

city and starve them out; but just as matters were coming to a crisis word came that soldiers were coming from Foochow, and the rebels surrendered and signed a treaty of peace. How long the treaty will be kept depends on how the war terminates. No one has any confidence in their sincerity. If the war come to a speedy and satisfactory close, and the government gets on its feet, they will not dare to make disturbance; but if not, then we may expect serious trouble in this quarter, and perhaps all over the empire.

As the schools were all broken up and the scholars sent home, the lady missionaries have come to Foochow, but the gentlemen still remain to look after the work. The missionaries deserve great credit for their patience and fortitude during those trying days and nights.

We are now waiting anxiously to know the terms of peace. It is rumored that several of the European Powers will not allow Japan's claim. We only hope that nothing will be done by them to hinder Japan from completing the good work already begun. If she is left alone she will effect such material changes that many of the greatest obstacles to Christianity will be forever swept away. Crush Chinese egotism and conservatism, and with them will be buried superstition, and a wide door opened for the Gospel such as the world has never witnessed. Before China is redeemed these changes must be effected, and if Japan, as she seems to be, is the instrument to accomplish it, we bid her God-speed. During the last twelve-month she has gotten the work well under way, and we hope that nothing will be allowed to cut it short.

Whatever the terms of peace, we are confident a brighter day awaits China, and the spread of the Gospel will be accelerated manifold. The conversion of China is the greatest undertaking which has engaged the Christian Church, and the success of the enterprise hinges on the next few years. This is a crisis, a turning-point. The

years 1894-95 will be known as the birth-time of the new era, the Renaissance in China. Now is our greatest opportunity and responsibility. Will the Christian Church awake to her opportunity and responsibility as China is awakening to her need?

The past year was the most hopeful in our history. The statistics are very significant, yet they give but a faint idea of the work done and good accomplished; increase over the preceding year: Members, 616; inquirers, 1662; day-schools, 35; day-scholars, 358; Sabbath-schools, 39; and scholars, 1545. The number of Scriptures, books, and tracts sold was several times greater than last year. Two years ago on the Foochow District we had 5 day-schools with about 100 pupils; last year, 15 day-schools with about 300 pupils, but this year we have 110 schools and over 2500 boys studying Christian books. Every school is a regular preaching-place, where nearly every Sabbath and several times during the week the Gospel is preached to the parents and friends of the pupils. Most of the schools have been opened by request from the people, and there still remain places where we have been invited, but cannot enter for want of men and means. Only two days ago a man came nearly twenty miles to get me to go to his village of several thousand inhabitants to preach and establish a Christian school. Similar requests come every few days, and, oh how hard it is to turn them away with the cold answer that we have no money, or there is no one to teach you! Yet our wonderful-working God is raising up helpers beyond our highest expectations. Many more literary men than formerly are being saved who, with minds already trained, soon develop into excellent workers, either as teachers or preachers. Were it not for these men we could not enter half the open doors. On the other hand, many friends are being raised up in America and elsewhere who are furnishing the money over and above the missionary society's