

however, not so much in its convenience of approach outwardly as its connexion with the interior, and especially with the tea and silk districts. From these districts the Chinese come in all directions to Shanghai. Many of them remain here several months, and then return. Others, attracted by the advantages for business which the place affords, take up their abode permanently. It is difficult to estimate the exact number of those here from other places, but some of the intelligent Chinese estimate the number at 100,000, or one-third of the whole population, which they state at 300,000. Others make the estimate much higher, believing that more than one-half are from other places. The facility for spreading abroad the knowledge of the truth thus afforded cannot be easily over-estimated. The more earnestly and faithfully the gospel is preached here, the more widespread will be its effects throughout the empire. Morally, though not literally, this will be like a city set on a hill. The avenues which serve for leading up hither, will also serve for conducting forth the truth. And as the strangers which were in Jerusalem at Pentecostal times could relate, when they returned, what they saw of the wonderful works of God, so may we hope that those who gather here, shall, if the Lord bless us with times of refreshing, be also able to return to their countrymen, bearing the news of salvation.

But there is not merely a wide and distant field which we can operate on; there is a large one close at hand. We are here in the midst of a fertile valley, teeming not merely with towns and villages, but with large cities. These cities might to some extent be visited now, notwithstanding the greater restrictions under which we lie since the commencement of the present Emperor's reign; and all of them, so far as accessible from here, ought to be considered as embraced within our missionary field. And had we well-qualified native evangelists, they could go without restraint to preach the gospel in ten or fifteen large cities, where this dialect is spoken with but very slight alterations. Suchau, situated on the Grand Canal, whose population is estimated at two* millions, and is reckoned among the first cities of the empire, in point of wealth, population, and literature, is only distant eighty or ninety miles.

Such, in a few words, is the field that lies before us.

What has been done towards occupying Shanghai as a Missionary Station.

It is now nine years since this port was opened. Missionary operations were commenced soon after. At present there are twenty-one male missionaries, including three from other ports, who are engaged on the committee for translating the Old Testament. They are all able, however, to do more or less other missionary work. Five chapels have been built within the city walls, besides which there are four or five other stated places for preaching. There are three boarding-schools for boys, containing in all about seventy-five pupils. There are also three for girls, but only one of them fully in operation—pupils in all between thirty and forty. There are also four or five day schools—none of them large—less than twenty in each. These are the principal means in use, and all in the infancy of their operations. The number of converts is still very small—of whom nearly one-half are natives of another province, (Fohkeen.) I have not the means of ascertaining the exact number of all the converts, but they do not exceed thirty. There is one native evangelist.

These are some of the tangible results. There are others which cannot be expressed by numbers, but which in the present stage of missionary operations ought to be considered as more important. We cannot expect fruit before the land is cleared, and the seed planted; so men, imbued with superstitions, and bowing down to idols, must first be convinced of the folly of such a system, and be instructed to some extent in the truths of a better, before we can expect them to turn to God with full purpose of heart. Some thing has been done in this preparatory work. Many know of Jesus whom we preach. Many will acknowledge, at least outwardly, that their idols are of no avail; but still few among the mass understand the real nature of the Christian

† London Missionary Society, 7; Church of England Missionary Society, 2; American Episcopal Board, 2; Southern Baptist, 3; Southern Methodist, 2; Sabbatarians, 2; American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, 1; Presbyterian Board, 2. The Southern Baptists expect a reinforcement of 4 male missionaries in the course of the year; American Episcopal, 3; and the mission of our own Board, 1.

* See Williams' *Mid. Kingdom*, I. p. 84.