

The next day it was the same ; and day after day, there he was, always standing in the one place. I knew from my experience of Chinese life that I was making an impression upon him.

Remember that the Chinese do not take their religion simply because we preach it. They think out their religion. A man comes sometimes to me and says, "I have listened to all you have said," and I reply, "Well, I have answered all your objections—now are you not a Christian?" "Yes," he will say, "You have answered my objections. You can argue better than I can ; but there are some questions I cannot answer myself, and I want to think them out. By-and-by, when I have thought them out, I will come again." And these men have thought them out and have become sterling Christians.

Well, this man came to me and said : "Sir, I have been very much pleased with a great deal of what you have said. A great deal of it I believe. You have spoken of God. Before you came here I could not know about Him who made the mountains, and the air, and this river that flows at our door. I agree with a great deal you have said, but a great deal is not in accordance with the teachings of Confucius, our great classic." I said : "Very well ; bring your classics and I will bring my Testament, and we will discuss the matter together. You may have something to teach me, and I think I have a great deal to teach you." We did so, and we took some of the doctrines of Confucianism, and after a time he said, "Now I am satisfied. Will you baptize me?" I said, "Well, you know, before I can baptize you, you will have to give up your profession." I must tell you what his profession was. This man was a geomancer. Let me digress a little.

In China they do not bury their dead in cemeteries as we do here. They bury them everywhere—on the mountain-side and in the rice-fields. Sometimes I have travelled into the interior a hundred miles, and all the time have been walking over the resting places of the dead. I have often been more impressed with the population of China from the dead than from the living. These graves are supposed to have a great connection between the living and the dead. For example, a tea merchant in Amoy has a very large business, and some day his business fails. He looks round and asks himself, "What is the cause of this?" He will not put it down to any misjudgment of his own, or to anything in the state of the market, but to the graves. He will go out on to the mountain, and will take up the bodies of the dead and will remove them somewhere else. Then he will say, "Now my ill-luck will stop. The trade will come back again now that the evil influences have gone, and I shall be able to carry on my business once more." I have known a man, for instance, whose wife had died. He had been in great sorrow, for men love their wives in China as they do here, although the process of getting them is different. Such a man thought : "Why has my wife died? Last week she was young and strong. Why is she dead to-day? It is the grave on the hillside." And he will go up on to the hillside and will take up some of the dead buried there and move them elsewhere, and say, "Now sorrow will stop, and death will stop on its way to my home, and I shall not have to sorrow again." There are certain men called geomancers whose business it is to find out these spots. They have a compass with Chinese characters upon it, and when they have selected a spot they say, "You bury here—neither a foot this way nor a foot that—and then fortune will come, children will come into your family ; official honours and favours will come."

Well, this man was a geomancer. I said to him, "Now we have studied our Bibles together and I have proved to you that you do not bring the luck from the hillside. It is a deception of the people. Therefore, before I can baptize you, you must give up your profession." He held out his arms, looked very solemn, and said, "You want me to die." "No, I don't," I replied. "You do," he said ; "all my life I have followed this profession. I