

what I have on this plain, they would assume a different attitude toward the heralds of the cross."

To all of which we can only add our own word of testimony, that, to witness such results from the preaching of the Gospel, is to see a new door opened in Heaven, and a new proof that, in the horizon of missions, heaven and earth meet in the radiance of a celestial dawning.

THE RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF CHINA : AN OBJECT LESSON.*

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Two vast countries—which comprise between them nearly half the square mileage of the habitable globe, and together contain little short of a moiety of the population of the whole world—two countries—which have remained from prehistoric ages till the days of the present generation shrouded in an impenetrable mystery denser than could be pierced by the utmost repeated efforts of the great nations of the earth, Pagan and Christian alike—these two countries, Africa and China, have now, in the province of God, opened out, like maps unrolled, before missionary effort and commercial enterprise, under the very eyes of many who have not yet reached the meridian of life.

To those who are called of God to be fellow-heirs with Him to whom the heathen are given for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession, how grand is the opportunity, how great the privilege, how urgent the command to enter upon the promised heritage in His Name, and to gather out, with His Son, the people whom He has therein formed for Himself ! When God has set the door of the dungeon wide open, and is showing—not in a vision, as in that of Macedonia, but in actual fact—the fearful condition of those within, bound, as they are, by the devil, in helplessness as to the healing of their bodies and in hopelessness as to the salvation of their souls—dare any mere man disregard the cry which is rising to high heaven from the horrible pit, or hesitate for one moment, least of all on any purely personal or selfish ground, to pass on the aid, spiritual and moral, temporal and material, which God has given to the members of His Church, not only for their own comfort, but, rather, for the comfort of others, whose thanks may redound to His glory ?

Tho Africa and China are in close resemblance in their past seclusion from the rest of the world and in their present demand upon the whole Church of God, yet, as between themselves, they are in striking contrast. The one is occupied by innumerable, petty, savage tribes, without history or literature, sunken in the grossest superstition, engaged in constant feud each with the rest, and dominated all alike by continuous

* This valuable paper—one of the best we have ever seen on this theme—we take the liberty to reprint from that valuable magazine, *The Church Missionary Intelligencer*.—EDITOR.