

Chinese without much, if any, cost. Where charges are made they are exceedingly small, and are made only when they are necessary to prevent a rush, which in this vast population would overwhelm any institution. There are various anti-opium hospitals, where the victims of this vice are cured. There are industrial schools and workshops.

This is a very brief and incomplete summary of what missionaries are doing for the Chinese, \* \* \* and in my opinion they do nothing but good.

I leave out of this discussion the religious benefits conferred by converting Chinese to Christianity. This, of course, is the one supreme object and purpose of the missionaries, to which all else is subsidiary, but the subject is not to be discussed by a minister of the United States. There is no established religion in the United States, and the American Buddhist, Mahometan, Jew, infidel, or any other religionist, would receive at the hands of his country's representatives abroad exactly the same consideration and protection as a Christian would. I can only say that converts to Christianity are numerous. \* \* \* There are many native Christian churches. The converts seem to be as devout as people of any other race.

As far as my knowledge extends, I can and do say that the missionaries in China are self-sacrificing; that their lives are pure; that they are devoted to their work; that their influence is beneficial to the natives; that the arts and sciences and civilization are greatly spread by their efforts; that many useful Western books are translated by them into Chinese; that they are the leaders in all charitable work, giving largely themselves, and personally disbursing the funds with which they are entrusted; that they do make converts, and such converts are mentally benefited by conversion.

In answer to these statements, which are usually acknowledged to be true, it does not do to say, as if the answer were conclusive, that the literati and gentry are usually opposed to missionaries. This antagonism was to have been expected. The missionaries antagonize the worship of ancestors, which is one of the fundamental principles of the Chinese polity. They compel their converts to keep Sunday holy. The Chinese have no Sabbath. They work every day except New Year's day and other holidays. No new religion ever won its way without meeting with serious opposition. \* \* \*

In the second place, let us see whether and how *foreign countries* are benefited by missionary work done in China.

Missionaries are the pioneers of trade and commerce. Civilization, learning, instruction breed new wants, which commerce supplies. Look at the electric telegraph now in every province in China but one; look at the steamships which

ply along the coast from Hong Kong to New-chang, and on the Yang-tze up to Ichang. Look at the cities which have sprung up, like Shanghai, Tientsin, Hankow—handsome foreign cities, object-lessons to the Chinese. Look at the railroad being now built from the Yellow Sea to the Amoor, of which about 200 miles are completed. Will anyone say that the missionaries in China

\* \* \* have not contributed to these results?

\* \* \* The interior of China would have been nearly unknown to the outer world had not the missionaries visited it and described it. Someone may say that commercial agents might have done as much, but they are not allowed to locate in the interior. The missionary, inspired by holy zeal, goes everywhere, and by degrees foreign commerce and trade follow. I suppose that whenever an uncivilized or semi-civilized country becomes civilized, its trade and dealings with Western nations increase. Humanity has not devised any better, or even any as good engine or means for civilizing savage peoples as proselytism to Christianity. The history of the world attests this fact.

In the interests, therefore, of civilization, missionaries ought not only to be tolerated, but ought to receive protection to which they are entitled from officials, and encouragement from all other classes of people.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

CHARLES DENBY.

### POPULATION IN CHINA.

Frequent allusion is made to the density of the population in China, and language is sometimes used that would imply that the land is so overrun with human beings that they are obliged to live in boats, on the rivers or bays. But as a matter of fact the density of the population in China is but little over that of France, and not half that of England and Wales. Not including the vast dependencies of China, such as Mongolia and Tibet, but simply reckoning Manchuria with China proper, its area is about 1,700,000 square miles. Two hundred people to the square mile would give a population of 340,000,000, which is not far from the average estimate made by statisticians as to the population of the empire. But Japan has 275 to the square mile; Germany 236; England and Wales 497; while Belgium has 548. There need be no fear, therefore, lest the Chinese, not having room enough at home, will be forced to overrun other lands.—*Miss. Herald.*

It is an unspeakable advantage to have the Bible in our mother-tongue, but it involves a tremendous responsibility; and if with its pages in our hands we despise the Saviour whom it reveals, and do despite unto the Spirit by whose inspiration it was given, it shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for us.—*Dr. Wm. M. Taylor.*