

you well know how suspicious the Chinese are of what is new and foreign.

Meantime, by a most providential opportunity, we have got the use of temporary premises, through the kindness of Mr. William Maxwell (no connection of the Doctor), the Commissioner of Customs for Formosa. About half a year ago he had rented a house for a year in the western suburb of this city, and had put it in good repair. He has now taken a house for himself within the walls; and he has given us the use of his house in the suburb free of rent for the rest of the year. By the end of that period, if not sooner, the way will doubtless be made plain either for remaining in these premises or for moving into the city. I may remark, in passing, that though our choice lies towards the city proper, yet the suburbs is a very important position, both for its own large population and because through it the city communicates with the sea.

Up to this date we have been kindly entertained by Mr. Neil McPhail, a native of Glasgow, the only foreign merchant who resides at Tai-wan-foo. His house is in the suburb, quite near the premises just spoken of. A considerable number of patients have called for Dr. Maxwell at Mr. McPhail's, and have been prescribed for. Of course it has not been possible to have any preaching at the Hong; but in the streets all through the city we have had excellent audiences. The whole appearance of the people has been very friendly. It is a specially interesting fact, that on this occasion almost all our distribution of Testaments and tracts has been done by selling them at reduced rates, about one-fifth or one-sixth of the cost price.

I earnestly trust that no time will be lost in seeking out a fit man to be sent out as colleague to Dr. Maxwell; for it is very little that can be done by short occasional visits from Amoy; and it will be very hard work for Dr. Maxwell when he is left alone for many months together; indeed, as I mentioned in my former note, two ordained missionaries are urgently needed for this region.

Yours ever,  
C. DOUGLAS.

LETTER FROM THE REV. H. L. MACKENZIE.

Swatow, June 7, 1865.

MY DEAR DR. HAMILTON.—Since writing to you about half-a-year ago I paid a very interesting visit to the district city of Jen Ping. This is one of the inland cities of this department, near the borders of Hok-keen, three days' journey from Swatow, and two from Yam-tan and Chin Chung, our farthest north stations. Accompanied by two of the assistants, my "boy," and one of the church members, to carry our books, bedding, &c., I started from Chin Chung early on the morning of Monday, March 6. After walking some fifteen or eighteen miles of a rather hilly road, and seeing one of the church members by the way at a village called Chie Koi, we put up for the night at a road-side inn at Teng Tah, close by the Jen Ping river. During that day's journey we had very plain and sad evidence that this people are still in darkness, seeking for good where it is not to be found. We met large numbers of women, old and young, dressed in their best, going to and returning from an idol temple, which we passed on our way. On inquiring, I learned that at a certain season every year, the said idol is worshipped and offerings made at her shrine (which offerings, of course, the heathen priest appropriates) by thousands of women from the country around, in the hope of securing prosperity for themselves and their families.

This was the third occasion on which I had been to Teng Tah, so that I felt comparatively at home in the inn there. Such inns as I have seen in China are very different indeed from those we are accustomed to at home. The one at Teng Tah, in which we passed the night (I cannot say slept—for what with mosquitoes, gamblers, &c., &c., I did not get a minute's sleep the whole night, and some of the brethren with me were equally unfortunate), has one large room in which travellers may take their food and sleep. As a rule, each man (or company of travellers) buys his rice, &c., from the landlord, and then cooks for himself. We followed the rule, the brethren buying such food as was to be had, and then cooking for ourselves. The room in which we ate and slept was, I should say,

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