

## THE CORN AND THE LILIES.

Said the corn to the lilies,  
 "Press not near my feet,  
 You are only idlers,  
 Neither Corn nor Wheat.  
 Does one earn a living  
 Just by being sweet?"

Naught answered the lilies,  
 Neither yea nor nay,  
 Only they grew sweeter  
 All the live-long day,  
 And at last the Teacher  
 Chanced to come that way.

While his tired disciples  
 Rested at his feet,  
 And the proud corn rustled,  
 Bidding them to eat,  
 "Children," said the Teacher,  
 "Life is more than meat."

## FIELD STUDY FOR MAY.

## Our Chinese Mission.-- 1892-1897.

WE will assume that all readers of the PALM BRANCH are familiar with much of the history of China, and so, though the subject is so full of interest that we might fill many columns in describing the wonders of this strange land and the peculiar customs of its people, we must leave our young friends to search out and learn these facts for themselves.

It is a country of the very oldest civilization, and has been practically closed against all other nations until this nineteenth century.

In 1840, England, in resentment for some indignities, declared war against China, and the Chinese being defeated were obliged to submit to a treaty which compelled them to open several ports for trade, thus making it possible for missionaries to enter.

In 1807, Robert Morrison, the first Protestant missionary to China, was sent by the London Missionary Society, and within fourteen years he had translated the Bible into the Chinese language. English and American Societies have established Missions in the different parts of the Empire, and now, our own beloved Canadian Methodism "holds a fort" in the far west of China.

In 1891, Dr. V. C. Hart, a returned missionary from China gave such a thrilling description of the ignorance and superstition of the people and their need of Christianity, that the hearts of our Methodist people were stirred with deepest sympathy, and it was decided that our church should open a Mission at Sz. Chuen as soon as possible. Student volunteers had been waiting and longing for this opportunity, and when Dr. Hart consented to return to China as leader of our advance guard in, 1892, five brave young Christian workers gladly obeyed the call to work in this far-away corner of the Master's vineyard. These pioneers were soon joined by two ladies sent out by our Woman's Missionary Society, and after their arrival in China for a time all were busy studying hard to acquire the difficult language so that they might tell the "old, old story of Jesus and His love," to the Chinese.

The record of the work accomplished in one short year reads like a fairy tale. A reading room opened and thousands of people attracted by it to read and purchase such books as Christian Missionaries had for sale.

A dispensary had been opened—an excellent property had been secured—twenty-nine pupils, nine of whom were girls, attended the day school, and learned with great eagerness, a Bible lesson and prayers commencing the daily studies. Mrs. Hartwell says: "Chinese boys and girls can be taught to sing very sweetly and correctly."

Dr. Kilborn wrote: "In our medical work we have ready access to the hearts of a great multitude of the people of this city and surrounding country." These were the hopeful words of the report for 1893. During the next year the Missionary force was strengthened by new recruits from Canada, and the pioneers became 'homesteaders'—happy family life being once more the coveted privilege of these isolated foreigners. Little children were given to these Christian homes, and were welcomed as precious blessings—an object lesson which the Chinese need to learn. The report for 1894 was full of encouragement, the various departments of work being successfully carried on.

The Missionaries were full of hope and courage and the Society at home rejoiced to know that God was crowning their work with His own blessing—when a message came, brief, but significant, "China—Property all destroyed, lives safe." With aching hearts we waited to hear the worst, and soon the particulars of that dreadful riot of May, 1895, told us of the sudden attack of the infuriated mob and the escape of our missionaries, though the cruel hatred of their enemies made it necessary for them to leave the place as soon as possible.

Months of trial followed. Some of the little party who were among the pioneers returned to Canada, the others remained at Shanghai until 'Government' should determine the question of 'Rights.' God has "made the wrath of man to praise Him" Within two years our Methodist Mission was re established, the financial loss had been paid by the Chinese government, desirable properties were secured,—hospital and dispensary work, schools and printing press were all in prosperous condition. The Missionary staff is larger than ever before, and now we hope and pray that the blessings of Christianity may be the joy and comfort of those who in their ignorant heathenism "had no hope and were without God."

Lunenburg.

C. A. H.

## QUESTIONS FOR MAY.

- What is left for our young friends to do?
- How was China opened and in what century?
- Will you tell what you know of Robert Morrison?
- What part has Canadian Methodism in China?
- What stirred the hearts of the Methodist people?
- Who were the first to go in response?
- Who joined them in 1893?
- How does the record of the work read?
- Will you tell of the Reading Room, Dispensary, School?
- What does Mrs. Hartwell say of the Chinese boys and girl?
- What was the report for '93?
- What happened next year?
- What object lesson did the Missionaries give the Chinese.
- What message came from the mission in '95? Describe the danger?
- What followed? How did God bring good out of the evil?
- What is the prospect now?