

for their inspection. The purport of one was the brotherhood of man, founded on a common ancestry, and the fact that God was the Great Creator. He had never practised idolatry, but, in keeping with the customs of his people, he had been in the habit of sacrificing at the groves. The second paper exhibited his view of the superiority of Christianity over the prevailing systems, as being the doctrine best adapted to correct the human heart and benefit the country at large.

Such are the sentiments of not a few that one meets with. Some of the people, if not inquiring the way to salvation, are endeavouring to practise a life of virtue, and find out a better system of self-renovation. The colporteurs were greatly pleased with the man's manner and bearing, and were hopeful as to his sincerity and interest in divine things. May it be that he and others like him may find the truth as it is in Jesus! He makes the request that I will write to him and communicate the truth more fully. This I intend to do.

The following is from Mr. Thompson's diary :

At Peng Hein quite a meeting took place in the evening at the inn. A man had bought a book from somebody, and by the questions he asked it was clear he had been reading it and had been taught by the Holy Spirit. We had such an earnest time, and he, without any book, remembered the names of places and men, and would have me sit and tell him the meaning of this and the reason of that. His was a most interesting case; I was surprised at his knowledge, understanding and memory. I trust God the Holy Spirit will use the word spoken for his conversion.

Mr. Paton communicates from Swatow the following incident:—

WHAT CAME OF A STRAY BOOK.—About a year ago while an old man, a boatman, was crossing the river as it flows into the harbour at Swatow, he saw floating in the stream the remnants of a book. He immediately seized his boathook and caught it. Being acquainted in some measure with the Chinese characters, he laid it aside to be read by him after the labours of the day; and it turned out to be a few leaves of the Gospel of Matthew. He was specially attracted by the account of Jesus being able to multiply the loaves so as to feed the five thousand people. His attention being attracted by the account of that miracle, he read on and came to the conclusion that it was a very good book, and that the God whom it taught ought to be worshipped. Taking these pages home he requested his daughter to read them, and she also felt that she had been in error, and wished to find out more about how they ought to worship this God. They sought out a Christian place of worship, and went to hear more at a village near where the American Baptists have a chapel.

When their relations and fellow villagers discovered that he meant to forsake the idols, they raised such a trouble that the old man was intimidated, and dared not face their opposition. Some time after, a well-to-do female relative remembered having heard the Gospel at Swatow ten years ago; her interest was quite stirred up again, so she begged this old man to apply for some one to come and preach in her house on Sabbaths. A preacher has visited their village frequently, and now from ten to twenty meet regularly for worship. He thinks they have good evidence of being truly convinced of the folly of idolatry, and hopes they are earnest in their desire to know and serve the true God.

Quite lately two of the families interested came to Swatow and spent over two weeks living in their boat close by the entrance to the Mission Hospital. They wished thus to have the opportunity of attending divine worship morning and evening, so as to become better acquainted with the Christian doctrine and practice. Before leaving for their homes they came forward and professed a firm determination to confess Christ, whatever might be involved in such a step. Thus the finding of these few leaves of Scripture truth was