

thirty strokes from a large bamboo, which made the blood flow down his body and legs, and was not set free until Dr. Morison paid for him a fine of seventy dollars. But his sufferings only made him more humble and more desirous to do good. And God blessed his efforts,—first in the conversion of his wife, and afterwards of several of his countrymen.

But the work in which Afa chiefly laboured was that for which he first suffered, preparing and printing Christian books. Thus he was engaged in 1834. And you must remember this date, because great things have since come out of his pious labours at that time. Now you, perhaps, have heard that all the young men in China who wish for riches and power must get a knowledge of the writings of Confucius, and of other authors. And every three years there is a public examination of students, when a great many try for prizes. There was such an examination at Canton in 1834, and wishing to do good, Afa and three of his friends went there to give away Christian books. One of these books was written by himself. It was called "Good Words to admonish the Age." Taking a large number of copies with him, this good evangelist went and stood before the Examination Hall, and gave one to every person who would take it. In this manner, ten thousand copies were given away. But these Christian men had to suffer for their good deeds. One of them was killed, another was badly beaten, and Afa was glad to flee from the city.

But a great work had been done. Thousands of Christian books had been put into the hands of people who would read them. Now, no doubt, most of these books were destroyed. Perhaps even the nine thousand, nine hundred, and ninety-nine out of the ten thousand may have done little good. But there was one copy which was *not* lost. It was a little seed, but it took root and was grown into a great tree. For amongst those who received these

books, there was a youth who had come to that examination; his name was Hung Seu Tsuen. He read that book. He thought about what he read. It gave him new ideas on the most important subjects. It taught him that there was but one God, and that an idol is *nothing* in the world. It taught him that the Son of God came to save men from sin and misery. It taught him that there was a Heaven and a Hell beyond the grave. Many years had passed away, but he did not forget what he had learned from that book. Still he wanted to know more about the same things. He went, therefore to Canton, saw a Missionary there, told him that he had got his new knowledge from a book called "Good Words to admonish the Age," which had been given him in 1834, and then he received from this Missionary farther instruction. This man is now the great chief of the Chinese rebellion. He it is who has written some of those books, and made those laws, which have done so much to change the opinions of the people, and to overthrow their idolatry.

How wonderful are the ways of God!

What great things in his Providence sometimes turn upon little ones: Here we see that a single book, written and given away by one Chinese Christian, is likely to overthrow the idolatry of the largest country in the world, and to prepare for the preaching of the Gospel to a greater number of people than dwell in all Europe, Africa, and America put together. What a great work the London Missionary Society would have done, if it had done nothing more than bring Leang Afa to know the Gospel.

**CLERGYMEN AT THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.**—There were at the beginning of April, 61 clergymen at the Hawaiian Islands; 31 Protestant, 13 Roman Catholic, and 17 Mormon.

**CIRCULATION OF THE BIBLE IN BENGAL.**—Last year 56,000 Bibles were circulated in Bengal, which was 14,000 more than in any former year.