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Missions in China.

There are at present eighty-six Protestant missionaries busy doing their Master's work in China. Some of our readers will remember with interest, the name of Leang Afa, who was one of the first converts to the faith of Jesus in that heathen land. This aged Chinese Christian minister, after spending many years in zealously preaching the Gospel among his fellow-countrymen, has recently been removed to his rest and his reward. His labours in the ministry are said not to have been very successful, but who can tell? we are told that the pious old man toiled on in his work, and who can tell what the final issue of his labours may be? "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and *their works do follow them.*" "For thus saith the Lord: as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed, to the sower, and bread to the eater; so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void; but it shall

accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

BOOK AND TRACT DISTRIBUTION.

We have sometimes referred to this as a very valuable means of spreading the truth in such a country as China. Most of the inhabitants of that thickly-peopled nation can read and throughout its many provinces, the same language and books are understood when *read*. But the spoken dialects differ so much in the various provinces that when a missionary has at a great cost of time and labour learned to speak so as to be understood in one province, he would after all, be quite unintelligible if he were to attempt to preach in the other provinces. We give some extracts from the Journal of Mr. Taylor, who has been making excursions into the interior for the purpose of distributing books and tracts:

"*Thursday, 19th April.*—I determined to give away a few books, if possible, to the multitude assembled. The only place I could find to stand on, to raise me a little above the immense concourse of people, and which