

Missionary World.

MRS. HARVIE'S REPORT.—Continued.

CHINA.

Formosa and Honan.—Missionaries: Rev. G. L. Mackay, D.D., Rev. Wm. Gauld.

In this field our Society pays the salaries of the native Bible women employed and the expenses of maintenance of the Girls' School at Tamsui. This year a sum sufficient to support twenty five Bible women is placed in our estimates.

It may be asked, why do we contribute such a comparatively small sum for women's and children's work in connection with this mission? To this question we reply that Canadian women are not required as missionaries, and the outlay for native help is regulated by the Foreign Mission Committee according to the needs of the field as presented by Dr. Mackay.

Dr. Mackay, Mrs. Mackay, their children and a native student are now in Canada, and no doubt new interest and zeal in this prosperous mission will be awakened.

Honan (Chu Wang).—Rev. J. Goforth, Rev. D. MacGillivray, B.D., Wm. McClure, M.D., Wm. Malcolm, M.D., Rev. W. H. Grant, missionaries.

Mrs. Goforth, Mrs. McClure and Mrs. Malcolm have sent an interesting account of the work for women and children at this station, which is under their supervision.

From it we learn that the homes of our missionaries are always open to visitors, of whom there are a goodly number, especially at the three annual fairs; and who can calculate the good influences of a Christian home on the dark hearts of these heathen women, whose home life is often so unhappy?

The hospital work is most encouraging. This was introduced during a visit of Miss McIntosh and Miss Graham to Chu Wang. A Chinese man was persuaded to bring his wife to be treated by the lady doctor. Now both she and her husband are on probation as inquirers desiring baptism. There are at present a number of in-patients, and as these remain some time for treatment, regular opportunities for giving instruction are found.

A Bible class is held by Mrs. McClure on the Lord's Day, and is attended by several, among others Mrs. Wang, the wife of the teacher baptized last year. Mrs. Wang is an inquirer on probation. A week day service is held regularly at the home of this native woman.

In December of '92 Mrs. McClure opened a day school for boys. At first only three or four came, and these very irregularly. Now there are six regularly present.

Last November Mrs. Goforth commenced a small Sabbath school, which is now attended by others as well as by all the day school scholars. The answers given to questions asked on religious subjects display a remarkable amount of intelligence as well as Bible knowledge. Daily morning worship is held with the women in the hospital, at which others connected with the mission are present.

Mrs. Malcolm is industriously studying the language and has already proved herself an earnest helper.

Mrs. Goforth's little son, Paul, continues very delicate in health; indeed, his life often trembles, as it were, in the balance. Prayer is asked for him and for the work of this mission.

Hsin Chen.—Missionaries: Rev. J. F. Smith, M.D.; Rev. M. Mackenzie, Rev. J. H. MacVicar, B.A. (on furlough), Rev. K. MacLennan, Mr. J. A. Shannon (under appointment), Miss M. McIntosh (trained nurse).

From Miss McIntosh's statement for the year we get a glimpse of the beginnings of what we trust may prove a blessed work among the women at this station.

Women from the vicinity and even from the more distant villages visit the Missionary Compound with frequency. At these visits they hear of Christ, and there seems to be a kindly feeling springing up in their hearts towards the missionaries. Miss McIntosh and Dr. Graham have spent the entire year at the station, with the exception of four months, when on account of sickness they were called to Chu Wang and Lin Ching.

Village Work.—Ho tas, the home of the "Chows," has been visited twice, when many heard the Gospel for the first time. Another village within walking distance has been visited six times, also two other villages at intervals.

Medical Work.—Dr. Graham, though devoting much of her time to the study of the language, has treated a few special cases. Mrs. Wang, from the Yellow River District, came daily for treatment and instruction for a month or more. When she left she could repeat the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the hymn "Jesus Loves Me," and a grace before meat. Several others came from this district and remained for some time. Since then a native helper has visited them in their homes, and in the spring they will be visited again.

Personal Work. Mrs. Chow and her daughter-in-law from Ho-tas spent several weeks at the mission, studying the Bible and the Catechism. They have now a good knowledge of the way of salvation, and will probably be baptized at no distant date.

Chinese worship is held every morning, conducted by the ladies in turn, when patients and others in the compound are expected to be present.

Bible Class.—The attendance at the Sabbath afternoon class has been good. Some eight or ten are generally present; two of these have been coming more than a year.

The Christian Bible woman, Mrs. Wee, is a very great assistance to the work. She visits the women, who go to the Bible class, in their homes and gives instruction whenever and wherever there is an opening. Mr. and Mrs. MacVicar are at present in Canada for the benefit of Mrs. MacVicar's health.

(To be continued.)

MISSIONARY INFLUENCE IN TURKEY.

Protestant ministers are increasingly invited to hold forth in the old Armenian churches. A Christian literature has been created, and now has a large circulation among the Gregorians. The Bible translated by our missionaries is now to be found in thousands of non-Protestant homes, and is accepted by all as the Word of God. According to Dr. Hamlin, the silent yet powerful working of the educational forces introduced by our missionaries have strongly affected the Moslem mind also. When he went to Turkey some fifty years ago, everything in the way of school furnishing was of the most primitive nature. Now modern methods and equipments are spreading everywhere. What is true of the influence of missions in the Turkish Empire is true everywhere. The papers of those who represented the non-Christian religions at the Parliament of Religions showed unmistakable traces of the influence of Christian thought and life. Silently, yet irresistibly, the Gospel of the kingdom wins its way. We are eager to see it all done up in one day, and so turn first of all to the statistical columns of our missionary periodicals, and are distressed that the footing up in churches organized and members received is not greater. Some are so feverish in their desire that they have ceased to expect the gradual spread of Christianity, and pin their faith to the effect of "a grand smash-up," as Mr. Moody expressed it, and "the personal reign of Jesus Christ in this world." "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until it was all leavened." This leavening process, is better philosophy than the "smash-up" theory. God's mightiest agencies in nature are for the most part silent and invisible. We shall have to curb our impatience and adjust ourselves to God's plan, as seen in nature and the Word, content that others shall enter into our labors when we are through toiling. J. C.

Bushnell: Christianity is, therefore, supernatural not only because it acts through the laws of nature, limited by, and doing the work of these laws; but because it acts regeneratively and new-creatively to repair the damage which those laws, in their penal action, would otherwise perpetuate.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Ram's Horn: If you don't know what else you can do for the Lord, see how much sunshine you can carry into your home.

Ram's Horn: Don't be despondent because you have made a mistake. Ask God to overrule it for good, and resolve that by His help you will not repeat it.

Prof. Campbell: Christ never belittled the Evil One, who contended with Him from the beginning of His ministry till His death; who robbed Him of one disciple, and tempted Him through another; concerning whom He said:—"I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear."

The Christian Index: How wonderful the privileges of the Christian! He stands to-day upon all the fathers have built. He is "the heir of all the ages." While the son of the elder Professor Sillman, of Yale, was lecturing, some one said, "Why he beats the old gentleman." The father turning around said, "He ought to; he stands on my shoulders."

United Presbyterian. The great speech-maker, the man who speaks for the sake of speaking, who speaks on all questions, and speaks longest on subjects he does not understand, was not sent as a delegate to our Assembly. The speeches were few, short, and to the point. An Assembly that costs about \$3,000 a day cannot afford to listen to time-killing speeches.

Archdeacon Farrar: Any church which called itself a Church of Christ must be founded on no other basis than Holy Scripture. They must repudiate the arrogant, exclusive use of the word church, which excluded pious Nonconformists from the true flock. The Church of England had separated from Rome, and had no claim to existence other than as a reformed church.

M. F. West, J. P.: Public and social questions had not received the attention and interest from their churches they deserved, and in the days to come those ministers and churches who showed they were interested in these subjects, and were most in touch with the social life of the community as a whole, would be the most successful in solving the problem of how to reach the lapsed masses.

Belfast Witness: Mr. McKinley's Tariff has worked wonders in America. It has increased the number of unemployed in the States to six millions, and yet there are people in the United States who are resisting almost to the death any change. To us their action seems little removed from madness. But in that great country the interests of the many have to be sacrificed to the interests of the few who can pay large sums into the political war chest.

Homiletic Review: That the Scripture doctrine touching the mutual relation of master and servant and of employee and employer would be a happy solution of the present difficulties existing between capital and labor, if only it were faithfully and correctly practiced, is acknowledged by many. Dr. W. H. Hale, of Brooklyn, an authority in economics, takes the ground that "there is a mutuality of obligation between employer and employed, just as there is in all contracts."

Rev. D. M. Buchanan: Disobedience has been and is the great cause of the world's weeping. Disobedience to the precepts God as given us in the great chart for human life—the word of God; disobedience to the dictates of conscience, the monitor of rectitude within us; disobedience to the very laws of our own nature, has filled the world with weepers. What brought human sorrow first upon the scene? The earth never drank a human tear till disobedience broke the spell of harmony in Eden. Our first parents were cast out of their earthly paradise to weep because of their misconduct, and, ever since, the earth, though clothed with beauty, has been to man a vale of tears. "Man is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upwards" is the history of human experience.

Teacher and Scholar.

July 15, 1894. } THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN. { Matt. ii. 1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT:—Matt. ii. 11.

The scene of this lesson is again in Bethlehem. The time of it, after the presentation in the temple, when Jesus was six or eight weeks' old. Mary had had many surprises in connection with the birth of Christ, and now the visit of these wise men from a far country is another. Vv. 1, 2, Herod the king, the founder of the Herodian family, called also the Great, because of his character, his conquests and works, especially rebuilding the temple at Jerusalem. Wise men, sages or Magi, originally a class of priests among the Medes and Persians, then applied to all Eastern philosophers, Esther i, 13, Dan. ii. 2, 12. The East, Persia most likely, though Assyria and Babylonia also belonged to the far east.

Their question: Where is He that is born King of the Jews? (1) What made them think of a king? (2) How they were led to Jerusalem; and (3) what they came to do. (1) What made them think of a king? A rumor and expectation of some great one who was to come and bless mankind, had spread over all the civilized world, and was especially clear and strong in Persia. It came from the Jews who had their Scriptures and were scattered over all lands. "Nearly all the ancient religions," and all false religions still, "are confessions of need, and Christianity is the supply of that need."

(2) How they were led to Jerusalem. We have seen His star. This was a symbol of a king, Num. xxiv. 17. A remarkable conjunction of the planets, Jupiter and Saturn, accompanied with great brilliancy of appearance, occurred then, but the star must have been something specially sent for their guidance, for it came and stood over the place where the young child was. "The expectations of the Magi were aroused by the remarkable conjunction, and their watching was rewarded by the sight of the miraculous star." God still leads men to think of Christ in many ways, but clearly and surely by His Word and Holy Spirit.

(3) Why they came. We are come to worship Him, not the divine honor which should be paid to God alone, but the reverence and homage paid to teachers and Kings. They came to Jerusalem, naturally supposing that there they would hear about this new born King. But nobody knew or was caring about this great event except a few like Simeon and Anna. They made enquiries; at last they reached the ears of the king. He was troubled. He was a usurper, had no proper claim to be king; and he feared when he heard of one who was born king. He was old; had been guilty of many murders, and now his conscience made him afraid, Acts xxiv. 25. A guilty conscience makes bad men, even if they are great and powerful, tremble.

All Jerusalem was troubled with him. Those high in office about the king were troubled because they depended upon him and did not know what might happen. There had been so much violence, war and bloodshed in Herod's reign that the people generally were troubled. One wicked man can cause a great amount of fear and unhappiness. Notice next what he did.

(4) He gathered all the chief priests and scribes together, the court called the Sanhedrim, and asked them where the Christ should be born. They turned to the Scriptures, the Old Testament, Mic. v. 2; from the Scriptures they told Herod that it would be in Bethlehem, in Judea. The same way still, the beginnings of great events are taking place and we do not notice them. It was so with the rise of Modern Missions, the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Y. M. C. A.

7, 8. What Herod did. He privately called the wise men together and asked them very particularly what time the star appeared? Next lesson we shall see his object in doing this. Then he sent them to Bethlehem to search diligently for the young child and asked them to come and tell him that he too might go and worship Him. These men came a great way to see and worship this royal child, but Herod, the chief priests and scribes would not take the trouble to go six miles to Bethlehem to find out for themselves, Isa. liii. 1-3; John i. 12. So still, Christ has suffered and died to save us from our sins, there is no other way of being saved, and yet multitudes never will come to Christ for salvation.

9, 10. The conduct of the wise men. As soon as they got their question answered, they set out for Bethlehem, the star again appeared and came and stood over where the young child was. Herod and all the others were indifferent, or worse, but when the wise men saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. So the glad tidings of salvation which we have known about all our lives we pay no attention to very often, but the poor heathen when they hear, understand and accept them, are filled with great joy, Mat. viii. 11-12.

11. The wise men find and worship Jesus. They fell down before the infant Jesus; they worshipped Him; they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh. Many so-called wise men now and always have thought it a mark of superior wisdom not to believe in Christ at all, but they are the wisest who bring their best to Christ and humbly, reverently worship and adore Him. "With these three, our bodies, our souls and our goods we ought to worship Jesus."

12 Their return. Herod told them to come back and tell him that he too might go and worship this new-born King. He was a cunning, wicked man and this was a plan he laid, as we shall see, to destroy Jesus. But how easily God can overthrow the evil designs of bad men; "being warned of God in a dream, that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way." No one can fight against God and prosper. The wise men escaped, the infant Jesus and Joseph and Mary escaped, but Herod died a miserable death, feared and hated of all men. We can only be safe and happy in life and at death as we follow God's leading.