

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 the ordained missionary joins Dr. Maxwell must be quite crippled in his work; and in 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 and carry it on to his glory, through the salvation of many souls.

I close this on the morning of the 21st, just as I am starting for Amoy; for I find that we are not so much hindered from visiting our stations as we had feared. Of course it is impossible to have any communication with poor Chang-chai.

Yours as ever,
CAROLINE DODD

LETTER FROM DR. MAXWELL

Amoy, October 2, '64.

MY DEAR DR. HAMILTON,—We were yesterday in Amoy, after at short intervals of three full weeks. We were greatly rejoiced to find our dear wife, Mrs. Macgregor, with Mrs. Scott, already arrived.

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

November 8.—On the 11th Mr. Jupp and Mr. Swanson sailed for Keelung and Kang-khoan; so that the amount of October 21 is to be taken with the 11th.

My one object in writing is to give you and the Mission Committee a view of the results of our visit to Formosa, and regarding the possibility of an establishment there, with a view to our labours. We visited Takao, the principal consular port; Pe-toe, the second in importance in the south, and the north-

west of the island Tai-wan-foo. In Takow and the neighbourhood we spent upwards of a week; in Tai-wan-foo, about a week; and in Pe-toe, part of one day. Further, we traversed on foot the country lying between Takow and Tai-wan-foo, saw various large villages 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 preaching the Gospel to the Chinese in these various places. These opportunities were very fully taken advantage of by Mr. Douglas, with some slight assistance from two Chinese who accompanied us. I am not yet sufficiently *au fait* in Chinese to address a crowd on the moment; and, except in conversation, I was the stillest member of the party. It was, however, often a very great pleasure to myself to stand by my brother in arms and hear how skilfully he unfolded the truths of the Gospel to crowds who had never before heard the Word of Life, and to watch how he swayed the crowd at one time with withering exposures of the folly of a worship for which they themselves have no sincere respect; at another, with the powerful setting forth of great truths which appealed to their consciences and to their reason for a testimony of their truth; at another, with eloquent and urgent entreaty to repent of their sins and believe in that Saviour whom God has provided for us. Many religious books and Bibles were given away at the various places of our residence, and no 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 instantly hid themselves. There was no unwillingness to listen to the truth; on the contrary, the same persons would

stand a long time to hear the truth. (How far this might be due to the rare fact, to them, of a good Chinese-speaking foreigner, I should not dare to say.) No irritation of any importance was ever manifested by those who listened. In these respects all places were alike favourable to the entrance of regular labourers as missionaries. We happened to visit Formosa at one of the best, and perhaps healthiest, seasons of the year; so that I could not speak as yet very definitely of the healthiness of the island. So far as I can learn, Takow and its neighbourhood, including, perhaps, Pe-toe, are at all times very healthy. In Tai-wan-foo it is possible that, owing to its low-lying position, the flat, sandy country on its north and north-east sides, and certain abominable defects in the matter of sewerage, it may in summer, in the very hot season, be unhealthy and rather dangerous to foreigners. Temporary retirement, however, in such a case could be obtained in a very short time at Takow, where, also, mission labour has a valuable field to work upon. The city of Tai-wan-foo is a noble one. It may contain, I should think, from 150,000 to 200,000 of a population, and had all the aspect of a busy and thriving city. We had no difficulty in entering and in traversing the city in all directions. While we were there no whisper was uttered of any opposition to our presence. At present Tai-wan-foo is not open to foreign trade, although, probably, ultimately it will be; and then a few foreigners may be expected to come and reside in it for business purposes. Except the agent of Jardine, Matheson, and Co., however, there is no foreigner who at present resides there for more than a few days together; and he, also, is frequently moving about.

We did not moot the question while there of actually taking a house; but from what we could gather we believe that certainly in the western suburb, and possibly within the city itself, some house might be got in which mission labour might be begun.

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