

not at all in a pleasant state. Though the pirates have been driven from the district which they infested, they are broken into small bands spread over the country. Among them appear to have been numbers of the Naudiss or northern rebels. These spread over the province will militate against both peace and truth for a length of time. This will greatly obstruct the mission work in the province. But it is the work of the labourers on the ground to sow, and look to the Lord of the harvest.

CHINESE MISSION OF THE ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—We select the following particulars from the *English Presbyterian Messenger* for April.

NATIVE AGENTS.

At present we have six Chinese Christians connected with us. Of these, two belong to the American Baptist Church at Hong Kong, and were formerly imprisoned with Mr. Burns, at the Foo city of this department. Our friends at Hong Kong were desirous that we should employ them for a time, and their desire coincided with our urgent want. One of them is engaged at Swatow, the other at Tathaupo.

Another is a native of this district, who has been long a member of the American Presbyterian Church at Ningpo, and has borne an unblemished Christian character. His wife and family are living some ten miles off, at his native village, and are professing Christians. He is helpful to us, although not so directly in the work of the gospel.

Another is an Amoy Christian, who came to Double Island about the same time with myself, as a workman, and who heartily consented to remain with us at reduced wages, after his engagement for work had expired. He is approving himself a faithful and useful man.

Another is a Hakka or Kheh man, who was brought to the knowledge of the truth through means of Siboo, one of the Pechuia converts at Singapore. He is a native of this region, in all the towns of which there are Hakkas to a greater or less extent, and in two of them almost exclusively a Hakka population. He is a single-hearted, devoted man, and, I trust, will yet prove a means of great blessing to his countrymen.

Last of all is a young man from the Foo city, who has been hopefully converted, and made a public profession of his faith. He was received into the church by baptism about two months ago, and from the time of his first hearing the gospel, some six months ago, until now, has appeared to be under the Holy Spirit's teaching. Pray much for him, that God may bless him and make him a blessing.

Mr. Jones has also been given us; and just the other day, Dr. and Mrs. Carnegie touched at Swatow, in the first place, on their way to Amoy, on Mrs. Carnegie's account, but in the prospect, if it be the Lord's will, of returning, and making their home in this quarter.

The Lord's Supper has been twice dispensed at Swatow.

THE REBELS—THEIR RELIGIOUS VIEWS.

Khun Hian had been imprisoned at Ta Poo with some of the insurgents, and gathered some interesting information from them regarding the *Tai-ping-cang* party, or *Nankin rebels*. Their copy of the Decalogue,

which he saw, is identical with ours—the phraseology being slightly different. It is prefaced by a prayer for the Spirit's assistance, and terminated by a doxology to the Trinity, all perfectly orthodox. They have at present four kings, that of Nankin being the chief. In the course of this year they made an inroad on Ta Poo and Hong Sun, and at the latter place broke down all the images. It seems to be their practice first to kill the gods, and then slay the people; the former being destroyed, how can the latter hope to withstand? The report is, that they treat their prisoners well, and after they have kept them for a time give them their choice to go or stay. The report of their discipline is very favourable; their numbers seem to be great. It would be presumptuous, as well as foolish, at present to say what may be the future history of China. Many of the Chinese attribute their present miserable political condition to the effete state of the present dynasty, and regard it as at an end. In regard to the insurgents, so little is known of them that it would be difficult to form a decided opinion; but we may safely say that a body of men, comprising millions of people, whose religion is opposition to every form of idolatry, papal as well as pagan, and who make the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament the standard of their teaching, and whose own compositions, whether prayers or hymns, contain so much saving truth, and who for years have maintained their place in the heart of the Chinese empire, and seem now more consolidated than ever, we may safely say that such a body of men have a very important part to play in the purposes of Him whose kingdom is to fill the whole earth. Were the way opened up to them, one might regard them, humanly speaking, as in a state of preparation for the immediate reception of Divine truth.

Continue to pray without ceasing, on our behalf, and let thanks also be rendered for God's manifold mercies. *Plead especially for a native agency to carry the glad tidings all over this department, and to the regions beyond.* We are hitherto alone in this field; and as it opens up, our present numbers are utterly inadequate to the work before us. Oh that the Lord of the harvest may prepare and thrust forth labourers into this great mission field.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

The following appeal has been made by the United Secretaries of several Missionary Societies:

"Perhaps never were so many meetings for intercession held as at the present time. It is a holy and a happy sign: full of blessing for to-day and hope for to-morrow. In these meetings, while every home interest of the Churches is remembered, we would entreat that Foreign Missions be not forgotten.

"Pray for the Mission Field! That Field is the world. Not that labourers have yet reached every part of the field; for there are large tracts without even one; much more extensive than those occupied. Pray for those neglected fields! The harvest is thick and the days are swift; and much is failing and perishing because no reaper comes! Pray! O pray the Lord of the har-

vest, to send forth labourers into his harvest! Were our Queen to assemble all her subjects, and, placing nominal Christians on the one hand, and idolaters on the other, to propose the question: Who is God? The Lord, is He God? or the Idols, are they gods? The voices which would reply, The Lord, He is God, would be greatly outnumbered by those which would cry, The Idols, they are Gods! Pray then for the British Empire, for the conversion of its heathen States and subjects, especially in British India!

The River in which Moses was laid, the Sea which God divided,—the City in which the Saviour bled,—the Country of the seven churches,—the scenes of the Gospel's first triumphs,—are all under the power of the Moslem. Pray for the Missionaries at Jerusalem, in Syria, in Egypt, and all over the ancient Bible lands! Pray that Jew and Greek, Armenian, Arab, and Turk, may be made monuments of the saving power of Christ!

China is opening! Pray that her people may be saved, and that ours may cease from demoralizing their shores with vile traffic! Africa is becoming known: Pray that the Gospel be sounded through all her nations, and the Slave trade rage no more! The West Indies have young and struggling Churches: Pray that they may be borne through all their trials, and make a focus of light for the African Race! The South Seas have many converts: Pray that they may abide steadfast in the faith, and be enabled to spread the glad tidings to those who are still without Christ! Japan is coming into the public view: Pray that mighty wonders of grace may be displayed on its shores! British Colonies are growing into giant strength by the side of, or near to heathen lands: Pray that each of them may become a land of righteousness, a light to the region round about! Nominal Christendom is in many, many places given to idolatry, in many, full disbelief: Pray that the Spirit of Truth, poured out from on high, may overturn error, and make the pure Gospel everywhere to triumph!

"Missionaries are often lonely; one white man among blacks,—one Christian among many heathen,—one survivor beside fresh graves of departed brethren! They are often worn, and sick, and ready to faint! They are often pressed by the tempter, without home-helps and Christian fellowship: Pray that they may stand in the evil day, and having done all, may stand!

"This Christian country spends more in one year on hurtful indulgences, than is spent in many years on Missions for all the world. Pray that men may learn to sanctify their silver and their gold. Young men for the army or commerce can be found ready to serve in any country; but many shrink from the Mission Field. Pray that the Lord may write upon the heart of multitudes the command, "Go into all the world." Worldly parents give up their sons and their daughters to seek a living in the most distant lands. Professed servants of God often grudge and forbid their children to become ambassadors of Christ to those who are far away. Pray that this reproach may be removed from all the churches.

"Pray, above all, for the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon every missionary, every convert, every sanctuary, every school, every