

## VERY PERPLEXING.

to the heathen themselves. There is something strange and incredible in an 1800-year-old Gospel coming to millions now for the first time. It is hard to believe in a Saviour who saved us 1,800 years ago, of whom we hear only now. Often when I have been preaching to the Chinese and pressing upon them the offer of salvation, they have looked up at me and said: "If Christ is what you say he is, why have we not heard of him before?" I have never been able to give a satisfactory answer to that question. I pass it on to you. Why is it that after 1800 years of Gospel light there should be so many millions who have never even heard of the "glad tidings of great joy"? Shall we add another century to those already gone?

But there is danger of another kind in present delay. Our intercourse with eastern nations is introducing among them western thought and western science—thought and science without God—and every year's delay makes our task the harder. Besides, will the world remain the open door it is today? China may not. America and Australia are shutting out the Chinese in a very arbitrary and high-handed way, and the Chinese may retaliate by shutting us out from China. Other complications are possible and probable. But whatever the future may be, to-day China is open; we enjoy full freedom of action, the millions are waiting for the Gospel."

The Yellow River has again burst its banks in Shantung, inundating an immense extent of country. There are twelve feet of water throughout ten large governmental districts. The loss of life and property is incalculable. The government authorities at Peking are dismayed. Owing to the incapacity of the local authorities, foreign engineering skill, in order permanently to repair the channel of the river, is considered imperative.

James Anthony Froude once remarked that more noble souls have been smothered by luxury than were ever killed by hunger. Wealth has hindered the success of thousands. Turner told a rich pupil, "You would make a noted artist if you were only poor." And the late Simeon Cameron once remarked, "My son Don has had many advantages, but I had one which overbalanced all—poverty." It is quite evident, however, that many who have this blessing don't appreciate it.

## "BLUE MONDAYS."

"Pastor Miles was not given to Blue Mondays." These words, used by a correspondent in a late number of the *Journal*, are peculiarly suggestive, especially when a few lines farther on the reason is given—"Ministerial blue Monday generally comes as the result of writing sermons on Saturday nights." A few lines from one who has passed his "four-score years" and three, upon his experience in the matter may furnish thought for some of the younger men who have just entered upon their ministerial work.

The writer of these lines entered upon his ministry nearly half a century ago; and having for nearly thirty-four years, uninterruptedly seldom preached less than twice each Sabbath, and for years in succession three times, and for months together filling an *additional* appointment each Sabbath at a neighboring school house; yet, it is not in his recollection that during all this time he experienced one "blue Monday." His retirement from the regular or stated pastorate in later years was due to other causes than worn out energies; since for the last four or five years he has supplied vacant pulpits with apparently the full strength and vigor of earlier years; and up to nearly the close of last year was employed three Sabbaths out of four in supplying vacant churches, preaching twice a day without weariness. It is true, much in this experience may be ascribed to unusual powers of endurance, but freedom from mental labor and freedom from anxiety over the approaching Sabbath on Saturdays, have had more to do with his uniformly cheerful Monday. Saturday has been habitually his recreation day of the week, and which has always been followed by freshness of both body and mind on the Sabbath.

Instead of being jaded by the Sabbath labors, he has found that these only prepared him for more vigorous and effective labor in his study on Monday, accomplishing upon that day, oftentimes, more than on any subsequent day of the week. No one, except by experience, can appreciate the feeling of satisfaction and rest that attends the closing of the week's study on Friday, when both mind and body, like a bird let loose, enter upon Saturday's recreation.—*Sel.*

"Why pull down thy barns and 'build greater?' Thou hast barns enough—the bosoms of the needy, the houses of widows, the mouths of orphans.—*Sel. Ambrose.*

Bechuanaland is about the only place in Africa still free from the liquor curse.