

have any knowledge of it. His son, as I have said, also a Taotai, stood silently behind his father's chair during the conversation, listening with deep attention.

"As the party was going up the Grand Canal, they disembarked at Chinkiang, and I arranged for an interview the next day to have further talk on the subject.

"The father, owing perhaps to his age and also to the fact that next day the whole party were proceeding on, could not come, but he sent his son, a man of about thirty years of age, to visit me and hear more. It was found that he also, though silent on the previous evening, was anxious about his soul, and most eager to get precise information. For three hours the conversation lasted with me and another missionary, and afterwards with an experienced native evangelist; and during that time there was no divergence from the one grand theme.

"Particular instructions were given for the guidance of these inquiring Mandarins, that they might find the Gospel Halls in the cities they might visit.

#### "A CHINAMAN'S RECOMMENDATION.

"Pek-ho-K'eo is built on the slopes of a hill which rises up from the banks of the Yang-tse river, ten miles below Nanking—a busy place, with large shops and a large boating population. The colporteur stood in one of the busy streets calling out, 'I have a book that will teach you to obtain wealth which nobody can steal, and will never disappear.' 'Come and buy a book which will tell you how to obtain the reward of virtue; come! sinners all, though deserving the punishment of vice, you may yet receive the happiness of virtue,' etc. A crowd came round, but not an individual would buy. Quite willing to listen to its praises, they seemed to fear the book had some mysterious power for evil. A young man coming out of a rice shop joined the company, saying, 'What's the business?' 'Sell-book man come.' 'Sell what book?' 'Holy books.' 'Let me see one: I know a holy book when I see it.' After a brief examination he said, 'No mistake! This is a holy book. You may buy these books; they exhort and reform men, and have no evil meaning in them.'

"Drawing the young man aside, I entered into conversation with him, while the colporteur was busily engaged selling the books, for which a sudden demand had arisen.

'How do you know that these books are good?' 'I've got one at home—Ma-tai [Matthew] Gospel Book.' 'Where did you get it?' 'From a foreigner who came in a boat months gone by.' 'Did you read the whole?' 'Yes, but I don't understand many characters, so I think I must have missed its meanings.'

"After a cross examination I found he knew that the book taught about Jesus, that His teachings exhorted men and taught them to be pure in life; and that those who erred the religion got peace, and finally reached Heaven's Hall, but how he did not seem to know. He said he had not heard the doctrine explained.

#### "WE HAVE NO RELIGION AT PRESENT.

"On the banks of the river Yang-tse, five miles north of Nanking lies Puk'eo, sometimes called Little Nanking: it is such a busy town. The following dialogue took place between myself and a schoolboy of some fifteen years. 'Oh, you are here again; what are you doing now?' said the boy. 'We are selling the whole books of the Bible,' I replied. 'Of course; and where's Mr. Mollmann?' 'I cannot say. Do you know Mr. Mollmann?' I asked. 'Yes, you came together, and I bought a Ma-kó [Mark] happy-sound-hall.' 'Where is it now?' I said. 'At home.' 'Did you understand it?' I inquired again. 'Of course; I can read the classics. Ma-kó is very easy. Do you know Mr. Ma-kó?' he inquired suddenly. 'Yes, I know something