

such a dead, useless form as paganism. Its Author lives, and therefore it shall live, and all who believe it. To conclude, let those who know the power of the Gospel rejoice in it, cling to it fonder and fresher than ever. Let them be forever thankful that they were not born in heathen lands where there is not a ray of hope for the life to come. While thus glad and thankful, let them think of the vast multitudes who are at this day without God and without hope in the world, and who are not to be evangelized by any sudden spurt. It will take the long, sustained effort of an adequate number of faithful men who have absolute faith in the Gospel to make any impression upon the solid phalanx of heathenism which has scarcely taken the alarm yet. As for talk about the goodness and sufficiency of heathen religions, its folly is only surpassed by its impiety. The heathen are haters of God, and so far as they have had opportunity, despisers and rejecters of the Gospel. The fruits of the flesh are painfully obtrusive among them, and those of the Spirit are conspicuous by their absence. In no way can these systems further the Gospel or be its allies. As the Gospel advanced by opposition to Judaism, so it must advance in China by stern uncompromising antagonism to all the horrid idolatry and rites of this land. This antagonism need not be unnecessarily demonstrative, but it must be there. The Christian faith can never admit that these have any standing—not even such as Judaism had, and the refusal is not only because the title-deeds of our faith declare it so, but also because the comparison proves them to be of a different origin, spirit and tendency. The one makes children of God and the others do not. Instead of men putting out their eyes, searching for dried-up grains of truth in heaps of rubbish, it would be more in the interests of the heathen to make known and magnify Him who is the life and light of the world. Let His life be

poured into the hearts of the people of China, and this shall be a glorious empire once more. The sons of Ham will then be an honest, happy people, reaping the rewards of their boundless industry in the peace of Messiah's reign, and contented in their little homes as they have never been before. The grim idols and the gruesome customs shall then be set aside, and the people in the myriads of villages throughout the Flowery Kingdom shall assemble weekly to praise the mighty God. This may be far off, and yet it will surely come. Often walking in the fields and among the cypress groves which mark ancestral graves, the thought of the untold legions who have died in this land for two hundred generations has amazed me, and I have mused sadly, wondering at their fate. They are, however, in God's hand, and the Judge of all the earth shall do right. Meantime the same process goes on, the same capacious, unsated and unwearied maw devours by the million, year by year, and shall we look on unmoved and inactive although in possession of the means appointed of God for the salvation of sinners? He who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, calls upon us to preach the Gospel to the Chinese. If we have any real appreciation of so great a salvation, if we are grateful to God, if we love His only begotten Son, we shall not neglect the heathen, and elaborate arguments shall not be needed to make the duty plain to us and to stir us up to its performance. We may prove recreant, but China shall yet be evangelized notwithstanding. The wilderness and the desert shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing. May the happy time soon come when all nations shall remember and turn unto the Lord, when the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their