

with themes of a deep and philosophic nature. The pupil of Socrates, he brings that great master into all his discussions where they reason out, or, rather, attempt to reason out the great problem of the immortality of the soul.

And we see the heathen philosopher, cultured and lofty in his conceptions, groping vainly in the darkness for the light which his gods cannot give, realizing the imperfections of his own religion, but knowing not where to find the truth. So near and yet so far from the true source.

"An infant crying in the night,
"An infant crying for the light.
"And with no language but a cry."

In spite of his darkness, the works of Plato are masterpieces, free from the lower elements and vainer things of this world, they deal only with sentiments of a lofty and exalted nature. The principal are *The Crito*, *The Apology of Socrates*, *The Phædo*, *The Republic*, *Tæches*. *Menæxenus*.

Lucian put man and the affairs of life to ridicule. He had no faith in the gods,

and was, in fact, an infidel.

Lastly, we might mention Aristotle, whose writings on philosophy are marked by his purity and dignity.

A sketch of this length, dealing with so wide a subject, must necessarily be incomplete, but a volume might be filled by an account of the writings and thought of this people.

As was said at the outset, the influence of Grecian literature has been, and is, and ever will be, a mighty influence in the world. Though no Agamemnon, king of men, may ever have led the assembled sons of Hellen, and no Achilles or Ulyses may have ever fought on the plains of "Windy Troy," though no Priam may ever have ruled Illion or Hector "with the waving plume," or Andromache ever have lived, yet they have been before the world for the last three thousand years, and are before us to-day, as glorious conceptions of strong and beautiful characters to invite those beholding them on to higher things.

N. H. CARWELL.

LETTER FROM CHINA

Kia-ting Siz-Chuan, China.

November 30, 1897.

The Boys, Wesley College,
Winnipeg, Canada.

Dear Fellow Students.—I thought perhaps it might be of interest to you if I sent you an account of some of my experiences of late on itinerating trips through the country, undertaken chiefly for the purpose of distribution of Christian literature. I have just returned from my longest trip, having been away from home eleven days. The other trips were short ones.

A word as to our books, tracts and posters. The missionary finds ready to his hand a large and good assortment of this class of literature as soon as he is in a position to use them. They are printed chiefly by the large Tract Societies and sold at much less than cost price. In the

old days of missionary effort it was the general custom to give these tracts and books away; but now they are generally sold, on the ground that what a man pays for he is apt to take the trouble to read, whereas often formerly the books, though rapidly distributed, fell chiefly into the hands of the rabble, who set little or no value upon what they had received gratuitously. Here are the titles of some of our best tracts: "Redemption from Sin," "The Truth Concerning God," "Jesus, the World's Saviour," "Forsaking the False for the True," "On Regeneration," "The Prodigal Son," "The Gospel the Good News of Salvation." Then we have just issued from our own press a tract, "Good Ways of Healing Disease," and a poster, "Good Words of Exhortation." Some of these tracts and posters are illustrated and made quite attractive.