

est prayer that God might send him some message in his reading that would appeal to his heart.

In a little while he raised his eyes and, looking attentively at me, said, "Dr. Coltman," or, as he addresses me in Chinese, Man Tai Fu, Do you believe this Book?

"Your Excellency," I replied, "if I did not believe that Book I should not have the honor of being your physician. I thoroughly believe it."

Are you sure it is not all rumor and report? he again asked.

"Very sure," I replied.

"How do you know?" he continued.

"By a test given in the Book itself. Does it not say in the Book that a bad tree cannot bring forth good fruit, nor a good tree bad fruit?"

Your Excellency has admitted to me previously, that the condition of the people in Western lands far surpasses anything in the East, and I can assure you that the happiness and prosperity of the various nations you have recently visited is in direct proportion to the nearness with which they live to the precepts taught in that Book. Would that your Excellency also believed it."

"Why, I believe that you would like me to turn Christian," he said, in a half-joking, half-earnest tone.

"Not only you," I replied, "but your young Emperor and all his people."

"We have Confucius," he replied, and you have your Jesus, are they not much the same?"

"By their fruits ye shall know them," I replied.

Then, before we could carry on the conversation further, important dispatches were brought in, and the Viceroy had to give them his attention; but, as a servant took the Book from his hands to place it in his library, he said, "Don't carry it to the library; take it to my bed-room table, I wish to look at it again."

NOTES ON KOREA.

By REV. J. THOMPSON, M. D., MISSIONARY TO THE CHINESE IN MONTREAL.

Its area is about 80,000 square miles, and its population estimated at ten to fifteen millions; of whom some 300,000 live in Seoul, the capital city.

The missionary societies working there are, the Presbyterian Churches in Australia, the Presbyterian Churches of the United States, North and South, the Canadian Colleges, Y.M.C.A., the American Methodist Episcopal Church, the Church of England, the Union Mission of Canada and the Baptist Mission.

Near the close of the 18th Century, about one hundred years ago, Roman Catholicism was introduced and spread with great ra-

pidity, but about 1864 an inquisition was instituted, when 8 bishops and 10,000 adherents were put to death.

The first Protestant missionary to visit Korea was Rev C. Gutzlaff, of the Netherlands Mission, in 1832. He spent a month on an adjoining island, interviewing the people. He offered to present the King a bible, but the proposal was declined.

The first effective Protestant Missionary effort was made in 1873, by Rev. John Ross, of the Scottish U. P. Mission, in Mukden, Manchuria. Through some Koreans, whom he met in his own field in China, he was able to translate the Gospel into Korean. These were taken by the Koreans on their return, especially to the northern valleys of their own land, and, after a time, word came back of a number of them professing their belief in the Christ of the Gospels. In the meantime, in 1876, Rev. J. Ross being absent in Scotland, his co-laborer, Rev. J. W. MacIntyre, baptized in Manchuria the first Protestant Korean convert.

Thereafter, Rev. Messrs. Ross and Webster visited Northern Korea, meeting with a cordial reception, and baptizing 85 persons, many more being put off for further instruction.

An early return was impracticable, but when, in 1884, the missionaries of the American Presbyterian Mission arrived, they found there those who were studying the word and professing their faith in Christ.

Previous to this, in 1882, a treaty had been made by Korea with the United States, indicating her willingness to join the family of nations, though this was ante-dated by a treaty with Japan in 1876, which opened three ports to commerce with that people.

Following the actual beginning of organized mission work on Korea soil, in 1884, by the American Presbyterian Mission there, was that of the American Methodist Church in 1885, and other societies to the number of 7, exclusive of the R. Catholics.

On Sept. 27th, 1885, was opened the first telegraph line in Korea, between Seoul and Chemulpo, since which time there have been many events of progress, among them Sabbath observance, extending even to the workmen in the King's mines.

In 1887, the first Protestant Church was organized, a Presbyterian; and, in 1888, the first Methodist Church.

In 1889 was established the Korean Tract Society, one of the most important of agencies, already having a list of some 75 publications.

Christianity in its various aspects has found much favor in Korea. In 1897 the wife of the Korean Minister to foreign countries connected herself with the Presbyterian Church.

At present, connected with the various missions, are nearly one hundred foreign missionaries, the American Presbyterian Church having thirty-three.