

THE CHINESE QUESTION.

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It is with considerable hesitation and trepidation that I send an article on this question to Montreal, and especially to a journal associated with the Presbyterian Church. I can remember that immediately after my bringing the views of my constituents before the House of Commons on this matter, that one of the few bodies which condemned my contentions was the learned Presbytery of Montreal. I have great respect for the Fathers and Brethren who compose that influential Presbytery, I admire the soundness of their theology, their theological attainments, and their good works, but it seems to me that they are hardly fitted to pronounce upon this vexed question, at least in the manner indicated. While it is true that this question is looming up in all our great industrial centres, yet it is only in British Columbia where you see it in all its repulsive features, and it is British Columbians who not only ought to be heard, but who ought practically to decide what should be done with the Chinese emigrants who are coming to our shores. I have, however, in this article no expectation of converting the old—they are always hard to convert—the reason is obvious, but the “hopefuls” of the church are more plastic, and I trust that among these we may find champions, who will champion our cause worthily.

Perhaps I may be pardoned for one more reference to the older, and shall I say wiser heads of the church. Their position prompts my sympathy rather than my condemnation. Believing, as they do, in the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of man, the demand to tax, and to tax highly, a brother man coming to our fair Dominion seems, to say the least of it, unbrotherly. Perhaps stronger terms might be in order, and from a superficial consideration of the demand, might be perfectly justifiable. I can remember the time when I would