

me there is something inexpressibly sad in the sight. Here we have all ages, from the child of a few months old to the aged man or woman on the brink of the grave. Whatever the foreigner's feeling may be it is not difficult deciding as to what feeling is uppermost with them. Curiosity controls all others. It can be seen in their faces and inferred from their questions. As our village audience is assembling in the open air let us look a little closely at the scene presented to our gaze. We have before us fully one half the population of an ordinary Chinese village. A glance at their clothing is sufficient to convince us that they are in humble circumstances, and also to lead to the conclusion that if soap and water are abundant their real value is not known. The former commodity they know little of and it would seem as if they had little respect for the latter. It can easily be seen too that they are afflicted with a great variety of diseases, those affecting the eye being among the most common. It is quite evident also that their neglect of the ordinary laws of cleanliness and health is responsible for a considerable part of their suffering. Their ignorance of what constitutes true godliness may account for their neglect of cleanliness. There is a look of seeming contentment on their faces that surprises and pleases at first, but more careful inspection modifies the first impression. The peculiar stare that betokens the dormant or vacant mind soon forces

itself on our attention. What a faithful index of character the human countenance is! There is on many faces a look of stolid indifference that is painful to behold. We must not expect the Oriental mind to reveal itself in the same way as the Occidental does, but if it exists, and is actively exercised on proper subjects, it will reveal its presence somehow. The number of pipes to be seen tells us at once that the villagers enjoy their whiff. The blighting effect of opium can easily be marked in the sallow countenances, peculiar eyes, and wretched appearance of those who use that drug. Age seems to make the women much less attractive in appearance than the men in China. One looks in vain here for the motherly faces and hopeful dispositions that we meet so often in western lands. The heart is gladdened, however, by the presence of so many boys and girls. Alas, the prospect in store for them, apart from Christianity, is far from being a bright one. We see in those who are in mid-life and advancing years before us those who were the boys and girls of their respective generations, and a picture of what the young of to-day will be in the not distant future. The heart instinctively wishes that these were won to Christ now, and so be saved from a dreary, hopeless future, and have the inspiring prospects which Jesus sets before all who seek and find Him early.

But the audience is now assembled