

Since furlough, the Bible women on the Ramachandrapuram field have been supported by him, his munificence provided all the prizes given in all the village schools and the twenty prizes or so that are given for the Bible Prize Examination open to all the mission. Through him we had a women's training school for a short time and temporary buildings were put up for them. Some of these women are now making known the word in their different villages. We also distributed some 3,000 leaflets yearly and sold below cost many tracts, books and portions, owing to his donations.

His gifts at first were \$100 a year, but since the famine of '97-'98 he has given \$200 a year. Of the money sent for famine, some was sent to the most afflicted districts in the west and central provinces of India and some was used where the famine pinched on our own field.

Rupees one hundred have been given to help launch the "Ravi," and his last remittance was used in part in the purchase of the lot on which the "Cockshutt School for Girls" stands, a school I named in his honor, as he had done so much for our work. The building on this is only of mud and thatch and not very suitable for a school, but the site is excellent, and I was on the eve of writing Mr. Cockshutt, telling him how his last remittance had been used, when the word came that he had "gone to his reward."

Though he has lived many years, the news came as a shock to me, for the work had shared so much from his beneficence, and I had hoped that it would have been he who would have given the means for the building we hope some time to erect for the school, a two-storey building, the lower being used for a Gospel Hall and Reading room and the upper for school rooms for the caste girls in the town.

He has "gone to his reward," but the work must still go on, for it is the Lord's, and He will not suffer it to lack. "The memory of the just is blessed." "The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance."

S. I. HATCH.

MISSIONARIES INVITED BACK TO CHINA.

Inquiries are reaching us respecting the action of the governor of the province of Shan tung, China, and his invitation to the missionaries to return to that

province—the province in which the Boxer troubles last summer began. The new governor of the province is Yuan Shih-kai. This man was formerly, before the war with Japan, Chinese resident in Korea, and has long stood in close relation with Li Hung Chang. At the time of the *coup d'état* of the Empress Dowager he appeared to be in sympathy with her. He was given the governorship of the province of Shan-tung after the removal of his murderous predecessor, Yu Hsien. Yuan has suppressed the Boxers everywhere and since the fall of Peking he has continued the pacification of Shan-tung.

It seems that recently the representatives of the Southern American Baptists, the American Presbyterians and English Baptist missions sent a letter to the governor making inquiries concerning the attitude of the authorities respecting their own prospective status and that of the native Christians who had been ordered to recant, etc., whereupon governor Yuan sent to them the following letter, a letter so remarkable as to be characterized by one of the missionaries, Mr. R. C. Forsythe, who forwarded it to the *North China News*, as "the most extraordinary letter that has ever been issued by a responsible official of so high a rank as this governor, as the Magna Charta of Shan-tung."

The chief points in the letter are as follows:

"As there is now no disorder from international friction, it is the more important that former treaty engagements be looked up and carefully observed.

"All pledges of Christians to recant, whether given to officials or to persons acting as security therefor, all voluntary pledges or promises of whatever kind to the same effect, are null and void and no further account is to be taken of them. I have, moreover, instructed my subordinates to put out proclamations for the public information, lest Christians be subjected to hindrance or annoyance in the matter.

"You, reverend sirs, have been preaching in China many years, and without exception exhort men concerning righteousness; your church customs are strict and correct and all your converts may well observe them. In establishing your custom you have been careful to see that Chinese law was observed. How then can it be said that there is disloyalty?

"To meet this sort of calumny I have instructed that proclamations be put out. I propose hereafter to have lasting peace. Church interests will then prosper and your idea of preaching righteousness I can promote.

"The present overturning is of a most extraordinary character. It forces you, reverend sirs, by land and water to go long journeys and subjected you to alarm and danger, causing me many qualms of conscience.

"Everywhere (in Shan-tung) it is now quiet and the missionaries of Germany and France and other nations have returned to the interior to preach as formerly. If you, reverend sirs, wish to return to the interior, I would beg you to first give me word, that I may most certainly order the military to carefully protect and escort you."

Quite apart from the cheering assurance this letter gives us of real protection, it is also, emanating from so able a statesman, an index of the direction which he expects China, with the Empress Dowager thrown into the background, will take in the near future, or as the *China Herald* says of "how he expects the cat to jump"—*The Bap. Miss. Mag.*