

As far back as 1868, Mr. Wylie, the agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and myself, completed a Missionary tour of three thousand miles, in the provinces of Hupeh, Szechuan, and Shensi. . . . No Missionary had ever visited that region before, and yet we preached the Gospel, and distributed Bibles in almost every town and village on our way, with perfect safety.

Other Missionaries of all societies have been travelling over the vast empire during the last twenty years, and have found the country both legally and practically open. With a good knowledge of the language, and a fair share of common sense, a man can go almost anywhere in China, and preach in the open air with greater impunity than in any other country in the world. And I would add that the adoption of native dress is in no way conducive to either efficiency or safety. I have never adopted it, and for the simple reason that I looked upon it as rather a hindrance than a help. It is quite right that each should please himself in the matter, but it is a great mistake to attach the least value or importance to it.

Such is the great change that has come over China during the last forty years. It is impossible to have any idea of its magnitude without wonder and gratitude.

There is a great future before China. That vast empire is no longer self-contained, or self-sufficing. Never more can it stand like a great world in itself separate from the rest of the globe. We cannot unravel the future, but we know that China can never return to its former state of isolation and seclusion.

There are mighty forces at work which are impelling China forwards, and to which she must yield, whether she will or no. The world is advancing, and China must advance too.

I will not write of their advance in military matters—of the eagerness with which they have been building gun-boats, establishing arsenals, and powder factories, purchasing guns, torpedoes, ammunition, and such things.

I would rather call attention to their progress in other directions,—to the schools established by government for instruction in foreign languages and sciences, the establishment of a central college at Peking, with a staff of foreign professors at its head; the translation of foreign standard works on a great variety of subjects; the educational missions to the United States; the appointment of legations and consuls to foreign countries; the formation of steamship companies which are competing successfully with our own;

the opening of coal and iron mines with foreign machinery; and the contemplated construction of lines of railways and telegraphs.

Thus China is moving on—not willingly, I confess—nevertheless, moving on.

Ere long she will catch the spirit of the age, and astonish the world with the rapidity of her onward march.

The resources of the country are simply inexhaustible, and the Chinese are capable of the highest development.

I am looking forward with the utmost confidence to a time when that great, but slumbering nation will arise, and shake itself from the dust, and when that wonderful land will rejoice and blossom as the rose.

Christ, I verily believe, is taking possession of China. He is there conquering and to conquer.

The work of evangelizing that great empire is as hard as it is glorious. Before the work is accomplished, the churches must give more of their gold and silver; men of ability and personal influence must go forth in greater numbers than they have hitherto done.

It is a dreadful mistake to suppose that any sort of man will do for a Missionary, and to regard it as a pity and misfortune when a man of real worth leaves home and devotes himself to foreign work.

There is not a Missionary in the field, however gifted, who does not feel that he would be much more efficient as a Missionary, if he were more highly endowed as a man and a Christian.

The need of China at this moment is a MIGHTY BAND OF MIGHTY PREACHERS.—*Illus. Miss. News.*

### The China Inland Mission.

Held its 15th anniversary in Exeter Hall, London, during the "May meetings" now so well known.

In connection with the annual report a statement of the origin and work of this mission is given, which we take from the July No. of "China's Millions." The story is thus told there:—

"About twenty years ago a missionary, broken down in health after several years of labour in China, returned home for needed rest and change. The spiritual destitution of the people of China was a burden on his heart, and while on his way home, his prayer was, that 'his return to England