

sionary troubles be averted in the future, but China's other troubles will also be considerably lessened, both at home and abroad.

We consider China an illustrious nation, and long ago she knew that to have a right understanding with religion was of the first importance; therefore for a thousand years—from the Tang dynasty till the present time—as Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, Mohammedanism, and Christianity arose in China they were all alike protected, and just regulations were made, by which the people lived together in perfect peace.

But in these days the Christians, in spite of Imperial Edicts and proclamations, are never allowed to live in peace.

We believe this comes to pass, because of the republication of such books as the *King Shih Wen Sü Pien*, *Hai Kwoh Tu Tze*, etc., which contain slanders against the Church and scandalous reports about Christians, in order to excite the masses. These are repeated over and over again in order to excite the readers, while the good deeds done by the Christians are altogether ignored or misrepresented as having some very bad motives, so that the readers may regard them as an Upas tree to be kept at a safe distance.

Of late, moreover, these books have been republished in a cheap form and widely sold throughout the whole Empire, and as these charges are contained in a collection of most important official papers, not only the common people, but even many of the high mandarins and scholars, cannot but believe that they must be true. Many other mischievous authors therefore copy these charges into their books, and thus the minds of the people are everywhere greatly stirred up to anger against Christians, and serious riots have occurred in provinces, resulting in loss of life and destruction of property.

But the highest mandarins must know these slanders to be false.

Those who wish to know the real aim of the Christian Church will find it in the New Testament, which contains the teaching of our Saviour Jesus Christ and of His immediate disciples. Generally speaking: it teaches that God is the ruler of all nations and father of all; that men should regard each other as brethren; it teaches obedience to lawful governments; filial and fraternal duties, and that all should endeavor to follow the Saviour Jesus Christ and carry out the will of heaven by removing the sin and suffering of all nations, by replacing war with peace, wicked-

ness with goodness, ignorance with knowledge, poverty with plenty, and by leading men also to seek the eternal joys of heaven. This we know is a far larger aim than any one government, eastern or western, has before it; therefore it cannot be easily or soon accomplished. But all Christians are persuaded that such is the will of heaven, therefore they believe it will be accomplished some day, and that, independently of any particular nationality. So in regard to all national and international affairs they endeavor by every means to promote peace, and teach that in disputes there should be a settlement by arbitration instead of war. They set apart one day in seven to teach all men the will of heaven, to show men how their hearts may be renewed, so that they may love all men of all races as brethren. The missionaries show their care for the poor by establishing hospitals, homes for the aged, orphanages, etc. They also show their care for the ignorant by establishing colleges and schools, where everything that is for the good of man is systematically taught. They also aim to remove all evil practices not only of one country but of all nations, and to help all, especially the weaker ones. The regulations of the Church are indeed so strict that no drunkard, liar, gambler, or licentious person is admitted; if at times bad people may have found their way into the Church, it is her practice to expel such whenever they are discovered to be so till they repent and reform.

Nor are the aims of the Christian Church empty aims. It has a history of nearly two thousand years, which may be examined. Christianity has been of incalculable service to European and American nations, improving the material, moral, and social condition of their peoples. Many of the most illustrious statesmen of the West are often also most earnest about the spread of the Christian religion.

In Africa peace and enlightenment of the people had completely failed till Christians took the matter up.

In the South Seas and Pacific Islands the people were barbarous cannibals till Christians went there and civilized them.

In Asia the unparalleled progress of the Indian Empire during the last century is due to the influence of a Christian nation.

In Japan the English language and Western sciences are very largely taught by the missionaries.

In China also the missionaries have translated Western sacred books, his-