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I quite agree with Dr. Maxwell that were a mission replanted on Formosa, the Foo city (Tai-wan-foo) is the proper place to try; and I have no doubt that a footing could be obtained, especially as the mandarins, while they put obstacles in the way of trade at the city, make no objection to foreigners taking houses and residing there.

The only other place that seems at all fit to be spoken of as a mission centre besides Takao and Tai-wan-foo is the city of Pe-tow (also called Fung-shan-Hien), which lies about ten miles east from Takao, but its population is much smaller than the Foo city—probably about 15,000; and as it is more distant from the sea, I would think it should be less healthy, while probably it might be less easy to get premises there. Still it is quite possible that providential leadings might point in that direction, though it seems to me far from probable. Of course, in due time, it would form an excellent out-station.

Dr. Maxwell seems quite inclined to go over to settle in Formosa after about three months' more study of the language; and he does not seem at all deterred from it by the circumstance that no ordained missionary can be spared, either from Amoy or Swatow, to join him. I do trust that the churches at home may speedily be enabled to send out some one specially to join him in Formosa. And I would venture to add that such a one should be unattached; for the city of Tai-wan-foo would be too much isolated at present for a family. Even during the north-east monsoon, when vessels anchor in the roads, the communication is very inconvenient, and at other times the land journey to Takao must be made (about thirty-five miles) crossing several rivers that have no bridges, and are liable to be flooded (for the summer is just the time when vessels can least safely anchor off Tai-wan-foo, and when the heavy rains come, and also when the Foo city must be least healthy); and in all probability it will be desirable for the sake

of health to make visits from time to time to Takao, especially in the summer, which a family could hardly do.

Of course, I need hardly say that till an ordained missionary joins Dr. Maxwell he must be quite crippled in his work; and no place that I have seen in China has pleased me more than Tai-wan-foo as a place for mission work. Surely he must not be left alone.

May the God of all grace carry forward this work—if, indeed, it may be said to have been "begun" by our feeble tentative efforts. Rather may he speedily begin it and carry it on to his glory, through the salvation of many souls.

I close this on the morning of the 10th, just as I am starting for Anhai; for we find that we are not so much shut out from visiting our stations as we had feared. Of course it is impossible to have any communication with poor Chang-chew.

Yours as ever,

CARSTAIRS DOUGLAS.

LETTER FROM DR. MAXWELL.

Amoy, October 31, 1864.

MY DEAR DR. HAMILTON.—We returned yesterday to Amoy, after an absence in Formosa of three full weeks. We were greatly rejoiced to find our dear brother Mr. Macgregor, with Mrs. Macgregor, already arrived.

I leave to my brethren to tell you of the unhappy troubles around Amoy. For the present it would seem as if, in God's providence, the door to every station except Pechina were shut against us. God grant that this state of things may not continue long.

November 8.—On the 5th Mr. Douglas and Mr. Swanson visited Bay-pay and Kung-khan; so that the statement of October 31 is to be taken with this addition.

My one object in writing at present is to give you and the Mission Committee my view of the results of our visit to Formosa as regards the possibility of an ultimate settlement there, with a view to mission labour. We visited Takow, the present consular port; Pe-tow, the second city of importance in the south, and the capital

half of the island Tai-wan-foo. In Takow and its neighbourhood we spent upwards of a week; in Tai-wan-foo, about a week; and in Pe-tow, part of one day. Further, we traversed on foot the country lying between Takow and Tai-wan-foo, saw various high ridges on the way, and had very good opportunities of mingling with and ascertaining the general temper and spirit of the people. Further, there were during our visit many excellent opportunities of reading the Gospel to the Chinese in the various places. These opportunities were very fully taken advantage of by Mr. Douglas, with some slight assistance from the Chinese who accompanied us. I am to be sufficiently as full in Chinese to draw a crowd on the moment; and, except in conversation, I was the stiller member of the party. It was, however, a very great pleasure to myself to see by my brother in arms and hear how readily he unfolded the truths of the Gospel to crowds who had never before heard the Word of Life, and to watch how he swept the crowd at one time with striking exposures of the folly of a worship for which they themselves have no room respect; at another, with the powerful setting forth of great truths which appeal to their consciences and to their hearts for a testimony of their truth; at another, with eloquent and urgent entreaty to repent of their sins and believe in that Father whom God has provided for us. Religious books and Bibles were given away at the various places of our residence, and so little eagerness was manifested on the part of the crowd to obtain them. I would trust that in Tai-wan-foo especially, where in many places within the walls the Gospel was preached, my brother's labours may one day prove not to have been in vain.

As a rule, the people were in the several places visited by us, and along the road through the country, kind and civil in their bearing towards us. Only once or twice did we hear unkind and offensive words towards us as foreigners; and on these occasions the offenders generally immediately hid themselves. There was no unwillingness to listen to the truth; on the contrary, the same persons would

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