

"The Robber Who Feared Future Punishment."

BY THE REV. DANIEL L. GIFFORD, SEOUL, KOREA.

"Here is a story a little old man in Chung-wa, to the south of Peking Yang, told the visiting missionary of his experience with robbers: One night four robbers suddenly entered his home and began to help themselves to the property in the house. By the coarse, rough language they used, they were evidently very wicked men. His little girl was terrified nearly to distraction and the robbers, fearing that her loud cries would attract the attention of the neighbors, spoke to her very roughly, so that she dropped upon the floor and hid her face in her hands. As the robbers went on with their work, the thought occurred to the old man that the Bible says you must pray for your enemies. As he knew of no one who was at the present time more of an enemy to him than these robbers, he sat down upon the floor and began fervently to pray for them aloud. However, as he prayed his eyes followed the robbers, and when they came to the shelf which contained the Christian books and began to take them down, it was too much for his feelings and with tears in his eyes he plead with them to take everything else in the house, if they must, but just to leave him his Christian books. Thereupon one robber started with surprise and addressed to his companions the remark "Why, this man is a Christian! This will never do. It would be a great sin for us to rob a Christian man and would bring upon us a fearful punishment in the future." His companions apparently agreed with him. They returned all the old man's goods to the places where they found them, reassured the little girl with a few kind words, and silently took their departure. The face of the old man as he told this story was wreathed in smiles and it was evident that his experience of God's faithfulness in answering believing prayer had made a deep impression upon his heart."

Chinese Missions.

The Ottawa Free Press gives the following particulars of a recent interview with a missionary returning to his field of labour:—Rev. Dr. Riddell and wife, of Swatow, China, are at the Russell. Dr. Riddell has been in China for 18 years as a missionary for the English Presbyterian church. He has been home on furlough and is now on his return to the mission field.

He is stationed in South China and has a parish 200 miles by 50 miles. In eighteen years there have been 600 conversions in his district and altogether in South China there are 6,000 communicants. Owing to his lengthy residence and practical experience Dr. Riddell was asked by the Free Press for an expression of opinion as to the outlook for evangelizing China.

"I am perfectly satisfied," said Dr. Riddell, "with the outlook. We find the Chinese intellect strong and quite capable of grasping the truths of Christianity. With education the Chinese mind is equal to the Anglo Saxon. As in all parts of China ancestral worship is the greatest barrier to the progress in Christianity. The worship of ancestors contributes to a social solidarity which makes it very hard for a member of a family to break away. When a man definitely accepts Christianity and publicly announces his faith open opposition ceases, but of course, a coolness is created in families. Native preachers are being used with great success. The yearly gifts of the native Christians on an average is equivalent to three weeks' wages of an artisan.

The medical work is meeting with great success. At one hospital inland and off the line of general travel the number of inmates were 700, and 7,000 outdoor patients were treated. Dr. Riddell finds no difficulty in gaining access to the homes in his capacity as a physician. Taken on the whole the work in South China is favorable to progress and is now accomplishing gratifying results.

General News Items.

Rev. McDonald of Cedarville and Thom of Flesherston exchanged pulpits on Sabbath last.

The Presbyterians of Port Morica, P. E. I., have placed the manse in a thorough state of repair.

Rev. P. Fleming of Maxwell has charge of Proton Station until next meeting of Orangville Presbytery.

Rev. Mr. Atkinson of Toronto spoke on missions in Erskine church, Dundalk, on the evening of Thanksgiving Day. Owing to disagreeable weather, the attendance was not large, which was to be regretted on account of the excellence of the lecture, which the Herald of that place says was "one of the most interesting mission lectures ever heard in Dundalk."

A union Thanksgiving service of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist congregations was held in the Methodist church, Flesherston, on Thanksgiving Day. Rev. L. W. Thom preached from Deut. 1:10-12, under the following divisions: Our heritage, our appropriation, our danger, our thanksgiving. A collection was taken up in behalf of the B. and F. B. S. The Markdale Presbyterians worshipped in their own church, addressed by their pastor, Rev. John Hunter. In Priceville, Rev. J. A. Matheson preached from Ps. 117:1. Rev. P. Fleming of Maxwell chose the Sabbath following to address his congregations on the subject of Thanksgiving.

The Eugenia congregation held their annual Harvest Home festival and entertainment last Thursday week and it was a pleasant affair. Rev. J. Hunter of Markdale and J. V. Plunkett, (Methodist) Eugenia, delivered addresses and the choir and others furnished abundant music. The pastor, Rev. L. W. Thom, presided.

The Ladies' Aid Society in Rev. Peter Fleming's congregation, at Feversham, gave a fowl supper and concert a fortnight ago, which was well patronized and proved a very gratifying success.

Rev. J. A. Matheson of Priceville has been appointed interim moderator of Dundalk and Ventry sessions in place of Rev. L. W. Thom, resigned.

Rev. A. G. Jansen, of Hamilton, preached highly appreciated sermons in Chambers Church, Flesherston, last Sabbath week, and on Monday evening lectured on "Holland and the Hollanders." For two hours the lecturer took his audience to and through his native land, describing its physical features and speaking of the wonderful achievements of the Dutch people in mastering the sea by means of dykes and redeeming from its bosom much of their land, which lies many feet below sea level. He also gave an interesting historical sketch, touched upon the magnitude and far-reaching extent of their commerce, noted their scrupulous cleanliness, the excellence of their dairy products, and humorously dwelt upon the country life, manners and customs of that people.

The Presbyterian ministers of London had a general exchange of pulpits last Sabbath and presented the Century Fund project to the different congregations. The city and presbytery are being well organized for a vigorous canvass for the fund.

The Gorrie Auxiliary of the W. F. M. S., held their annual thank-offering meeting on the afternoon of October 18th. Mrs. (Rev.) Morrison, Presbyterial President, giving a most instructive address; after which a social tea was partaken of, all having spent an enjoyable time. Rev. W. Dobson, the pastor, addressed the gathering in the evening.

Rev. N. A. McDonald, B. A., Cedarville and Esplin, exchanged with Rev. L. W. Thom, of Flesherston, last sabbath.

Rev. Robert Johnson preached a very able and eloquent sermon to a large congregation, in the King Street Presbyterian church, London, on Sunday evening, 29th ult., on behalf of the Century Fund. He said that whatever was right was possible. He believed that this was a crisis in the history of our church, and that we should seize the op-

portunity to go forward, for the wide extension of Christ's kingdom.

Dr. Campbell, Moderator of the General Assembly, met the members of session and managers of the different Presbyterian churches in London, in St. Andrew's church, on Monday evening, 8th October.

The members of Dr. Nichol's class in Zion church Sunday school, Brautford, held a reception to their friends last Monday evening, about sixty being present. Addresses were made by Revs. W. A. J. Martin, R. G. McDiarmid, Cruikshank, and Messrs. Duff, Lochend and Brown.

Mr. William Macpherson of Quebec, president of the Molson's Bank, has given a proof of his interest in St. Andrew's College, which occupies his old home in Chestnut Park, Toronto, by offering two prizes of \$20 each for competition in the college. He says:—"I have every desire to see your school succeed, and it will be a pleasure for me to offer the students a prize which, I hope, may prove a stimulant for them to bring honor to themselves and to the college." The prizes are to be known as the "William Macpherson prizes," and are to be awarded for proficiency in modern languages, the French language being especially named, and modern history.

The other night at Hamilton an enthusiastic meeting was held in the Central church in the interests of the Century Fund, Mr. George Rutherford presiding. Rev. Dr. Campbell, Moderator of the General Assembly, and Rev. Dr. Warden, Toronto, gave addresses. Dr. Warden said he thought the Hamilton Presbytery should give \$75,000 towards the fund. He stated that Mr. John Charlton, M. P., of the Hamilton Presbytery, had contributed \$5,000 to the fund unsolicited. The following local laymen spoke in favor of the fund: Hon. J. M. Gibson, Messrs. James Gill, John E. Brown, R. MacRae, John Knox and George Rutherford. Every hing indicates that Hamilton Presbytery will give a good account of itself.

Presbyterian Century Fund.

Subscriptions received from ministers towards The Century Fund to Oct 31, 1899:

Rev. W. H. Haig, Millbank.....	\$ 50
" K. MacDonald, Williamstown	25
" M. B. McLeod, Englishtown, C.B., N.S.	60
" P. McNabb, Kilsyth.....	100
" W. D. Bell, Cornua.....	25
" D. Stewart, Laguerre.....	25
" A. D. McDonald, Montrose, P. E. I.	40
" W. M. Reid, Leaskdale.....	60
" J. Fraser, Indian Brook, North Shore St. Anns, C.B.	60
" John McEwen, Toronto	50
" W. H. Jamieson, Blenheim.....	25
" William Leacock, Scotch Ridge.....	25
" J. McNair, Oakville.....	60
" James Hood, Cypress River, Man.....	30
" Dr. Battisley, Chatham.....	150
" J. L. George, Montreal.....	75

558 subscriptions amounting to..... \$57,263

The Congregationalist, referring to the announcement of Rev. B. Fay Mills that he will "take a long period of rest" says: "A number of efforts have been made during the last quarter of a century to establish independent meetings in Boston led by preachers who have withdrawn from their denominational relations. None of them, so far as we remember, has continued longer than three years." Mr. Mills went from one extreme to the other. Salvation for the individual was the burden of his message when he was a revivalist. From that extreme he passed to that of a social reformer. Salvation includes the two, but you cannot build up a church on the latter idea.