

tee will bend its energies to a wiser distribution of the field, and to the settling of disputes which may arise between the various Mission bodies.

IV. THE OPIUM QUESTION called for a large share of attention. Statistics told of the alarming increase in the use of opium. Both sexes and all classes of Chinese society are counted amongst its victims. More vigorous action and closer union with the Anti-opium Societies of India and Britain were decided upon.

Owing to the fact that the Chinese have printed and circulated everywhere the most vile and absurd reports about foreigners and the Christian religion, many of these false reports being even incorporated in the Government Blue-Books, which are placed in the hands of governors and officials throughout the Provinces and Empires, it was decided to memorialize the Emperor, clearly setting forth the truths of Christianity, and beseeching him to prohibit these reports which had no shadow of a foundation and which would only tend to endanger the relations existing between China and foreign powers.

STATISTICS.

The latest statistics for China give Foreign missionaries: men, 589; wives, 390; single women, 316; total, 1,295. Of these, 172 landed in China last year. Native helpers ordained, 209; unordained, 1,260; female helpers, 180. *Medical work:* 61 hospitals; 43 dispensaries; patients treated last year, 348,439. *Churches:* organized churches, 520. Of these, 94 are wholly self-supporting, 49 partially so. Thirteen years ago, the communicants numbered 13,000; now 37,287, or an increase of 185 per cent. The givings averaged 75 cents (gold) per communicant. The Amoy Christians of the London Mission gave an average of \$2 per member last year.

The Conference sent to the Home Churches the following:

APPEAL.

SHANGHAI, May, 1890.

Dear Brethren in Christ.—We, the Conference of Protestant missionaries in China, having just made a special appeal to you for a largely increased force of ordained missionaries to preach the Gospel throughout the length and breadth of this great land; to plant churches; to educate native ministers and helpers; to create a Christian literature, and, in general, to engage in and direct the supreme work of evangelization.

Having also just made a special appeal to you for a largely increased force of unordained men, evangelists, teachers and physicians to travel far and wide, distributing books, and preaching to the masses; to lend a strong

helping hand in the great work of Christian education, and to exhibit to China the benevolent side of Christianity in the way of healing the sick; therefore we do now appeal to you, the Protestant churches of Christian lands, to send to China, in response to these calls, one thousand men within five years from this time. We make this appeal in behalf of three hundred millions of unevangelized heathen. We make it with all the earnestness of our whole hearts, as men overwhelmed with the magnitude and responsibility of the work before us; we make it with unwavering faith in the power of a Risen Saviour to call men into His vineyard, and to open the hearts of those who are His servants to send out and support them; and we shall not cease to cry mightily to Him that He will do this thing, and that our eyes may see it.

THANKING GOD FOR OUR THORN.

Dr. George Matheson, of Scotland, is totally blind, and yet he is one of the most learned and gifted men in all Britain. He was a member of the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance of Belfast in 1884, and no man in all that body of great men was heard with more profound attention than he. In oratorical power he had few, if any, equals in that body of eloquent men. He spoke with such fluency, power, and magnetism that he swept every thing before him.

It is beautiful to witness the sweetness of the spirit of the man. Although he lives, and must always live in total darkness, yet he is a cheerful and happy-hearted Christian. The following touching words from his pen ought to strengthen the Christian patience of God's afflicted children:

"My God, I have never thanked thee for my thorn. I have thanked thee a thousand times for my roses, but not once for my thorn. I have been looking forward to a world where I shall get compensation for my cross, but I have never thought of my cross as itself a present glory. Thou divine love, whose human path has been perfected through sufferings, teach me the glory of my cross; teach me the value of my thorn. Show me that I have climbed to thee by the path of pain. Show me that my tears have made my rainbow. Reveal to me that my strength was the product of the hour when I wrestled until the break of day. Then shall I know that my thorn was a gift from thee, and I shall raise a monument to the hour of my sorrow, and the words which I shall write upon it will be these: 'It is good for me that I have been afflicted.'—Cumberland Presbyterian.