

stirred by the spiritually destitute condition of the Chinese in Victoria. On his return he wrote to the Hon. Senator Ferrier, a member of the General Missionary Board, asking if something could not be done, and offering, if a mission were begun, to give a donation of \$100 towards its support. The letter was laid by Mr. Ferrier before the General Board, and after due consideration it was resolved to open a school and mission among the Chinese of Victoria as soon as a suitable agent could be found.

At that time a young man named Vrooman, the son of a Presbyterian missionary who has spent 23 years in China, was living in San Francisco. The preceding part of his life had been spent in the Flowery Kingdom, and he spoke Cantonese like a native. Early last spring Mr. Vrooman received a letter from a Chinese firm in Victoria, asking him to come up to interpret for them in a suit which was shortly to be tried. He responded to the invitation, and while in Victoria saw how spiritually destitute was the condition of the Chinese in that city. He strove to enlist the co-operation of the local churches in behalf of a union mission, but without success. He then turned to the Methodists, from whom he received some encouragement. Enquiries were set on foot in regard to a suitable building for a school, the number who would be likely to attend, and the amount of support that would be given. Information on all these points was then sent to the Mission Rooms by Mr. Percival, our minister at Victoria. As authority had already been given by the General Board to begin a mission as soon as opportunity afforded, there was no cause for delay, and immediately a message was wired to Mr. Percival, "Organize school immediately. Delay mission till further information is obtained." Acting upon these instructions a room was rented from a Chinaman. \$80 were subscribed to furnish seats, lamps, etc., and the school was begun. The first week some 40 attended; in a few weeks the number increased to about 100, and had a sufficient number of teachers been available, it is believed that the number could easily have been kept up to that mark. Of course the number varies, as the men are constantly moving from place to place as the demands of labor require; but the school has averaged over 40 scholars, all of whom are learning English,—reading, writing, and speaking. Two lady teachers are employed, and are now assisted by two of the more advanced scholars. With a larger school-room and more teachers a much larger number of pupils could be secured.

Soon after the school was organized, word reached the Mission Rooms that large numbers were attending the religious services held by Mr. Vrooman, and that it was important they should be continued, but it was doubtful if he could remain much longer. Instructions were immediately sent to engage Mr. Vrooman for the time being, until some one else, able to speak the language, could be found. This was done, and Mr. Vrooman is still preaching the Gospel to the people, and overseeing the school. The results of his labors thus far are indicated in part by the fact that during my stay in Victoria I had the privilege of administering baptism to eleven Chinamen who had been brought to Christ since the mission began.