

## THE CHINESE IN TORONTO.

The Chinese population of Toronto is between 600 and 700. It is difficult to estimate it exactly because there is always a certain amount of floating population. There is no Chinese quarter, and on the assessment rolls the Chinese are mixed up with the rest of the population, so it is impossible to ascertain the exact amount of real estate or personal effects which they possess.

The chief occupation of the Toronto Chinaman is washee-washee—the laundry business. There are 220 Chinese laundries, in each of which several Chinamen are employed. The seven Chinese restaurants are all down town, are the chief places of resort of John Chinaman and do a good business, entirely amongst the Chinese themselves, the bill of fare being strictly Chinese in character. There are six Chinese tea and grocery stores, where are sold Chinese delicacies and condiments. They sell little tea to the general public, for it comes higher than the average commodity, \$1 per pound being the usual price. Their stock is almost entirely imported direct from China. There are also half a dozen Chinese fancy-goods stores, which handle various sorts of Chinese merchandise, such as silks, screens, bric-a-brac, earthenware and china, and do quite a business in Chinese curios. In all these stores Chinese methods are in use. There are no cash registers or patent scales, and the commodities are weighed by balance. Outside of the laundries and stores the Chinamen take little part in the business life of the city. Some few enter domestic service as cooks or men of all work, some peddle around the banks and downtown stores various Chinese delicacies, such as ginger. The Chinese do not work in factories or upon the streets. They prefer the lightest possible kind of manual labor.

There are about seven Chinese women in the city and about the same number of Chinamen are married to English wives. Several of them stated that the chief reason why they did not bring wives from China was the expense and trouble involved. There is no organization or fraternal society amongst them, but they are very sociable and given to entertainment amongst themselves, though there do not seem to be any men who have pre-eminent influence among them due to wealth or intellectual superiority.

Many of them state that their laundry business does not produce very large revenues, and that the reason so many Chinamen engage in them is because they require little capital to begin with. They are run entirely by hand. The annual laundry fee which is paid into the city treasury is \$5 for each establishment.

The great respect which the Chinese feel toward family ties inspires them with a desire to return home to their relatives when they have made enough money, but in many cases the desired sum takes a long while to secure, and after many years of expatriation even the Chinaman forgets his homesickness. Practically all the Chinamen in the city come from the same district—that of Canton. As a consequence they all have the same racial characteristics and east of countenance.

The Toronto Mongolian has not had the same success in business as many of his compatriots in the large cities of the States, such as New York or San Francisco. He does not compete with the English merchants in any other lines than the laundry business.

Some of the city churches pay a great deal of attention to mission work amongst the Chinese. Cooke's Church has a Sunday evening Bible class for the Chinese, over one hundred of whom attend. They are taught reading and writing, but may be influenced less by the Christian teaching than is commonly supposed. Many of them attend, without doubt, to take advantage of the educational opportunities,

without any desire for the Christian doctrines. Mr. Brown conducts a class for Chinese at the Chinese Mission, Richmond street west. He has a class of thirty and could secure more if he had more room at his disposal. The Rev. A. B. Winchester of Knox Presbyterian Church also does work among the Chinese, and addresses them in their own tongue. It is difficult to determine just how many of the Chinese are Christian, but there is no doubt that they accept with great avidity the opportunities for enlightenment which are offered them.

The Chinese population is fairly constant. There have been a few Chinese births and immigration is not heavy enough to increase the number of Chinese in the city. They are very peaceful and law-abiding and seldom appear in the police courts to answer charges of crime or violence. Gambling is the only point in which they transgress the law, and their opportunities for gambling are limited owing to the strictness with which they are watched. Several of them expressed themselves as satisfied with the treatment they receive from the civic authorities in the matter of laundry registration. They do not complain of any persecution and desire only liberty to prosecute their business. Some of them invest money in improvements upon their places of business, but others quite evidently hoard up every cent they get with a view to a speedy return to China. Their laundries are scattered all over the city, but they show business acumen by endeavoring to open up whenever possible in the best residential districts. They are not very communicative as to the amount they make out of their laundries, but what they do admit leads one to believe that a Chinaman with any industry can make more than a comfortable living.

## An Innovation on the Grand Trunk Railway.

In order to facilitate the prompt delivery of baggage at Toronto, Montreal and Hamilton, and to avoid delay and annoyance often occasioned at these points, the General Baggage Department of the Grand Trunk Railway System are arranging for the checking of baggage from all stations in Canada direct to residences, hotels, railway stations and steamboat wharves in the above cities.

Under this arrangement a passenger from any station on the Grand Trunk Railway System, upon payment of 25c. for each piece, will be able to check their baggage direct to any residence, hotel, etc., thus avoiding the necessity of making arrangements for delivery on arrival and insuring the prompt receipt of baggage at destination.

Under this system baggage when received from trains at destination will be immediately delivered direct to the Transfer Co. for PROMPT DELIVERY, thus avoiding delays previously occasioned, re-sorting, etc., thus saving time and unnecessary handling.

Further announcement will be made of date this service will be put into effect.

## THERE HE REVEALS HIMSELF.

Is your life a desert? To Israel the desert was an evidence that they were on the way to the Promised Land. If there are lightnings and thunders on your Sinai it is an evidence that God is on the top of the mountain. If there are fiery serpents near, you remember the uplifted ensign is not far away. If you are hungry, has not God spread the manna at your tent door? and if you are thirsty, has he not changed the rocks into fountains of refreshing? It is something, after all, to be in the desert, for there God most wonderfully reveals himself to each Canaan-bound pilgrim.

"The Christian life is a vindication of God in the midst of a skeptical and unbelieving age."—John Wesley.

## PROGRESS OF ASIA.

Mr. J. E. Scott, in the Indian Witness, tells how he thinks the triumph of Japan will affect the progress of Asia.

It will greatly change the opinion of the western man for the oriental. Heretofore there has existed in the back of the western mind a sort of contempt for the prowess of the oriental. He has been looked upon as a dreamy sort of person, and very deep. But now it is seen that while he may be patient, and dreamy, he can be active and aggressive and wide awake, also.

It will inspire the oriental with confidence. The orient has been downtrodden for many centuries. Of late the West has been trying to exploit the East and some of the nations of Europe have thought that it would not be difficult. It will be more difficult now. There is danger of being "Japaned."

It will defer the partition of China. As in Africa, the nations have desired to have a slice. It will be different now. Japan will have something to say.

It will westernize the East. Of late hitherto there have been more imported from Europe than the languages and liquors. Western science, and methods, and machinery, and skill have gone there and have been adopted, and are being put to use.

It will open the door of commerce. Everything is pointing to greater commercial activity in the East, and especially, in the Far East. The Panama Canal is getting ready. The West and East will help each other like a man's right and left hand.

The missionary door will get further ajar. Christian civilization has much to do with the triumph of Japan. In this movement is a desire for freedom, independence, expansion. Manly courage is in it, and justice, and a wider outlook. It means that people will not only be allowed to think, but they will have a desire to think, and the missionary can go farther, unhindered.

It is a rebuke to selfishness. Fewer will try to climb up by pulling somebody else down. It will be seen that the rights of others must be respected.

There will be more coming and going. That is what Asia needs. She sits too much at home. Now, Orientals will travel more in other lands, and trade more at a distance. She will get new ideas. And the West will see what she is, and respect her more.

It will lead to a readjustment of the nation. In the concert of nations there will be some new voices. Some will sing out of tune. But the guardianship of the Pacific will be in better and more liberal hands.

Lastly, the effect of Japan's triumph upon Asia, and upon the whole world, will be to help on the readjustment of what was a necessity on the plains of Shinar. The race is won. And Japan's deep-sounding guns have thundered out over the rice fields of China and the fruitful plains of India that a new era has dawned. We are brethren. Man is not a bear, nor a lion, nor an eagle, but an intelligent being with mind and conscience, and a moral nature, created in the image of God. The effect of Japan's triumph upon the progress of Asia is good. It readjusts things. It rebukes the unjustly aggressive. It opens doors. It civilizes, enlightens and gives energy and self respect. Above all, it prepares the way for the coming of the Lord.—J. E. Scott, in Indian Witness.

## LIFE IN CHRIST.

Looking back over the year. The first lesson that ever comes to any one it to see more clearly than ever that all things in life worth while are those which have to do with Christ. I am here not to do business as an end, but only as a means to glorify Christ. Whether it is in school life, home life, a waiting life or an active life, they are all to be explained in their connection with Christ. What then as to the coming year? How shall we make it tell for Christ?