

an hospital, we are looking for some definite allowance from the committee to warrant us in commencing.

We are urgently in want of accommodation. This is the best year for building, as the weather is seldom rainy. If we build in the spring, we shall have time to contend with. I had estimated at least 1,000 dollars, but I am sorry to say that we are finding ourselves unable to do more for the present. We have of our friends eleven giving in the matter generously, and I trust they will; but as we are in urgent want, help we would be glad to receive. His day will do. We passed the foreign residents shipping, and have got about 100. We calculate that about 100 will be necessary to get a goodly number of our friends at home will give us a large to build, we shall be sure to be lacking.

Our members, A. Thew, died on the 29th. Previous to his death, his health had been a little weak, and greatly added to him. His constitution had been undermined, and for some time he was in a state of general decay. A mental ability, he was prior to the rest of our friends, previous position as a teacher, and many prejudices against him among the Chinese. There was of special interest to many of his death. He has left a wife, child of his own, and two children of his wife.

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in speaking. Mr. Kesberry is very anxious for his return; whether he will return or not is rather uncertain.

Ti-Chew at present invites us to take up new stations, but we have not men for the work. I beg specially the prayers of the Church at home that native assistants may be raised up, and that missionaries qualified and commissioned by Christ may soon be sent out to aid us. Our strength is utterly inadequate to the wants of this great field of labour.

With Christian regards,

I am yours sincerely,
GEORGE SMITH.

LETTER FROM THE REV. HUGH COWIE.

Amoy, November 12th, 1864.

MY DEAR MR. MATHERSON,—There is no mission news of any special importance. Since I last wrote any of you, it has been my privilege to baptize one woman and one man at E-mung-kang. At Bay-pay, where I passed the Sabbath before last, the interest and the increased number of hearers still continue. We hope to be able ere long to receive some of them into the Church by baptism. Chang-chew is still in the hands of the rebels, and we are still in ignorance as to the fate of our native brethren there. With this exception all our stations are now accessible once more. Mr. Douglas visited Khi-booy last Sabbath, and found the roads safely passable. It had not been visited before since the Sabbath after the capture of Chung-chew (October 16th), which I passed there; nor have any of the native assistants ventured up until this week. At Khi-booy there are also some promising inquirers. I will now conclude with one item of information, which you will learn with regret. Mr. Doty has been ordered home on account of the failure of his health. He seems to have broken down very much within the last six months. He will sail by the first suitable opportunity. Dear old Mr. Doty will be greatly missed by all in Amoy, and in the mission circle especially his absence will occasion a painful blank. There is something sad and something enviable, too, in seeing the old man, so long on the field;

thus retire—his evening come, his rest near, his life work, as regards China, finished.

Yours, &c.,

HUGH COWIE.

LETTER FROM THE REV. CAESTAHS DOUGLAS.

Amoy, November 20th, 1864.

MY DEAR MR. MATHERSON,—About ten days ago Dr. Maxwell and I returned from Formosa, having accomplished the purpose of our visit—that is, having got a clear idea of the nature of the field of work in Southern Formosa.

You are aware that the seat of the Consulate for Formosa has been removed from the north end to the south end of the island. The only good port in the south is Takow or Takao; indeed, even that cannot be called "good," as it is difficult to enter, and can be entered only by the smaller size of vessels, and has room only for twelve vessels moored stem and stern by four anchors, for they cannot swing; and if one more comes she must just stay outside. The village at the port is small, containing about 1,500 inhabitants; and from the limited size of the harbour it would seem unlikely that it can ever become a large place. But as it is the only harbour in the south, and as it can be used all the year round, and besides, as it is doubtless the most healthy situation on the coast, there seems little doubt now that Takao will be the seat of the Consulate.

Tai-wan-foo, on the other hand, has no proper harbours; ships visiting it have to anchor in the open roadstead. This is all very well during the north-east monsoon, though even then they must anchor two or three miles from the shore. But in the south-west monsoon the anchorage is very unsafe, so that if a vessel come during that season she must usually lie several miles from shore. It is evident that such a roadstead can never supersede Takao as the regular port for summer and winter, but can only be supplementary to it.

At present Tai-wan-foo is only half open to trade—that is to say, it is fully conceded that foreigners have a full treaty-right to have houses and to reside in the city; it is also permitted to discharge

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