

have made most satisfactory progress. Lee, who is a tall, good-joking man about forty-two, mastered the whole system and principle within two months, and can now read correctly by touch. His writing is not so far advanced as that of the boy, who acts as his teacher. They read the Old and New Testament with perfect facility, and Sheng wrote out for me a whole page of a Chinese classic, which to my eye only presents groups of the neatest dots, which to my coarse touch are wholly undistinguishable one from the other. But there it is, a written page of a classic highly distinguished by all Chinamen, as a lesson in pure morality.

The other man, Ting, is not so acute in perception, as these two; to him learning is more difficult, and as he slowly fingers his way along the line he sometimes makes mistakes, greatly to the amusement of the other two, who read with true enjoyment, and rarely make a mistake. But Ting means to persevere, and, being a Christian, it is hoped that he will become useful as a colporteur in the distribution of Christian pamphlets. The other men, though not Christians, are so enchanted with their newly-mastered art, that they will lose no chance of reading the Scriptures to whoever will listen to them, and it is evident that the mission might be greatly aided in spreading the knowledge of Christian truths by the agency of a whole phalanx of blind men. At present, however, this is a purely personal effort of Mr. Murray's, and such pecuniary aid as has hitherto reached him has been insufficient to establish the work on a permanent footing. The work of teaching, also, is altogether outside of his official work, and he can only accomplish it in extra hours stolen from sleep, by rising early and sitting up late.

He would, however, very gladly increase his class, especially as those already taught could now become assistant teachers, and if any one feels disposed to help him in this labour of love, a gift of £10 will enable him to give one Chinese beggar a year's training; but as "mony a pickle makes a mickle," the smallest contributions will be gladly received by the Secretary of the National Bible Society of Scotland, 60, Virginia St, Glasgow.

By recent accounts from Peking I learn something of the progress of this most interesting work, which, however, can still only be carried on, on a very limited scale, for lack of means. As above mentioned, Mr. Murray commenced to work by supporting the three blind men on his own slender income. Since then five years have elapsed, and those first taught have been sent forth to work, but still the available funds are so limited that the present school only numbers six boys—a happy but small family, which might very well be augmented, but for the lack of filthy lucre. These boys are found to have a remarkable talent for music, good voices, and an excellent ear. They have been instructed in its science, and have learned to write music from dictation with extraordinary facility. When the sheet is taken out of the frame each reads off his part, and rarely makes any mistake. Their singing is said to be very attractive.

Of the pupils who have already passed through the course of study, the first boy, Sheng, was early sent out to travel for about a month in company with a native colporteur, and while the latter sold his books Sheng read the Scriptures aloud. The sight of a blind boy reading so amazed the people that they crowded round, all eager to purchase the book. After a while the boy was enticed away by a blind musician, who persuaded him that he would never be able to earn his own living if he became a Christian. But he very soon returned to his allegiance sorely grieved for having thus temporarily disappointed his benefactor.

Ting, who was already a Christian, has gone on steadily, and had one day the satisfaction of bringing to Mr. Murray a letter from one of the Imperial princes, praising the good works done by the Bible Society, and requesting that a copy of every book they had to sell should be sent to him, and that Mr. Murray should come in person to explain them.

The books proved a good donkey-load, but all were received with thanks