

the treaty ports. Taking simply the ratio of increase, Dr. Legge, at the London Conference, said: "The converts have multiplied during thirty-five years at least two thousandfold, the rate of increase being greater year after year. Suppose it should continue the same for another thirty five years, then in 1913 there will be in China twenty six millions of communicants, and a professed Christian community of one hundred millions."

A memorable missionary conference was held at Shanghai in 1890. More than four hundred delegates, representing over forty separate organizations, were present. One decision arrived at will have a far-reaching influence, namely, to undertake the production of a Standard Version of the Bible, which, in various editions, may suit alike the scholar and the peasant. The difficulty in making such a version may be learned from the fact that the language has a singular incapacity for expressing sacred ideas, so much so, that for half a century translators have doubted what name to use for God—the Chinese tongue seeming to be Satan's master device to exclude the Gospel.—*First Hundred Years of Missions.*

#### CANADIAN METHODIST MISSION.

"For several years previous to 1890, leading men in the Church had been asking if the time had not arrived when the Church should survey the vast field of heathendom, with a view of extending the work "into the regions beyond." The suggestion took practical shape at the General Conference of 1890, when the project of a new foreign mission was favorably commended to the General Board of Missions, with power to take such action as might seem advisable. When the question came up in the General Board, it became evident that the suggestion was not premature. With practical unanimity the Board affirmed the desirableness of at once occupying new ground, and as a remarkable series of providences seemed to point toward China, the Committee of Finance was authorized to take all necessary steps to give effect to the decision of the Board."

"After careful consideration, in the light of all the information that could be gathered, the Province of Sz-Chuen, in West China, was selected. The Rev. V. C. Hart, D.D., who for twenty years had superintended the missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Central China, was secured as leader of the new enterprise, and with him were appointed the Rev. George E. Hartwell, B.A., B.D., and O. L. Kilborn, M.A., M.D., and D. W. Stevenson, M.D., as medical missionaries. The Woman's Missionary Society also resolved to enter the field, and two lady missionaries (Dr. Retta Gifford and Mrs. Brackbill) were appointed. In the spring of 1892 the missionaries reached their distant field, and for three years pursued their work with faith and patience, chiefly in the cities of Chen tu and Kiating. Then came the riots, during which all the mission property was destroyed, and the missionaries barely escaped with their lives. For a time the work was entirely broken up, but subsequently there was an investigation, the guilty officials were punished, an indemnity was paid for the property destroyed, the missionaries returned to the scene of their former labors, and at the time of the present writing (August, 1896) it is probable all the buildings have been restored. The work may be said to consist of three parts: Evangelistic, Educational and Medical—the latter two, however being most helpful to the former."

Last August Rev. W. E. Smith and wife, of the Bay of Quinte Conference, accompanied by Miss Forster, sent by

the Woman's Missionary Society, joined our mission in West China. The Cobourg District E. L. is working loyally for their support.

#### FIRST PRINTING PRESS.

Deep interest has been aroused in our Western China mission by Dr. Hart's visit to Canada during the past winter, and none who listened to his earnest words could fail to recognize the importance of pioneer work, and that it demands careful watching for opportunities to carry out Christ's command "To preach the Gospel."

In a printing press Dr. Hart saw the means by which he could "publish the name of the Lord throughout all the region," and so took back with him the first press into Western China. Tracts, sermons, portions of the Bible and Christian literature will be distributed to the people. The printing office in Chen-tu will be small. Dr. Hart intends taking a practical Chinese printer with him from Shanghai, but great results have grown from small beginning, and this press may be blessed of the Lord to do great things for the extension of His kingdom.

#### Suggested Programme on China.

- I. *China.*
  - (a) Its vast extent, resources, population.
  - (b) The people. Their characteristics, ancient civilization, conservatism and exclusiveness, etc.
- II. *Reasons for Increased Efforts on China's Behalf.*
  - (a) Few missionaries compared with population.
  - (b) Degradations due to heathen religions, superstition, ignorance.
  - (c) Evil effects of opium.
  - (d) Degradation of women.
- III. *Our Mission in China.*
  - (a) Beginning of the work in 1892 by the General Board and Woman's Missionary Society. Dr. Hart appointed Superintendent.
  - (b) Province of Sz-Chuen chosen as the field.
  - (c) Riots and their results.
  - (d) Methods of Work: Preaching, healing, teaching. H. E. WOODSWORTH.

For information see this number of the MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER; Dr. Withrow's book on "China and Its People"; back numbers of the *Outlook*.

#### This Number Contains.

Suggested programme on China.  
 Young People's Forward Movement for Missions.  
 How to Work your Plan, How to Plan your Work.  
 Names of Missionary Campaigners.  
 Special list of Districts.  
 Special list of Campaigners.

#### June Number Will Contain.

Suggested Programme of "India," this being the subject for the month studied by the Woman's Missionary Society, suggested in the *Cycle of Prayer*.  
 Articles on India for use in carrying out suggested programme.  
 Articles on Africa, which, for lack of space, are held over from May number.  
 Completed Prospectus of the Missionary Campaign for the Coming Summer.