

## A CHINESE COLPORTEUR.

THE following touching narrative appears in *The Foreign Missionary*, under the name of the Rev. C. R. Mills, of Tungehow. It illustrates most vividly some features that are observed in the best of the Chinese Christians:—

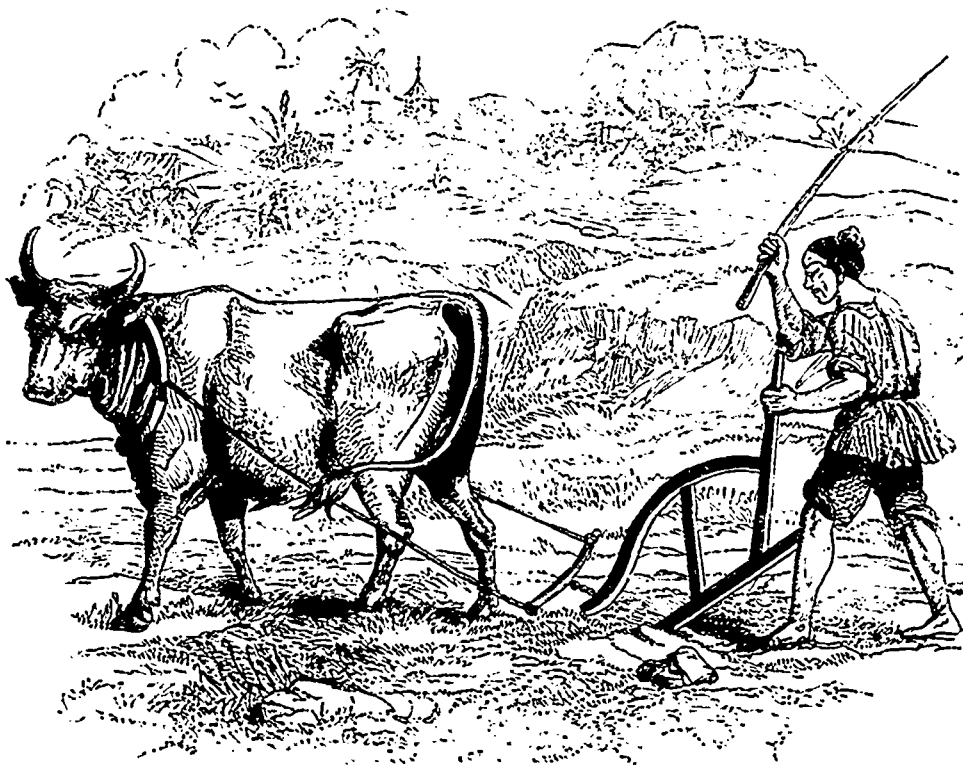
"I write this from an inn at a country village among the hills, sixty miles south-east of Tungehow. Five years ago this spring I visited this place for the first time. I spent several days visiting the surrounding villages and preaching the Gospel. I stopped at this same inn and occupied the very room I do now.

"One morning I was having prayers with my assistant, Mr. Lan, when a man about sixty-five entered the room, and greeting us very cordially, expressed his great satisfaction at meeting a minister of the Gospel,

aside the book in disgust. 'I will read no more,' said he, 'of a man who could work miracles, but who hadn't spirit enough to defend himself when spit on and abused.' But the story had a strange charm for him. He read it again carefully. At last he got to understand the vicarious nature of Christ's suffering.

"And then his admiration and gratitude knew no bounds. He resolved to serve this Saviour, who, for our salvation, was buffeted and spit upon and nailed to the cross. Presently he discovered that his character was very far from Christ like. One by one he mentioned to me his faults, and how he turned from them, that he might imitate Christ.

"I learned afterwards from the villagers that this story was strictly true. He had been fond of gambling, given to lawsuits, and was grasping, unjust, and revengeful. In all these respects he had changed



and stating that he had long desired it above all things, I asked him to join us in our reading and prayer, which he did, after which he told us his story.

"He said his name was Sun Hyoa Yang; he lived in this village, which is called Tong Kin Puh, and had a vegetable garden. Several years before (I think eight) a man passed through the district selling Christian books. For a few cash less than a cent he had bought a little tract of a few pages. I think it must have been 'Paul's Discourse at Mars Hill.' He was led to buy it by the unusual clearness of the type. He read it and was interested.

"Others in the region had bought larger books, and from them he got, I think, the Gospel by Matthew, the Gospel by Luke, the Acts, and Romans. He read the Gospel history as far as the crucifixion, and threw

entirely. Moreover, he tried to be actively useful. The villagers said he was a perfect saint; they had never seen anything like it.

"All this time he had never seen a preacher, and but two Christians, and then only transiently as they passed through his village. I was delighted with the man, and so was Mr. Lan. I gave him a New Testament, asked him to come to Tungehow the next time we had a class of inquirers. He came the following autumn, and was baptised. The following spring I left for a visit to the United States. During my absence Dr. Martin set him to work as a colporteur. He was faithful and zealous, and eminently unworldly.

"This spring, at his earnest request, we started a boys' school in his village. He entered into this enterprise with characteristic enthusiasm, giving a room