

Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel.—Mark xvi. 15.

in the court of Egypt, the Chinese religious views were far in advance of those of Egypt, for the worship of images was not introduced until some centuries after this period. Upwards of 200 years before the call of Abraham, certain astronomical observations were recorded by Chinese historians, which have been verified by astronomers of our own times. And the oldest record of antiquity, still possessed by the Chinese, graven on the rocks of Hung Shan some half a century antecedent to this early period, was intended to perpetuate the memory of

engineering works not less remarkable for extent or difficulty than those displayed in the erection of the Pyramids of Egypt.

Since that time Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Greece, and Rome, have waxed—and waned—and passed away; but China still remains, the only monument of ages long by-gone. Some 4000 years this empire has been preserved by God.

Not alone is it remarkable for its antiquity but it commands attention for its extent. When we remember that its area (5,300,000 square miles) contains over one-tenth of the total area of the habitable parts of the globe (50,411,405 square miles). That its area exceeds 44 times that of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. (Diagram No. 1 will enable the reader to grasp their relative size.) The black square in the centre represents the relative area of England and Ireland 120,000 square miles. Or consider this great land from the stand point of

Population and we learn that China has an estimated population of 250,000,000! How immense the number! what mind can grasp it? We speak lightly of millions, and with very little realization of what the vast numbers mean. If a railway train could go twelve hours without stopping to relieve the driver or to take in water, and were to travel during the twelve hours at a uniform rate of 30 miles an hour,—seven years and a half of such travel, without a single day's intermission, would not accomplish *one million*

miles; and had a train commenced to travel at this rate on the first day of the Christian era, and continued every day since without intermission, it would not yet have nearly accomplished 250 millions of miles. Yet that is the population of China. Five times that of the whole United States. More than four times that of England. Fifty times that of the whole Dominion of Canada. (See Dia-



OLD CHINA STREET, CANTON.

gram 2 for relative populations.) Were the subjects of the Emperor of China to be marshalled in single file allowing one yard between man and man, they would encircle the globe more than seven times at its equator. Of this vast multitude it is estimated that but 22,000 are communicants in connection with Protestant Missions.

Again—think of the death rate in this land. It is estimated that over 20,000 die per day or nearly 1000 per hour. Think of it! Less than a week witnesses the death of a greater number than are to be found in any one of the largest cities in