

the former by purchase in the principal street of the city, but which the latter are loth to see passing into their hands. So bitter is the feeling, that they were then placarding the neighbourhood with invitations to assault the foreigners if they should approach the spot. Meanwhile the master is referred to Peking, although, according to our treaty, there can be no question as to the right of missionaries to hold property in any part of the city.

May 24th and 25th.

Leaving Foo-chow, I merely touched for a few hours at Amoy, going on in the same steamer to Swatow to make the acquaintance and to see the work of the brethren there before going to Formosa. For now it is resolved that an attempt be made to establish a branch of our mission there. Meanwhile I desired greatly to see my brethren at Swatow, and to hear something of their work there, especially of the work of my dear brother, Dr. Gauld.

I found Mr. Mackenzie and Dr. Gauld both in Swatow, but Mr. Smith had gone south some two or three days' journey, and before I left he had not returned. He was away, however, on his Master's work, and although I regretted much my own loss in not meeting with him, I was also fain to rejoice with my brethren in Swatow, that it was our brother's privilege at that time to be proclaiming the Gospel in a region hitherto unknown to mission labour. I had the privilege of visiting the various stations connected with the Swatow Mission, and, to myself, the great happiness of nearly a fortnight's continuous precious fellowship with my beloved brethren there. I know of no privilege here so sweet as this occasional face to face meeting with dear brethren in another part of the vineyard. It encouraged me greatly to see on the spot what had been accomplished in so hard a soil as that of Swatow. The attitude of the population towards the missionaries and their work in that region, appeared to me decidedly more hostile than in the region round Amoy. Nevertheless the Lord is pleased to bless the labourers in their work, and has given, in the blessing already bestowed, abundant encouragement to labour on. Returning from Swatow on the 19th of May, I was greeted by my brethren here with the start-

ling intelligence of the evacuation of Chang Chew, and the departure of the rebels. This took place on the 16th of May (Swanson's 21st was of the Chinese month), at least the last of them left on the morning of that day. They left behind them a city almost reduced to ashes, and some few hundreds of sick and aged people to represent the once proud and prosperous multitudes of Chang Chew. Many, many thousands of the old population have doubtless been carried off by the Taipings, to serve either willingly in their army, or as burden-bearers and cooks. The rebels have since evacuated Chang-poo and the whole of the contiguous region, so that Amoy is now evidently delivered from the scourge of their presence. Their going, however, was a movement necessitated by no presence of the Imperial forces. Indeed, if any were astonished at the evacuation of Chang Chew, none were more so than the Mandarins themselves. In these last weeks the rebels have made themselves masters of two great cities to the south-west, Teng-chew and Kia-ying-chew; the latter city is at no great distance from Chau-chau-foo, the great city of which Swatow is the port.

Now, again, the Amoy mission field is open, and there would be ample room for us all to labour on as before. But I rejoice to say that the conclusion regarding Formosa, to which we had collectively come at a time when we were shut out of the country districts around Amoy, still holds good. At that time we felt as if God were leading us to set our faces to Formosa. It seemed as if one of the brethren were set free for a little, at least, to enable me to establish myself comfortably in Taiwanpoo, and Mr. Douglas was willing to give this much needed help. Our arrangements were, in a measure, completed with this view, and it has been thought well not to alter them, but to proceed at once to Formosa.

We had expected to leave this morning, but the weather is so unfavourable, so wet and misty, that the captain of the *Mets* is delaying, and it may be to-morrow or the next day even before we are off. We make for Takow in the first instance, as no foreign vessels during this moonsoon go direct to Taiwanpoo; from Takow we shall have little difficulty in making our way in a Chinese boat to the Foo city. Meanwhile

August 1, 1865.] THE ENGLISH

some requests which my I
at would earnestly make
back at home; the one is that
of frequent intercession be made
connection with this movement
on. Our labour will be vain if
be led to not graciously pour
being upon it; and would that
back at home might have it in the
and a large blessing for Formosa
our request is that earnest endow
not failed a second labourer for
a friend. Mr. Douglas expects to
remain with me for two months,
and the Amoy Mission are
not so surely possible that he
and for a longer time. It is urged
in, now that the work is fairly to be
run, that another labourer be found
let good that such a one may be
himself may be pleased to home
out.

The letter of April 6 was received.
We are very thankful to
the feeling of the committee regarding
such as to leave us free to
bring to the best of our judgment
but that we are being guided
family Father in the present
Interday's mail brought us the
news of the death of our beloved
Dr. Day. Four days ere the ship
he had breathed his last, and
than this we have no news; I
rejoiced that his end would
be.

I am,
My dear Mr. Mathieson,
Ever yours affectionately
J. L. M.

LETTER FROM THE REV. W.
McGREGOR.

Amoy, 20th 7

MY DEAR MR. MATHIESON
From members of the M
have informed you that to-day M
and Dr. Maxwell leave for Foo
interruption of mission work in
being hastened Dr. Maxwell's
to his future field of labour.
my earnest prayers will follow
the reception they met with d
and such as to lead

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