

directed their best attention, and which has been now matured, involves the appointment of two or more principal Agents, who, through the instrumentality of Sub-agents and Colporteurs, will seek to distribute the Scriptures wherever readers and purchasers can be found ready to receive them. In a country in which education is advancing with such rapid strides, and in many of whose colleges and schools English is the classical language, such an Agency seems peculiarly needful. To send forth, as those institutions now do, year by year thousands of intelligent and intellectual men, whose passions have never been brought under the subduing influence of the gospel, and who have never been taught from the Book of Truth the duty which they owe to their neighbour and their God, is surely to create a power which will ere long, in the consciousness of its own strength, cast off the yoke of foreign dominion, and obtain freedom from the restraints of all moral obligations. But let God's Word have free course. Let the banner of Jesus' love be unfurled over Indian homes, and the sceptre of His love be extended over Indian hearts, and then, in return for the inestimable boon which you have bestowed, a loyal and Christianized people will acknowledge the debt of gratitude which they owe, and become bound to you by cords of affection which shall grow stronger in time, and endure throughout eternity. Your Committee are most desirous of finding suitable men, as soon as possible, to fill these important posts. One has already been recommended to them in the person of Colonel Lamb, to whose Christian character and special adaptation to this particular work such high testimony has been borne, that they have had no hesitation in engaging his services for the Presidency of Bengal, for which distant sphere of labour he will soon set out.

CHINA.

There are few countries to which the blessings of Christian civilization might be more easily extended, and in which the messengers of the Gospel might work with a better hope of eventual success than China, if only those high barriers could be broken down which for ages past have kept its people distinct from other nations, and have impeded that social intercourse by which prejudice would have been softened and ignorance removed. When, however, we remember that this people possess historical records which trace their origin back three thousand years before the birth of Christ, that they have moreover preserved their manners, their customs, and their institutions unchanged through a longer period than any other nation, and that their climate, avoiding the extremes of heat and cold, is favourable to the cultivation of almost all agricultural produce, is it much to be wondered at if they have encouraged a policy, the effect of which has been to shut them out from all intercommunication with foreign nations, and to contract their mental and moral perceptions within the narrowest limits? But He who has said, "I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come," has a purpose to fulfil concerning this nation also; and evidences are not wanting by which the hope is fostered that His set time to favour her may even now be at hand. Prejudices are less strong, and exclusiveness is less rigidly maintained. Missionaries have proclaimed the Gospel without hindrance, and the Scriptures have been received by many without gainsaying, and by some with an apparent conviction that the truths which they revealed met the wants of a sinful nature and of a contrite heart.

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