelligence of another large and important village, named Tong-ow, being opened to the preaching of the Gospel, of the baptism of two more converts, and of the commencement of