

only good for use three days after the meetings close, if the delegates go and return on the same line.

BOARD MEETINGS.

A meeting of the Foreign Mission Board will be held in the First Baptist Church, Brantford, Tuesday, Nov. 13th, at 3 p.m. Members of the Board can leave Toronto Tuesday 13th by the 9.45 train (C. P. R.) arriving in Brantford at 12 o'clock.

A. MOYLE, *Rec.-Sec.*

BILLETING.—Those desiring entertainment will apply to Mrs. Poppelwell, 150 Brant Ave., Brantford. It is important that the names be sent in as early as possible.

MYSTERIES OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN CHINA

DR. A. T. PIERSON, IN MISSIONARY REVIEW.

These are days in which we seem to have but one course open to us: God seems saying: "*Be still, and know that I am God.*" There has been nothing which parallels the recent position of affairs in the Middle Kingdom, since Christ ascended. The Indian mutiny of forty-three years ago, was the nearest approach to it, but even that was on no such scale of magnitude. Here were between twenty-five hundred and three thousand Christian missionaries shut up within the empire, many of them six weeks' journey from the coast and the ports, with tens of thousands of poor native Christians, and there was no communication with them by telegraph, post, or other method of contact, and for many of them no human help has been available. Meanwhile organized bands of foes, implacable, merciless, ready for outrage, plunder, torture, and slaughter, hemmed them in on every side.

We could not and dare not attempt to read this riddle of Divine Providence. In this case hindsight will be safer than foresight as an interpreter, and we simply wait and pray, in the calm confidence that the Lord reigneth. When we think how the great Powers stood quietly by, and permitted the Armenian atrocities to go forward without interposition, and see how these very powers have been suffering such suspense over the fate of their own representatives, amid similar Chinese atrocities; when we think of the opium curse, forced upon China by armies and navies, and other forms of injurious trade which have been practically forced on a helpless people by treaties, we can not but ask, may there not be something retributive in this as a judgment of God?

When we remember the World's Parliament of Religions, seven years ago, and how it was boldly affirmed that, however much China might need Christianity to teach duties and relations *Godward*,

Confucianism is quite sufficient to instruct the Chinese as to *human rights* relations, and responsibilities, *manward*, we can not but wonder whether Confucianism is not on trial, in its own chosen territory, and in the very matter of man with man, and found fatally wanting. But, whatever possible solution conjecture may suggest, it is only partial, and we feel constrained to wait until God throws clearer light on the meaning of this mystery.

An acute and devout student of the times, in Britain, writes as follows:

"Dr. Charles Pearson's book, published in 1894, on "National Life and Character," was a professed "forecast." He was a minister of education in Australia, and thought it likely that the yellow and black races would speedily acquire knowledge, come to realize their own might, organize armies, and assert themselves. What if, ere long, they should arise in their wrath, and sweep all Europeans out of Asia! We have given them, or rather a small portion of them, a modicum of the Gospel; but, on the other hand, we have done them all sorts of fearful wrong, our so-called "civilization" being mostly sheer wickedness."

The western nations have been preparing their own chastiser. Ever since the Japan-Chinese war, China has been openly getting ready for a coming and inevitable conflict. Under skilled European training her young men have been taught the manipulation and use of the most advanced and destructive weapons of modern warfare, and the consequence is that when, in this day of awful suspense, and the massacre of of hundreds of Chinese Christians, European nations have undertaken to quell what proves to be a gigantic revolt against foreign interference, China has been found armed to the teeth, and knowing how to use the best rifles and heaviest guns, very nearly as well as the most skilled men from the western military and naval schools. And the allies are taken by surprise to find that the nation that proved as unwieldy as a lame elephant in the contest with Japan, and a thousand years behind the age, unable to cope with the little Sunrise Kingdom, is almost a match now for the combined forces of Europe and America. Her awkwardness and antiquated methods have given place in less than a decade of years to alertness, rapidity of movement, and skillful manoeuvring; she has been mobilizing her forces with astonishing ease, and revealing strategic skill wholly unexpected. The lame elephant has become a tiger for ferocity, a lion for strength, a panther for swiftness, and a serpent for subtlety. China has shown herself to be the Red Dragon indeed, breathing out fire and defying even the sword of "St. George."

One thing which compels us to hesitate to attempt any forecast of the result, is that we really know so little about the real conditions. One thing may certainly be avoided and should be studiously shunned, in the midst of this terrible chaos of events, *viz., the*