

people. They have had a wide field, length of days, freedom from outside interference—they have basked in the smiles of the Government, and enjoyed wealth and patronage. They have had every possible advantage, and what is the result? It is an empire more corrupt and degraded than they found it. Notwithstanding any good influence they may have exerted, the nation has sunk under their ægis into deeper darkness and fouler immorality—a most convincing proof that man-made systems, however plausible, can never regenerate human nature and raise the race. We have been recently urged to adopt in place of the old creeds, religions, and philosophies, as the resultant of them all, what is called a synthesis, a human synthesis—"an organic co-ordination of man's general ideas and activities—a theory to explain whatever belongs to man, and from man's point of view." The synthesis, drawn equally from David the Psalmist and from David Eame, from Paul and from Voltaire, from Jesus and Tom Paine, is to be the great regenerator, both of the soul and of society. Now, the Chinese have had something answering to this synthesis for centuries—a combination of the best elements of different systems of philosophy and religion, but it has failed to improve their condition. And any such eclectic system must fail, even though Bible elements be in it. The Bible does not need and will not bear admixture. China's sacred books have some points of truth in the midst of much error and folly; but the Bible contains the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and it is ever accompanied and made effective by the Spirit who first inspired it. It is possible to have truth without its producing any permanent effect, just as it is possible to have light that will fructify nothing. Pure white light, we are well aware, is composed of three fundamental colours—red, yellow, and blue. Red is the caloric or heat-giving ray, yellow is the luminous, and blue the chemical or active ray. Now, if you take certain plants and put them under a glass so coloured as to absorb the blue rays of light, you will find that, though they grow with the greatest rapidity, and put forth luxuriant blossoms, they will just as quickly fade away again without bringing forth fruit. Does not this look like a physical reflection of a religious fact? You may have truth, and even religious truth, which brings forth no fruit unto perfection, either because it is not pure, or because it is not complete, or because it is not accompanied and made active by the influence of the Holy Spirit. He it is that makes Bible truth efficacious. His influence is its active and fructifying ray. Hence the Apostle teaches us that all Christian virtues are to be viewed as the fruit of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Hence the Saviour could pray—"Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth." And accordingly, while the most perfect heathen systems have failed, the Bible is efficacious. Wherever it goes and is received, men are raised, and changed, and bettered—born again, "not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." Wherever it goes and obtains a foothold, the wilderness is turned into the garden of the Lord. "Instead of the thorn there comes up the fir tree, and instead of the briar the myrtle tree: and it is to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off." The Bible began to flash its light upon the minds and to touch the hearts of the Chinese even when in the process of translation and printing.

The speaker then gave an account of the conversion of Frac-A-Ko, the first Protestant Christian of China, and of Ch'ê, a Confucian temple-keeper, who became a Colporteur and the first Protestant Christian martyr of China, and further pressed upon the Society the importance of this field, saying, "The time, the set time, to favour China seems now to have come."

The Bishop of MOOSONEE moved the following resolution:—

"That the thanks of this meeting be given to the President and Vice-Presidents, for their valued support, and to Joseph Hoare, Esq., V.P., and