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LETTER FROM THE REV. W. C. BURNS.

Pekin, April, 11th, 1865.

DEAR MR. MATHESON.—I suppose you have duly received (or will receive) a note which I left in the hands of Dr. Martin to forward, intimating that I was about to leave this city on a visit to a new station in the country, opened for preaching by Mr. Edkins, of the London Mission. I remained at that place, along with a native assistant, for nearly six weeks, and had very good opportunities of making known the truth, although we cannot as yet speak of any remarkable results in the way of the conversion of souls. A few days after reaching Tsae-yüh (the name of the place where I have been) we received intelligence from Pekin that at a country town 180 miles south from the capital, a number of people had, from reading Christian books, become interested in the truth, and had sent a messenger to Mr. Edkins, at the Chinese Hospital, requesting that some one might be sent to give them instruction. Mr. Edkins sent down a native assistant, who, after staying a few days, returned along with one of those interested, bringing a special request that a foreign teacher would visit them. Mr. Edkins is too busily occupied to allow of his going at present, having, in addition to all his other vocations, the purpose of making a missionary visit to Mongolia, and he sent down the parties to me at Tsae-yüh in order to see if I felt it my duty to comply with their call. I felt that I could not decline, but deferred deciding until my return, a week ago, to the city. It is now arranged that, D.V., I set out for the said place on the 13th, and should the opening prove a favourable one for making known the truth, I may be absent for several weeks at least. We travel by land, and

the journey will occupy, including the Sabbath, or which we rest, nearly a week. My Chinese teacher, who left me to go to Honan province, had to turn back in consequence of hearing that the Nankin rebels had occupied the place to which he meant to go. Having now, however, more active duties to attend to in making known the Gospel, I cannot at present resume my work with him in getting the "Pilgrim's Progress" in the new form (the Mandarin colloquial) printed. This must be deferred, D.V., for a few months, although the delay may imply my remaining in Pekin, if spared, over next winter. In the neighbourhood of Amoy there is at present a great hindrance to successful missionary labour, which makes me thankful that I am providentially placed in a quarter blessed with outward peace. Formosa seems in some degree open, but whether the call to go there is specially to me I do not yet see. I will not say that Amoy could spare a missionary to accompany Dr. Maxwell to that island, as this would be in conflict with Mr. Douglas's view, a view which you are *safe* in following; and besides, in the meantime, an unmarried missionary seems the most suitable for entering the Formosa field. Let the church of God pray for the raising up of men fitted in all respects to enter into this great field which, north and south, is so open, and is even calling to us, as in this neighbourhood, with the cry, "Come over and help us."

I am, dear Sir,
Ever yours truly,
WM. C. BURNS.

LETTER FROM DR. MAXWELL.

May 13th, 1865.

MY DEAR MR. MATHESON.—The progress of the rebellion in Hok-kin is gra-

dually becoming a source of great anxiety to the Imperial Government, and has led to a step to mission work which has not been taken since the first of the century. A special commission was sent to Amoy to superintend the operations on the part of the British, and, as a consequence, I have been talking between foreign ships in Chang Chow, which is our first arrival here, and as we are to send all passengers and to send all foreigners, and to send all ships should enter the river and Amoy without a special license. I was at the time at Bappay, having newly arrived, and otherwise engaged in my own work. A special pass was given to the commissioner to visit Amoy without making any report to the district to prevent the British were unable to do so. Restrictions were also imposed between with regard to the Amoy. It is a matter of great importance to God, the absence of five or six months of visiting the churches in Bappay, Liang-hun-shan, and again been heard. Mr. Douglas last year sent me week's pass to the Amoy, and this week Mr. Swanson has since then, his pass also to be one week. What further we can do, in the goodness of God, I do not know; but we must have this partial liberty may be possible the Imperialist army is now against their opposition, wisely avoiding them, and Amoy, are going to the south and west of Chang Chow, and would be foolish, therefore, to make any speculations as to the duration and final result.

About five weeks ago we were in the appearance of the ships in the port of Amoy. She had

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