

was silently patient, standing calm and unmoved when spit upon and buffeted. For in Jesus Christ the strength of manhood and the patience of womanhood were united. He knew how to be angry and sin not, for His anger was inspired by love, never by personal pride. He bore with unruffled patience wrongs to Himself, but His eyes flashed fire when He saw wrong perpetrated

upon others. The world yet waits for an artist who shall paint a Christ that shall answer to the vision which John saw in the isle of Patmos, a Christ through the windows of whose soul spirit flashes out in gleams of fire, whose feet have the tread of might and majesty, whose lips suggest a voice in its deep musicalness like the voice of the ocean, full of power.

Book Notices.

Chinese Characteristics. By ARTHUR H. SMITH, Twenty-two Years a Missionary of the American Board in China. Second edition revised, with illustrations. Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, Chicago and Toronto. Price, \$2.00.

The attention of the world is turned to the great Chinese Empire as never before. This greatest, territorially, and oldest of nations seems to be on the eve of breaking up. Certainly it is getting such a rude shaking by contact with Japan, and the modern arts of war, that it will never be again what it has been in the past. It is probable that before the end of this century railways, telegraphs and steam navigation will open up the country to the Gospel and Christian civilization as never before.

In view of these changing conditions a recent and authentic description of the country and its people will possess unusual interest. Such description is given in the volume under review by a missionary of twenty-two years' standing and of keen powers of observation and description. In a number of graphic chapters the author describes the extraordinary economy and industry of the Chinese, their uniform politeness, their disregard of time and accuracy, their talent for misunderstanding and indirection; and, in happy phrase, their flexible inflexibility and intellectual turbidity, their absence of nerves and contempt

for foreigners, their absence of public spirit, their conservatism, patience and perseverance, content and cheerfulness, filial piety and benevolence, mutual suspicion and absence of sincerity. Chinese religions, the real condition and need of China, are the subject of concluding chapters.

From this enumeration it will be seen how wide is the range of this survey. This will be an admirable book for mission bands and circles. The numerous illustrations from original photos are exceedingly good. The interior views especially bring before us the social life of the people in a very realistic manner.

The Last Leaf. By OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES. Illustrated by GEORGE WHARTON EDWARDS, and F. HOPKINSON SMITH. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

There is a peculiar pathos about the posthumous issue of this poem, which the genial "Autocrat" has illustrated by his own lingering life. In a *fac-simile* letter, dated July 12th, 1894, he says: "I am one of the very last of the leaves which still cling to the bough of life that budded in the spring of the nineteenth century. The days of my years are threescore and twenty, and I am almost half-way up the steep incline which leads me to the base of the new century, so near to which I have already climbed."