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## AUGUST 1, 1865.] THE ENGLISH PRESENTERIAN MESSENGER.

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opened by Mr. Edkins, of the London Missionary Society; and, under date March 16th, his friend Dr. Martin, of the American Prosbyterian Mission, informs us that Mr. Burns had been addressing large and attentive audiences There is something solemnizing in the thought that almost at the same time, and in an equally unexpected way. God has opened up new and promising fields of labour to Mr. Burns in the north and to Mr. Smith in the south. Nothing could show more clearly the vastness of the work that might be done in China if we had only an adequate instrumentality. Our responsibilities are great and growing. There is no slackness on the part of God. China, notwithstanding its internal dissensions and miseries-perhaps in consequence of them-is open to us; and just in proportion as we enter in and strive to take possession will the blessing of God rest upon us and our labours at home. In connection with recent tidings, the words of our Lord ought to press with great force on all our hearts-" The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

The letters from Dr. Maxwell and the Rev. Wm. McGregor will be found interesting. The two most important items of intelligence they contain are the evacuation of Chang Chew and the surrounding district by the rebels, and the departure of Mr. Douglas and Dr. Maxwell to establish a branch mission in the island of Formosa.

The cause of this sudden movement of the Taepings cannot be conjectured, though it is clear that it has not been any pressure on the part of the Imperialists, who seem to be at once weaker and more cruel than their antagonists. From the account given by Mr. McGregor of the deplorable state of things, we gather that the change from rebel to Imperial rule has been most disastrous to the native inhabitants. Yet the tidings of the change bring hope. There is now a prospect of the country becoming settled, and the missionaries will now be able to enter again upon those promising fields of labour from which they have been for a time excluded. Our little staff need more than ever to be sustained by the prayers of Christ's people at home.

While shut out from the Chang Chew district by the rebel occupation, our missionaries, taking this as an indication of the Master's will, resolved that Dr. Maxwell, accompanied by Mr. Douglas, should proceed to Formosa, and attempt the opening of a station in that large and populous island. These dear brethren have set out on their important mission, and we may hope to hear before long of their safe arrival, and of the initiation of the new enterprise. No companion has yet been found for Dr. Maxwell, the Amoy brethren being unable to spare one of their number for any lengthened period; but the Church at home is anxiously looking out for a minister or probationer who possesses the requisite qualifications, and who is willing to devote himself to Christian work in that far-off field. In the meantime it is satisfactory to know that Mr. Douglas will be able to stay and labour with Dr. Maxwell for about two months. The Church should follow the effort of these servants of Christ with deep interest and much prayer

From the China Mail we learn that a Directory of Protestant Missionaries in China has just been published, from which it appears that there were actually in the field, on the 20th March last, no less than 187 missionaries, including Indices ; while other 15 were either absent on leave or on their way out to join the mission. They were distributed over the various stations as follows :--Canton, 30; Hong Kong, 22; Swatow, 7; Amoy, 14; Fub-chau, 20; Ningpo, 21; Shanghai, 25; Hankow, 5; Chefoo, 9; Tangehow, 7; Tientain, 11; and Pekin, 16. Of these 92 are American, 78 are English,

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