

were totally ignorant of that message which they now listen to with such interest.

The Chinese are seldom or never demonstrative unless in imitation of some enthusiastic foreign leader. It is not their nature to show their true inwardness; "they secrete deeply;" their most poignant grief may be expressed with a laugh. They are adepts in simulation, and it requires many years close study to comprehend their mental peculiarities, to touch their motive springs, the elastic coils are bound so gracefully that even then your shrewd guesses may prove wide of the mark.

The Chinaman recovers a wrong move with such exquisite grace and coolness that the blackest lie appears unvarnished truth. If the heathen Chinaman has a conscience it is like the soul of Evolutionism, a development.

March 8th.—The fitful sprinkles which fell at daylight were dried by the rising sun and gentle south breeze. We were in our saddles by 9 o'clock and dashing across the wide valley to evergreen hills, to visit the three day schools nearly equidistant from the church. We approach the first school, passing under large camphor trees upon a hillside. Conical straw stacks are scattered before the hamlet, brushwood heaped here and there ready for the arches. The pigs are roaming aimlessly around half dried pools; geese, ducks and chickens are roaming at sweet pleasure in and out of the houses, as there are no such things as barns in China.

A curious crowd is gathered around us before our horses are hitched to the nearest trees, and presses in unbroken phalanx at our heels into the school house. In reaching this mysterious seat of learning, we pass two or three rooms filled with baskets, spindles, looms, spinning-wheels, stools, old tables, cackling chickens, buckets, chain pumps, litter of all kinds scattered about over mud floors. The walls are black with smoke, the doors unhinged from their wood-pin sockets. We low and tread carefully and are in the school room. Twenty boys and girls at eight or ten tables are screeching at their best, having taken long breaths upon our announcement. The room may be 20x10 feet, doors at each end, and a loft reaching half way over the room, which contains all the useless and worn out trumpery of a

generation, besides corn, rice and other eatables.

Crowds of men and women fill every foot of unoccupied space, and tiers of faces are thrust from without through doors and windows. Recitations are prompt and spirited, rows of boys from 5 to 12 years of age, sway to and fro and screams out a couple of thousand of characters taking near half an hour without scarcely a mistake.

The power of memory in the average Chinaman is prodigious, while his understanding is meagre. We found upon catechising the pupils that they had learned considerable Bible truth, at least they could repeat Scripture. These school buildings are furnished by the people while we find the salary of the teachers, each teacher receiving about \$4 per month. We preached after the school exercises were over, and found these farmers anxious to listen to all we had to say.

ENERGY OF THE WILL.

One of the longest remembered lessons that the great Benjamin Franklin ever received from his uncle, who was also his tutor, and which helped to make him the man he afterward became, was the showing what might be done by the untiring energy of the will in the right direction, strengthening the good impulses, and controlling the bad. "To do a thing at all times and seasons because our consciences tell us that it is right, whether it suits our inclination or not, is a matter of stern duty; and duty," he said to the boy, "always demands more or less sacrifice on our part."

He told him also how to make work pleasant and how to be rich, how to get money and how to spend it, and all over all about "the still, small voice." "I want to make a man of my namesake," he said to his mother one day, "and I have first taught him that he must either work, beg, or starve! Then I showed him how to make work pleasant, that the produce of his work be the means of future comfort to him; and how, by putting his heart into labor, he would lighten the slavery of work, and above all how to put his will into every good impulse. I want to teach Ben to get money rather than want it, or beg for it. To get it with honor and dignity, to husband it with honor and dignity, and what is more, to spend it with honor and dignity."