

and Se-Chuen only. The key is not to be sought for through the medium of any one, or any dozen, or any dozen dozen of petty tribes and families and clans around the border and up and down among the hills. It is therefore of inestimable importance that Christian Missions should hold Se-Chuen in force, and should do it speedily. The battle for religious ascendancy in Central Asia will not be fought and won among any of the hills and spurs of the Himalayas, but in rich and fertile Se-Chuen; not among wild and wandering tribes, disintegrated and disconnected, but among that well-organized and well-governed forty millions of one civilization and one speech who are established in the valleys of Se-Chuen, up toward the head waters and along the tributaries of the Upper Yang-tse."

Rev. Dr. V. C. Hart thus describes a visit to the great salt wells and fire wells of Se-Chuen:

"It may seem incredible that seventeen hundred years ago the Chinese of Se-Chuen possessed sufficient mechanical skill and enterprise to bore through the solid rock to the depth of from two to five thousand feet. These wells, but six inches in diameter, worked piece-meal through rocks to such depths and by comparatively clumsy appliances, present a stronger argument to my own mind in favour of the latent power of this race than do their walls and canals. I was told by a number of intelligent aged men that the wells varied from a few scores of feet to five thousand nine hundred English feet. To convince myself of the accuracy of their statements, I visited a medium-sized