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The Emperor of China Studying the Bible.

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IT was gratifying to all Christians in China to know that the Bible, recently presented to the Empress Dowager by the Christian women of China, reached her without delay.

It was, if possible, still more gratifying to know that the Emperor at the same time sent at once to the American Bible Society to purchase copies of the Old and New Testaments exactly like those sold to his people.

Still more gratifying was it to me to hear yesterday that the Emperor daily studies the New Testament. The copies he purchased were very cheap ones, with not very large print, but with the largest print they had of the style sold to the people. His Majesty has this copied in large characters, and reads it daily. He is now reading the Gospel according to St. Luke. In addition to the New Testament, he has come into possession of a copy of a little tract published by the North China Tract Society, called "The Two Friends," which he has also been reading.

The above information comes directly from the palace. One of our Christians, who is a horticulturist, constantly furnishes flowers to the eunuchs for the decoration of the palace, or for their own use. He is familiarly known by very many of them, and is often invited to dine with them. The pastor of the church to which he belongs has been repeatedly invited with him, but whether because of his youth or modesty has always refused, until two days ago. He accepted an invitation, and with the dinner received the information we have given above.

When asked to drink at dinner he refused, on which his host remarked, "Oh yes; I have heard that you Christians do not drink wine," and, like a polite host, the wine was put aside and none was drunk at that dinner.

We take it that the above information about his Majesty's studying the Bible is true, for this eunuch is one of the Emperor's personal servants, and claims to stand in the room while he reads. The servant, at least, has obtained not a little information about the Scriptures himself.

After the dinner he took our friends to visit some of the buildings which outsiders very seldom see, lent the sum of three hundred and fifty taels to the horticulturist, and gave various presents to the pastor.

Since the Peace Commission, under Li Hung-Chang, started to Japan, the Christians all over the north of China have been praying for its success, for the peace of the two countries, the people of the two countries, and especially for the Emperors of the two countries. Only two days before our brethren visited the palace we held a prayer meeting in our little chapel especially to pray for the Emperor and for the Peace Commission. May his Majesty learn that he has no more faithful subjects than the Christians, may he learn not only what their Bible contains, but that it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

It has appeared to me, during the past twelve months especially, that the people of the United State for the most part take a very superficial view of the two nations that are now at war.

There is probably, not a Christian minister nor intelligent layman in the Christian Church who has carefully studied the history of the Jews who has not praised them more or less for the persistency with which they held to their laws, customs and teachings, during all their wars, persecutions, captivities and dispersions, saying that this is the kind of a people God

would naturally select as a people to whom to intrust His teachings and His Gospel. Such a people is a people with character.

Those who have studied Paul's intercourse with the Galatians will find a very different class of people indeed; a people who, as soon as they heard Paul preach, received him "as an angel of God," of whom he says, "ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me." A people who, as soon as Paul had left them, and Jews of a different belief came, turned away from Paul to the next new thing that was presented to them, and embraced it with as much fervor as they had embraced Paul's Gospel. They were chameleons which took their color from whatever objects happened to be nearest to them.

Now the ancient Jews were a fair representation of the modern Chinese, and the ancient Galatians—but I wish to speak only of the Chinese.

In the thirteenth century the Mongol nomads overran all Eastern Asia, and by their war engendered popularity became "one of the five races of men." The greatest of all their conquests was China, by whom in the short space of two centuries they were completely absorbed and then driven out never again to appear among the nations of the world.

There are few more thrilling romances than the beginning of the conquest of China by the Manchus in the seventeenth century, when a young man with about one hundred followers, conquered one tribe after another until he was able to attack China, which eventually was conquered. But the Manchus have been completely absorbed by the Chinese.

The Chinese have been accused of not being patriotic. What is it that makes so many of them want to be brought back home to be buried? What makes them refuse to be absorbed by the countries to which they go? It is the same feeling that prompted the Jew to hold to the Law and the Prophets. Only those who take a superficial view of the Chinese, their philosophy, literature and history, can attribute it to ignorance and it is conceit only if too much patriotism is conceit.

But the Chinese are not a military people—the Chinese are not a warlike people. The principle of non-resistance is the principle of Christianity, and—notice, I say in not hastily *the Chinese are a better representation of the principle of non-resistance than any other nation in the world.*

If any one says that this is "because they are not prepared to resist," I answer No, their not being prepared to resist is because of this principle. When the armies of Japan landed in Korea, China had never thought of war. She was not prepared for war, and she called the nations of the world to witness that she flew to the poor old arms she had, parts of many of which were in neighboring pawnshops, only because she was forced to do so.

The Chinese are a peaceful people. China has lived for so many centuries as the great controlling power of the East that it never occurred to her that any of the little powers about her, which had fed for so many centuries on her literature, been nourished, so to speak at her breast, could be prompted to resistance by her maternal slap. She had often chastised the little powers about her, but she had done it, as she believed, for their own good; and they gladly brought their tribute to her for the same reason that "to a man who has a loaf, you can afford to give a piece of your cake," because they knew they would carry away much more than they brought, for China has ever been a Santa Claus who always made her children happy with rich presents on their annual tribute day.