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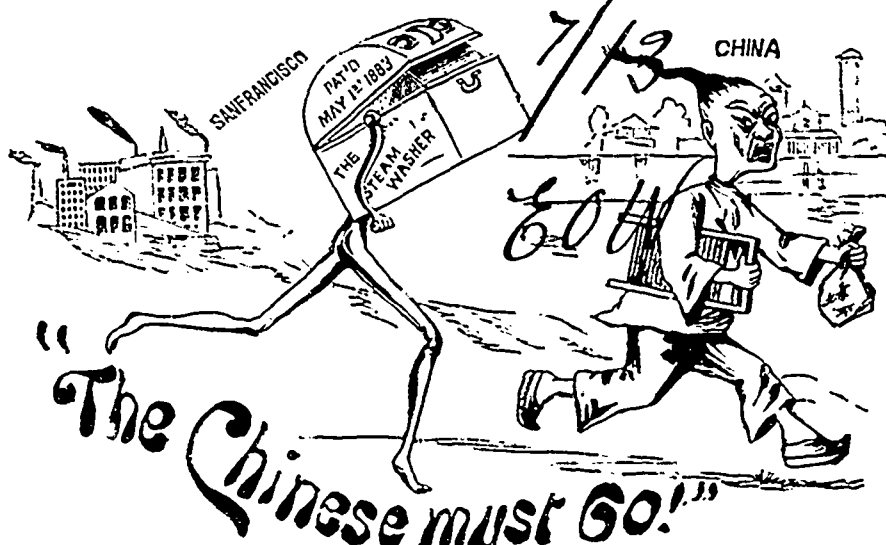
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THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

LETTER FROM HONAN.

The following letter from Rev. D. McGillivray was recently received by Rev. Dr. Kellogg: I trust you will pardon me for so long silence relatively to St. James Square Church, although I have not been silent altogether as regards the rest of the Canadian world. Long silences are venial, are they not, when the neophyte is toiling up the hill, all eyes to see the broad plain on the other side, in which he is to labour. Besides there are so many of us now that if all are always writing, Honan Presbytery lately constituted would fill the eye of the church to the exclusion of our other missions. Honan Presbytery is organized. The only thing we lack is congregations! May we have faith to see these even now, and may all be honoured in calling out the chosen of God in Northern Honan. The first Session of Presbytery was characterized by the utmost cordiality, which, I hope, may be the normal for all time to come. I know some of us are prepared to "eat bitterness" to any extent if only the unity of the Spirit may be preserved. Looking at the Honan Presbytery as an outsider, I can safely say that, as far as I know the members, if harmony is at all possible in the field of missionary activity, it is assured here. But we must not prophesy too closely. What a house we are! One bachelor, two single ladies, married men and married women innumerable. And all outside the promised land, with not a foot our own, in actuality. Did a new mission ever begin with such a staff? I tremble sometimes when I think of it. So much money has already been expended. What if the Master should not allow us for years to settle in Honan. But that is a great if, which faith would not allow to intervene. The Committee and the Church have great faith that we will go in, or I presume they would not have staked so much on it. Next spring Goforth and Dr. Smith go to Wee Hue Fu and Dr. McClure, and I to Chang Te Fu to continue the work done this fall. We are very anxious to rent a place in both cities this spring, or at latest next fall. Engage the prayers of your dear people, both publicly and privately, in our behalf. Ask the Boys' Missionary Society and the Sunday school, through dear Mr. Kerr, to pray for us.

The Presbytery resolved to ask the Committee to give us one native helper for each station. Raw fellows like us cannot get on without at least one helper to advise and preach for that matter. The Presbytery thought the sum necessary, say \$60 annually for each, could be secured privately. I was rash enough to say that St. James Square would probably be glad of the opportunity to support my helper. It remains for you to say if I was too hasty in engaging you. Goforth and I began preaching in Chapel here a month or more ago. Goforth is making rapid progress, each succeeding time being better understood. As for myself I plod on. My present room is general Chinese, guest-room of this compound, and I perhaps hear more Chinese in a day than English. As the Chinese say, I am "one mouth, one body," and fancy I have many advantages over our married brethren, whom I see labouring over stovepipes and boxes of foreign stoves and other household impedimenta too numerous to tell. I think all the men will acquire Chinese readily. The McDougalls, McKenzies and McVicar all begin housekeeping, and it is very hard work. My knowledge of household expressions is constantly tested beyond endurance, e.g., I am asked to tell the cook to make finger biscuits and puddings, using barley corn, not too much lard, the crust of the pie, etc., etc. This department I never studied much. But they get on. The river here has not yet frozen over, but we have had winter cold. I have often wished for a collection of pictures, illustrating foreign things for the Chinese. If the Boys' Missionary Society would collect out of old illustrated papers such pictures as you would judge suitable for Chinese, and send out by post, I could paste them in a book, and save freight. Probably the boys would like some job of this sort. Home pastors will be now, I presume, engaged in winter work of all kinds. May much blessing attend St. James Square in their work. As this leaves me all the mission are well and busy.

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INDIA.

The Bombay papers report a lecture by the Rev. J. Small, Poona, on the religious field in India, the forces at work, and the obstructions. He asked the audience to follow him in thought down the length of Main Street. There, said he, they would find represented every religion professed in India—the Hindu, the Mohammedan, the Buddhist, the Parsee, the Jain, the member of the Brahmo Somaj, and the Christian. To this mixed multitude, entirely different in their religious beliefs, their customs and manners, the missionary has to present Christ. Taking all things into consideration, we may safely say that one hundred years of mission work in India is not the great length of time which some would make it appear. Amongst the drawbacks Mr. Small stated that the low type of Christianity prevalent in these days was calculated to hinder the progress of Christ's kingdom. An important point referred to the number of Jesuits who are pouring into the country from Europe. This, Mr. Small called, a great rock ahead, to which the various Christian bodies must not close their eyes. The day may not be far off when the Society of Jesus, which by no means cherishes a meek and lowly spirit, will prove itself to be not an insignificant power, as so many regard it. Mr. Small urged his hearers, each in his own way, to make some effort to extend the cause of Christ, that they may share the honour of those who are striving to raise India out of its present darkness.

WAIHIT, the writer of the following message, translated from Aneityumese and read to the Free Church Foreign Mission Committee, is now one of the oldest converts on the island. Before any white missionary was settled on Futuna, this man went to live among his heathen brethren there. They expressed their dislike of the Gospel message by refusing to supply him with necessary food; so observing a pig-track on the hill-side, and following it, he contented himself with pig's food until he obtained relief. Two years ago some Futuna youths came to live on Aneityum; and Waihit assured them that if ever their food was exhausted they should have a share of what he had. Moreover, having a good knowledge of the Futunese language, he held a Bible class with them every Sabbath morning. The following is his letter: Dear Brethren, I am an old man now; I was with Mr. Geddie when the Gospel message was first brought to our land. I am anxious to have my thoughts conveyed to you regarding the mission on Aneityum. There are few of the first converts left now to take a leading part in the worship of Jehovah. Many of the younger generation have been taught to read and write, but their conduct is not straight, the way of living is uneven. They are like a fallen orange—the colour and appearance is good on one side; but we find on turning it round that the destroying insect has been at work and rendered it unfit for use. So with our young men; they are not to be depended upon; they are not able to remain steadfast without the aid of a missionary.

Dr. Geddie died, Dr. Inglis has retired, Mr. Murray had to leave us because his wife's eyes failed, Mr. Annand was removed to Santo, and now Mr. and Mrs. Lawrie are leaving us for a season. Should sickness or accident prevent their return to us (for we know not the way of the Lord), I beseech you, brethren in the Church of Christ, leave us not to ourselves, without some one to superintend the work of God on Aneityum.

Speaking for myself, I rejoice greatly in my heart for the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ and His dying to save us. I was a heathen man; I knew what heathenism was; the kingdom of the devil was strong in this land; but our God was able to bring it down and set up His own kingdom instead, that our souls might be saved. I often say that our young men know not what they do when some of them try to bring back former superstitions.

It is my fear for the safety of the Church of Christ here that makes me (as a representative elder) dictate this message to you. I am nearly blind, but I can grope my way, and I always attend church; for my missionary told me that, although nearly blind, I can still hear and think and speak. I am not disobedient to that counsel, and, as far as I am able, continue to assist in the work of Jehovah. My words to you are done.