

kneeled down by her little bed, and did as her father had told her.—*Christian Treasury.*

The Rebellion in China.

Everybody is ready to exclaim, "What a wonderful country China is!" And most truly it is so. Almost everything about it is wonderful. Its history, its size, its cities, its productions, its language, its laws, its customs, its superstitions, its inhabitants, are indeed wonderful. But the most wonderful thing of all is, that this great country should now be a land of darkness, wickedness, and idolatry; that, although the light of the Gospel has been shining for ages upon other nations, the hundreds of millions of Chinese should have remained until this day ignorant of the great God and the gracious Saviour. And a few years ago, it did not seem very likely that there would be any change for the better. Then the Emperor would not let any Missionary dwell in the land. But during this time the Bible was translated, and some books were printed. At last there was war with the English, and after that, servants of God were permitted to teach in five cities on the coast. Still there was little prospect of any great change taking place amongst the people until lately. But now such a change seems to be near at hand. No doubt our readers have heard something about it. If so, they know that a large army, led by five chiefs who call themselves kings, have conquered the soldiers of the Emperor of China, and have taken many cities and provinces. And it is very likely that these "rebels," as they are called, will soon change the government and customs of the whole country. All this, you may say, is no doubt important, but what has it to do with Missions? I will tell you. When we first heard of this rebellion, everybody thought that the rebels were ignorant idolaters, like the rest of their countrymen. But after a little time we were astonished to learn that they knew something about Christianity;

that they professed to believe in one God, in Jesus Christ, and in other truths taught in the Bible. It was found, also, that they knew the ten commandments, and that they were destroying heathen temples and idols wherever they went. At length, the Missionaries received some religious books which had been written in China by the chiefs, and which showed that, along with much darkness, they had some light on Scriptural subjects. For some time, nobody could tell how or where they got this light. But Dr. Legge, of Hong-Kong, has just found that out. I will tell you how it was.

You have, perhaps, heard the name of Leang Afa, the first Chinese who became a true Christian; And before I describe the way in which the rebels got a knowledge of the Gospel, I must give you a little of his history. Like most boys in China, he was sent to school when he was young, and learned to read and repeat from memory several books in his own language. After this he became a printer, and was employed by the Rev. Dr. Milne at Malacca. But at that time, and for a long while afterwards, he was an ignorant worshipper of idols, and did not like to hear the truths which the good missionary tried to teach him. But when he was twenty-eight years old he began to see the falsehood of idolatry, and to feel the need of a Saviour. This change was soon shown by his diligence in reading God's word, and his desire to understand it. And his conduct and conversation proved that he had become a *real* Christian. After this he became a most earnest and faithful teacher,—trying to do all the good in his power to his friends and countrymen. Amongst other means, he wrote books explaining the Gospel, and cut wooden blocks from which to print them. But his first attempt of this kind failed. Some policemen heard what he was doing, seized his blocks and books, and dragged away Afa himself to prison. Dr. Morison heard of this and did all he could to get him set free. But the poor fellow received