

1881



1893

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" THIS IS THE VICTORY, EVEN OUR FAITH."

N.B.—Communications for this Department post-marked after the 18th of the month will appear in following month.

N.E.—All subscriptions for the OUTLOOK must be sent to the Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto.

N.B.—Certificates of Life Membership may be obtained by addressing Miss Ogden, Room 20, Wesley Buildings.

Our Monthly Reunion.

PRAYER TOPIC.

For the Chinese Empire; all the Chinese on this Christian continent; our work in British Columbia; and those sent by our Church to China as missionaries.

"And it shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it.

"And many people shall go and say, Come ye and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. And he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths."—Isaiah ii. 2, 3.

CHINA is considered to be the greatest and most important mission field in the world, and the Chinese, as a people, are attracting the attention of the thoughtful among us in a very marked degree. When we reflect that the population numbers about 400,000,000, we realize how much effort, and how

steady, faithful and persistent that effort must be which seeks to set up the Christian standards in that country. Forty different organizations are laboring in that field, but one may well say, "What are these among so many?"

Rev. William Ashmore, of Swatow, describes the Chinese as a people of one language, one literature, one religion, one code of laws, one governmental administration, and one system of usages and social order. There are variations of dialect, yet no less than one hundred and fifty millions of them use one dialect. Dr. Ashmore says, "Of all the nations mentioned in ancient history and holy writ—and there were not less than seventy of them—only two survive to-day; one of them is scattered among the nations, the other is China." Our readers will be interested in the doctor's statement that "the key to great central Asia is Sychuan." The following are some of the reasons adduced by this writer in support of his contention that China is the most important mission centre to-day:

Their ability to endure vicissitudes, being physically tough and wiry, so that they readily adapt themselves to circumstances of change. Their intellectual make-up, one distinguishing characteristic of which is common sense. Not fanciful or whimsical, they are won to a cause by its practical value; and conclusions reached are retained with a "grip."

With the record of a mighty historic past, one can but believe that in the great world's future China may, in the providence of God, play an important part. It behoves the Christian world to move upon that great country in the name of King Immanuel, planting His standards and developing His teachings, and so influencing the thought and life of the people that Christianity may become a determining factor for their national life. In considering any of these countries from the standpoint of mission fields, we cannot forget the English populations who from purposes of trade and commerce, are found amongst them, and of whom missionaries on the ground so frequently speak as by their lives and conduct neutralizing the missionaries' work. Should we not remember all such in our prayers? To the oriental mind there is always a difficulty in distinguishing between the nominal and the real Christianity. There are said to be about fifty thousand men and women in China who have made an open profession of the Christian faith, given satisfactory evidence of change of heart, and been admitted to membership in the several Protestant churches. In addition, there are probably a hundred thousand more who are regular attendants at churches, and these gains have resulted from only twenty-five years' work. Surely this is encouraging.

The Chinese of this Christian continent have certainly a claim upon us, not only for prayer but for an earnest and intelligent interest in their case. Prejudice is the most unyielding of all influences that operate upon the human heart, and the prejudice against the Chinese has helped two nominally Christian countries to legally violate God's primary law of the brotherhood of the race. Did He not make of one blood all the nations of the earth? How hard