

## MISSION FIELD.

## CHINA.

The S. P. G. Report for 1886 says:—

"The outlook in the heathen world, as well as in our Christian Colonies, assuredly tells us that the present is no time for failing hearts or for failing incomes. Everywhere barriers are being removed from the advancing path of the Evangelist. Superstitions are losing their hold, and nations are in the attitude of expectancy. In the vast Empire of China, where not long ago the adoption of Christianity was a capital offence, recent proclamations have secured liberty as perfect as can be desired by any Missionary who confines himself to his proper work, refrains from interference with local customs, and aims at no political influence. The lengthy letter of the *Times* correspondent which appeared in that paper on January 10th, 1887, is too long for these pages. It is given in *extenso* in the *Mission Field* for February 1887. The writer states that

"During the past few months the Chinese authorities in various parts of the Empire have issued proclamations to the people calling on them to live at peace with Christian Missionaries and converts, and explaining that the Christian religion teaches men to do right, and should therefore be respected. These documents have been published in so many parts of China, that it is probable that every Viceroy in the eighteen provinces has received instructions on the subject, and that there is a concerted movement throughout the Empire to bring all classes of the population to a knowledge of the dangers of persecuting Missionaries and native Christians, and to remove popular delusions respecting the objects and teachings of Christian Missionaries."

In a proclamation issued on October 13, 1886, the Governor of the Province of Chekiang, in which Ningpo is situated, wrote:

"Know, therefore, all men of whatsoever sort or condition, that the sole object of establishing chapels is to exhort men to do right; those who embrace Christianity do not cease to be Chinese, and both sides should therefore continue to live in peace, and not let mutual jealousies be the cause of strife between them."

Another proclamation issued by Kung, the Governor of the district in which Shanghai is situated, begins by explaining that

"Under the treaties Missionaries have the right to lease ground and houses, and to travel about to preach, their sole aim being the inculcation of the practice of virtue and having no design of interfering with the business of the people. Such of the subjects of China as wish to become converts may lawfully do so, and as long as they abstain from evil-doing there is no law prescribing inquisition into or prohibition of their action."

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