

much interested in the book, and made many inquiries in regard to it. Mr. Verbeck has disposed of the Chinese Scriptures to parties in high position, and it is reported that along with other religious books, it is being examined with as much interest and attention in some parts of the interior, as various matters of European science and art. Whatever the motive be, the thing itself is satisfactory, and promises to be of advantage in the end. Great and important changes are imminent in that country, and the influence of the Bible will be felt in connection with them. The edicts against Christianity have not been openly repealed, but the train is being laid for this desirable event. No difficulty is felt in talking with individuals on the subject in a quiet way, some of whom eagerly purchase the Scriptures for their own use, and for transmission to their friends in other places. It is in contemplation to translate the Bible into the Japanese language by the missionaries now in the field, but this will be the work of many years. Meanwhile our Chinese version of it is highly appreciated, and can be read with the greatest facility by all scholars; it will be of great service when a Japanese translation is undertaken."

From *Hong Kong* 16,433 vols. have been issued, being an increase of 5,000 on the previous year. It is somewhat remarkable that, though printing is cheaply performed in China, bookbinding is expensive. Sheets to compose 1,000 volumes were, at the time the Report was preparing, on their way to England to be bound, and it was calculated that, after paying freight and all other expenses, a saving of £150 would be effected.

In *China*, as elsewhere, there is opposition. In a town where some copies of God's Word has been sold, a placard was posted on the wall, which, after recounting the substance of Chinese belief, thus continues:

"These are mysterious things, but learned people from olden times have transmitted them to us, and we revere them as Gods. How shall we now sufficiently express our surprise at the fact, that amongst our own people there are such as adopt the religion of the foreign barbarians, and do not blush, for mere gain's sake, to come to us, offering the books of the barbarians, as well in the market towns as in the villages, drawing large crowds, and speaking to the educated as well as to the rustics, of one Jesus, saying, He was a Saint, and of Shangti, who was alone God. The worship of the God of the barbarians would exclude all worship of ancestors as well as of our gods; the efficacy of Geomancy would be reduced to nothing, and what would be the benefit? Would this be a way to riches and honor? Would our progeny be increased thereby? Woe! woe! The foreign barbarians do not know the duties of social life; but this is no reason why we should be so forgetful of our duties. Would it not be like the tree forgetting its root, and the stream forgetting its spring? Should we discontinue to worship our ancestors we should be inferior to the beasts, because we see that even they have an idea of filial duty, and how should we, rational beings, become forgetful of the same? Scarcely any one reads these books of the barbarians, nor believes the doctrine they