

A Circuit of the Globe.

A. M'LEAN.

xxvii.—From Kobe to Shanghai.
(Concluded.)

Among the passengers was the celebrated traveller and author, Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop. She is not a missionary, but is deeply interested in missionaries. She was born in England. Her husband was a Professor in the University of Edinburgh. She has made that city her home for thirty years. Her health has never been good. Much of her writing has been done in bed. She has travelled all over the world. Her books were written in the form of letters to a sister. In Japan she lived once for six months on rice and eggs. She makes it a rule to carry no food and no back. She carries a bed and a chair and a blanket or two and some clothing and a camera, and almost nothing else. She gets a servant who can serve her as an interpreter: she has no other escort. Not long ago she was in the interior of China. She was taking a picture when some men saw her. They began to cry out, "Here is a foreign devil: kill her, kill her." She finished her work, took her camera, and returned to the boat. Her life was in peril, but she did not think so at the time. She is now on her way to Korea, to finish a journey which was interrupted by war. Mrs. Bishop is a friend of missionaries. She knows them and their work. Once she avoided them. At that time she had no confidence in them. She believed the evil reports that are heard in certain circles. In the providence of God her eyes were opened. She was impressed with the great need of missionaries. The world is dark and needs the gospel. She has borne eloquent testimony on this point. She has described the sufferings of women and children in non-Christian lands. Her interest centers in medical missions. She is now making a journey in the hope of being able to assist this work.

No one can be with such a company without feeling that they are diligent students of the Scriptures. At the daily meetings for conference every one had his Bible. The book showed that it was read and studied. Not only so, but they are men of prayer. They live near God, and they delight to talk with Him. Moreover, they are full of joy. Their faces shine. It would not be easy to find another group of the same number with so many happy countenances in it. They have heard the call of God and obeyed it, and He has blessed them with His wondrous grace. Once more, they have perfect

confidence in the triumph of the gospel. The reports of riots and massacres do not disturb this serene confidence. They are without a doubt as to the final issue. The Mandarins may oppose; worldly-minded people may sneer: the Lord God omnipotent reigns, and the whole earth shall be filled with His glory. There are medical men on board who have left a lucrative practice to serve the Lord in China. There is no one in the group who could not get a larger stipend at home than he will get on the field. At the present time a riot may occur anywhere. No missionary is safe. Those who are seeking pleasant berths are not coming to China. The workers are ready to glorify Christ by living or by dying for Him.

Our course for part of the way was through the Inland Sea. This is the short route from Kobe to Nagasaki. There is no more beautiful scenery in the world than in and about this sea. The waters are studded with fishing boats and trading junks. The shores are lined with villages. These have a background of mountains. The Inland Sea resembles the St. Lawrence with its Thousand Islands. One place of interest passed was Shimonoseki. This is the place where Li Hung Chang was shot, and where the treaty of peace was drawn up and signed. We entered Nagasaki Bay after daybreak. The bay is narrow and about three miles long. The harbor is thoroughly sheltered and affords anchorage for the ships of all classes. The entrance is not more than one-fourth of a mile wide. Here are war-ships representing all nations. Officers in gold lace are seen in every direction. Nagasaki is historic ground. Here it was that the Portuguese merchants and missionaries landed. Here it was that the Japanese became acquainted with Europeans, and Christianity, and firearms, and other things unknown to Chinese civilization. Here Christianity was extirpated. Here the Dutch had their factory, and here all business with the outside world was carried on for many years. In the Bay there is a rock called Pappenburg. From this rock Christians were thrown, it is said, because they would not deny their Lord. As we walked the streets of the city we thought of the time when the citizens were required to trample on the cross to convince the inquisitor that they were not Christians. As we saw the homes of men representing Christian nations and the mission schools and the churches, we thought of the folly of fighting against the Most High. At Nagasaki we coaled. This was an interesting performance. The ship was

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anchored out in the Bay. Small boats loaded with coal came out. Ladders were placed against the side of the Empress. Men and women formed a line and passed up the coal in baskets. There were several sets working at the same time. In a few hours the work was done. It seemed strange to see women in such a place, but they want to earn a living. We left Nagasaki in the afternoon, passed the frowning batteries that guard the harbor, and soon were out on the Sea of China. We stood on deck as long as there was any land in sight. Japan is a beautiful country. The Japanese are a great people. Their victories in war are great: their victories of peace are still greater. God has a high mission for this nation. It seems to me that Japan is to be the leader of all the peoples of the East. In order to fulfill this mission she must have the gospel. The heart and institutions of the nation must be Christianized. What is done for her evangelization must be done quickly. This is the nick of time. Thirty hours from Nagasaki we cast anchor in the mouth of the Yangtze. The next morning we took a tug and went up the Whangpoo River to Shanghai. As the tug came near the dock I caught sight of the pleasant face of James Ware, who came down to welcome me to China, and to take me to his own home.

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