

what is going on in the palace. The Emperor is still too young not to be dependent on those around him. The Empress dowager appears to be more taken up with herself and her own glory than with any thoughts of motherly care for the 400,000,000 of the people. Prince Kung also appears powerless. Li Hung Chang has more enemies than formerly. Despite the great services which this great statesman of China has rendered to his native country, there now appears in his past policy one portentous failing. He has not known how to train for the higher range of the public service men of professional skill and of firmness of character. There is a lack everywhere in the cabinet, among the imperial officials in the provinces, in the army, in the navy, in the technical schools, of serviceable, reliable men."

"—Some days ago I received from a friend in Hongkong a letter in which he related that a secretary of the Church Missionary Society, who was there on a tour of inspection, delivered in a great hall a discourse on the missionary obligation. In it he portrayed the needs of the heathen and the enormous greatness of the missionary field, and then said that England and America must do the work commanded by Christ, 'for what can we expect from Germany?' We German missionaries feel this criticism bitterly, above all, because, measured by what has yet been *achieved*, there is much truth in it; but yet is not wholly true. I cannot give up the hope and the faith that we in the future can yet expect great things from Germany even for missions. Only let the land of Luther first rightly recognize her missionary obligation, let the genuine Christians in Protestant Germany gather themselves in a decisive confession of the one Lord, and recognize one another mutually as brethren, and over against the world as responsible bearers of the Gospel, then they will soon become conscious that not the narrow boundaries of Germany, but the whole great

world is their parish, for which they are *answerable*. We are neither lacking in the capacity of religious enthusiasm and the courage of self-sacrifice, nor are we lacking in the necessary money in the land; we are lacking only in a right organization of our evangelical strength for aggressive development, and in a recognition of our missionary obligation to *the whole world*, an obligation to be restrained by no patriotic limitation. We Germans come *late* into the mission-field, yet we *come*, and that with so much the greater *weight*. May God graciously so order it!—Pfarrer KRANZ, in *Zeitschrift für Missionskunde*.

—Considering that the Unitas Fratrum and the Halle missionaries went out so long ago, it can hardly be said that the Germans come *late*. What is evidently meant is, that German Protestants are late in coming to a *general* recognition of their duty.

"If we will bear well in mind the vices and irregularities which deformed the Gentile churches of Paul's time, especially the Corinthian Church, we should be spared many temptations and disappointments. The apostle's deep intelligence of human nature, and his knowledge of the natural life, even among the Christians, shows itself in the following passage: 'Lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness, and fornication, and lasciviousness, which they have committed.' We missionaries out of the Western lands are too much inclined to treat the Chinese converts as if they were of our sort. Doubtless we are to regard them as our brethren in Christ, but we should none the less learn from the apostle to distinguish children from those of full age. For thousands of years the Chinese inheritance has been idolatry and worldliness. It is unreasonable then to expect of them that strength of faith and spirituality of view which may reasonably be required of us. It is ex-