

CHINA.

We have again to present to our readers letters full of interest from our missionaries in China; a brief one from Mr. Burns, to whom a wide door seems open at Peking for preaching the Gospel. Let our prayers be added to his, that the word may come to these Chinese in the capital "in demonstration of the Spirit, and with power." Besides letters from Mr. Cowie, at Amoy, and from Mr. Smith, at Swatow, narrating progress and difficulties at both of these stations, we have pleasure in publishing full information from Mr. Douglas and Dr. Maxwell respecting their recent visit to Formosa. The way appears plain and open for carrying over to that populous island those glad tidings which have found a lodgment on the mainland opposite. May the spirit in which our dear brother Dr. Maxwell enters upon this new field of labour in the Lord's vineyard be caught up by the Church at home, and the hands of all the missionaries be strengthened by our growing zeal in the great work of carrying the Gospel into China!

The details are still meagre regarding the movements of the Tae-pings in Southern China; and we cannot yet lay aside our anxiety for the converts and native evangelists in the districts around Amoy. We commend them to "Him who keepeth Israel," and ask for them a continued place in the prayers of God's people.

LETTER FROM THE REVEREND  
W. C. BURNS.

Peking, Oct. 12, 1864.

I HAVE not much to add regarding the progress of our work here. The door continues open for preaching the Gospel in Peking, and lately I have had abundant opportunities of taking part in this work at the chapels opened by various missions here. I have been particularly interested in the meetings held in a large suburb of Peking outside the principal east gate. There a small place for preaching has been established by Dr. Martin, of the American Presbyterian Church, and there, taking alternate days with his native assistants, I have lately had crowded and interested audiences. We need only a larger measure of the gracious power of the Divine Spirit in order to witness the speedy setting up of God's kingdom in the hearts of many of this people. Let the people of God continue to pray for us, and let them be "instant in prayer."

I am, dear Sir,  
Ever yours truly,  
Wm. C. Burns.

LETTER FROM THE REVEREND  
GEORGE SMITH.

Swatow, Nov. 11, 1864.

MY DEAR MR. MATHEWSON,—Your kind letter of July 29th came duly to hand. In it, among other things, you refer to our new house. You will be glad to learn that we have been occupying it for several months, and that your hopes as well as our own regarding it have been fully realized. Besides affording excellent accommodation for dwelling, it has been used for a dispensary; and thus, by renting our former place simply for hospital purposes, the medical work has been carried on for some time. The ground-floor serves as a good chapel. We have service every morning with the hospital patients and others in the chapel; while every evening the patients meet for worship in their own place. Our average attendance every morning, including patients, is from forty to eighty. Outwardly there is considerable appearance of interest in the preaching of the Word, and we are encouraged to hope that really some measure of Divine blessing rests on the work. On the first Sabbath of October four adults were baptized. Two of these are boys in our employment. One of the

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