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Dr. Griffith John's Jubilee.

The Rev. Griffith John, D.D., the veteran missionary of the London Missionary Society, will, in a few months, complete fifty years of active service in China. The jubilee is being recognized by the raising of a 'Griffith John Jubilee Fund' which will be devoted to the erection of a suitable building for the educational and medical work in connection with his mission. In the course of a letter, dated Dec. 10, in reply to congratulations from an English C.E. Society, Dr. John said:—

Fifty years in China—it has not been quite that, though nearly that, for in all these fifty

The story of Dr. John's life (says the London 'Christian Globe') is a wonderful record of untiring courage and devotion to the Master's cause in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties. Among the Chinese converts Dr. John has many friends whom he loves and who love him; but the difficulty of getting into sympathetic relations with the Chinese is very great. Their ideals, their views concerning honor and duty are so different from ours. Dr. John quotes with reluctant approval the saying of an experienced missionary to a young colleague just arrived from England. 'I advise you,' he said, 'to begin at once to love the Chinese for Christ's sake, for you will find it

at Bedford. Fifty years ago he was nominated for the Chinese mission field, and in April, 1855, he was ordained at Ebenezer Chapel, in Swansea. He married, and in the following month sailed for Shanghai, where he arrived on Sept. 24, 1855. Since then he has spent the best part of his life in China.

Dr. John has great faith in the future of China. After half a century of persistent effort he is able to interpret the trend of events better than most Europeans. He admits that so far the missionaries have been able to achieve but small results compared with the vastness of the problem of Christianity in China. Darkness, vast and profound, still covers the land like a pall, with only a glimmer of light here and there. But the seed has been sown, and the harvest, he is convinced, is near at hand. He is a man now well advanced in years, but he hopes to live to see the great awakening. Dr. John is doubtless watching the war in the Far East with the keenest interest. He was one of those who, up to the last moment, hoped that the conflict might be averted. But for many years he has entertained a warm admiration for the Japanese. Writing a few years ago on the question of Christian missions, he said:—'It was in 1854 that the first treaty was concluded between Japan and any Western Power. Since then the Land of the Rising Sun has been steadily moving towards the civilization of the West, and becoming more and more assimilated to Christian nations, and this is to be ascribed in a very great measure to the influence of the modern mission. . . .'

But, although Dr. John places due emphasis upon the fact that missionary enterprise is a civilizing agency, he is not slow to point out that the true and abiding motive of foreign missions is to be found elsewhere. Men will not become missionaries for the sake of civilizing the heathen. The real motive is something quite different. Christ's command, Christ's dominion, Christ's presence, Christ's love—these four combined form a mighty motive. It is the motive that should be used to move the churches to greater activity in the cause of missions, and the missionaries to deeper consecration. It is the grand central motive in the missionary enterprise. Other motives come and go; but this abideth for ever. It can never change, it can never grow obsolete. It is permanently operative and all-sufficient. Let the Church of God throughout the world place the emphasis on this motive, and let this motive become a living force in the hearts of Christ's disciples generally, and there will be no lack of either men or means to carry on the enterprise. The silver and the gold will flow in abundance, and the best men in the universities and colleges will devote themselves to the work.

Why Not Called Sooner?

Mrs. Stephans was an aged saint, a real mother in Israel. For three years she had been kept in her bed with rheumatism, and was a great sufferer; but she had borne all her pain and deprivation without a murmur, as a true Shubin will.

There was only one question that disturbed her mind, and this is the way she would sometimes put it to her most intimate friends:

Why am I kept so long here? Why does not



REV. GRIFFITH JOHN, D. D., OF HANKOW, CHINA.

years I have not been out of China more than about three years.

It has not been given to many to see so many years of continuous service in China or in any other part of the mission field; neither has it been given to many to see in China changes so great and so many as I have seen. I have been through much of the sowing time, and I am now in the midst of the reaping period. I have had many trials and some sore disappointments, but my faith in the ultimate triumph of the Kingdom of God in this land is stronger now than it ever was before.

It is a great privilege to be permitted to work for God at all; but to be permitted to work for him in China, and for so many years, is an unspeakable privilege. It is a privilege of which I feel myself to be utterly unworthy. "Oh! to Grace how great a debtor." That expresses the deepest feelings of my heart as I look back upon these fifty years. I see nothing but grace, mercy, and loving-kindness everywhere.

very difficult to love them for their own sake.' It is a hard saying, but 'East is East and West is West,' and it is difficult for the one even to understand the other. Nevertheless, the power of Christ is capable of overcoming all difficulties, and to-day in China the Christian leaven is slowly working. One of the results of the Russo-Japanese war is likely to be the awakening of China, and the triumph of the progressive party in that wonderful country. If the Japanese victories continue, we may be sure that the group of intelligent and progressive Chinamen will gain the upper hand, and that the prevailing prejudice against Western learning will be overruled. Then it will be found what a great work the Christian missionaries have been doing in China during the years of darkness that have gone by. Dr. John, so long associated with this work, was born on Dec. 14, 1831, at Swansea. When only nine years of age he became a church member at Ebenezer Chapel in his native town. Afterwards he studied at Brecon College and later