

We might look forward to an annual collection for this purpose; a collection which would be given with willingness by every congregation acquainted with the work done. That portion of the Home Mission Fund expended on congregations which have dissolved could at once be available for the work. Spontaneous liberality would be manifested by many within our bounds. Contributions would be received in the towns where the evangelists would preach; and many a door would be opened, like that of Lydia, who said to Paul, "Come in and abide."

What we have thrown out here are just the suggestions of a mind thoughtful on the subject. They may be looked on as notes by the way of one who has seen something of such work. They may be deemed worthy of the consideration of the Presbyteries of our church. Our position is peculiar. So small amid such a population! Fields are white; labourers are few; and while we pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers, should we not yield all compliance with the Lord's call, "Go ye forth and preach the Gospel"?

J. F.

Foreign Missions.

CHINA.

We earnestly commend to our readers an attentive perusal of the letters from the mission field this month, and could wish that those who do not usually read them had their attention also drawn to the contents of these letters. It has pleased God to bless our mission in a remarkable way from the very commencement, but of late the rapid succession of interesting events, the open doors on every side, and the urgent appeals for more men, are fitted to touch the conscience of every member of our Church as to how far each is doing his or her duty in this matter. Do I make conscience of knowing what the Lord is doing by means of our missionaries in China? Have I no responsibility in the matter? May I hand over the whole affair to a few more zealous persons, and yet not be called to account by the Lord of missions for my neglect of duty? May not my lack of interest in spiritual things be in part attributable to my neglect of a very plain command? Do I bring the subject as much as I might to the notice of more lukewarm friends? Such questions, honestly answered, would surely lead to a great increase of our zeal and love as a Missionary Church.

It will be seen from the following letters that, although our missionaries have been exposed to no little danger in prosecuting their work in new regions, there are cheering accounts from Amoy, from Swatow, from Formosa, and from Peking, of openings, and an awakened interest in the Gospel message; and there is consequently an increasingly urgent cry for more men to engage in the work.

The Committee would rejoice to hear of two or even three men willing to offer themselves. Will no one of our young men in England or Scotland, who have completed their studies, respond to this call? Surely the dangers encountered in this cause will not daunt those who are called to be good soldiers of Jesus Christ. The Crimean war instead of repressing only called forth more decidedly the military ardour of our youth at home; let not the soldier of the cross be less zealous in his Master's cause.

It was stated in the September Messenger that Dr. Maxwell and Mr. Douglas had reached Tai-wan-foo, the capital of Formosa, and had met with

* The address of the Convener is—The Rev. James Hamilton, D.D., 48, Euston Square, London.

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