

NOTE.

We regret that we have been obliged to cancel an anonymous contribution, entitled "Scatterings," many parts of the manuscript being utterly illegible.—[Ed. of E. P. M.]

Foreign Missions.

CHINA.

From a letter published below it will be seen that Mr. Burns had returned to Peking, and was engaged in completing his translation and publication of the "Pilgrim's Progress" in the Mandarin colloquial. Simultaneously we learn from public sources that a rebellion of alarming dimensions had broken out in northern China, and that an army was threatening the capital. Rumour further states that application for help had been made to the representatives of Great Britain: we earnestly trust that wisdom will be given them to keep us out of a quarrel in which our sympathies cannot be enlisted, and so save us from the misery which usually attends those who meddle in strife. But here we have one more proof how much unhappy, distracted China needs our pity and our prayers, and how loud a call there is for us to send that healing Gospel which alone can cure her deadly wounds. O that Christian England might see the importance of this greatest of mission fields, and were awakened to the need of this countless multitude of people! And yet, with fields white unto the harvest, we have no labourers asking to be hired; and the few now toiling at our stations are crying out for more help in every letter which reaches us.

We rejoice to announce, through Mr. Douglas's brief communication, his safe arrival with Dr. Maxwell in Formosa, and their hospitable reception by a fellow-countryman in the city of Tai-wan-foo. Still more providential and encouraging is the way in which they have been received by the people in their public preaching of the word and distribution of tracts, &c., and especially so is the opportunity put in their way of obtaining temporary mission premises. This, surely, is the Lord's doing, and we cannot doubt that the brethren have been led to this new region, after much prayerful consideration, by the finger of God. We entreat our people, throughout the Church, to uphold the missionaries in the *beginning* of this enterprise, and to continue in prayer for them, that mighty works of spiritual healing may be done through their instrumentality in the name of Jesus.

Whilst the Amoy Mission had been weakened by the departure of the above brethren, we have been glad to learn that reinforcements had arrived from America in the persons of Mr. Talmage and Mr. Van Doren, of the Reformed Dutch Church. The Tae-pings having retired from Chang-chew, the surrounding country, once more open to our missionaries, appears to have

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