

PRAYER CARD LEAFLET

SUBJECT FOR PRAYER.

OCTOBER.

Great Empire of China, and the Chinese people scattered
over the world; for the thousands of these foreigners in British
India, that abundant success may attend all missionary efforts to
civilize them; for Miss Leake, and the inmates of the
Asylum for the Blind, that their way may be opened up for service in
the East; that many more may be
induced to enter the Refuge.

Had it not been so near the close of the nineteenth century of the
Christian era, there are immense tracts of our globe, either wholly destitute
of, or most inadequately provided with the means of grace, and the
knowledge of salvation. Never before in the history of the Church, has
the command of the risen Lord been so frequently urged as now, "Go ye
into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Until re-
cently, comparatively little was known of the vast millions in the Empire
of China, who are in beatific darkness. The population of China is
estimated at four hundred millions, of which, perhaps twenty-five thousand
are communicants in Protestant churches. Four hundred and thirty
missionaries of the Conference which was held at Shanghai, in July, of
this year, constrained by the love of Christ and sympathy for the multi-
tudes, "Scattered as sheep without a shepherd," sent out an earnest and
unanimous appeal to the home churches for one thousand missionaries
for China. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few,
pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth labour-
ers into His harvest." The best methods of reaching the women and
training of native female evangelists, was discussed by the lady mission-
aries present. Ministers declared that the women of China can only be
reached by women, and that the permanent Christianization of China de-
pends on the women, that their work is root work, and can only be done
by their going through the country reading and teaching. Mr. Taylor,
related an instance in which a lady succeeded in getting a house, when a
male missionary had been unable to get inside the city walls, and said
that when she went home a married missionary was enabled by her in-
fluences to carry forward the work. The value of the work done by lady
physicians, and the demand for nurses of them, was also prominently
brought out at this Conference. The condition of women in China is truly
pitiable, no missionary fully acquainted with it, would dare tell the story
to a mixed audience. In the respectable class polygamy prevails,
and female infanticide is said to be common, and daughter frequent. The cruel
custom of bandaging the feet is still continued, without regard to the
untold anguish of the innocent victim. The love which the Lord declared,
would cause a man to forsake father and mother and cleave only to his
wife, is God's gift to all alike. The mother love, the affection for parent,
brother, sister and home, a common inheritance; but, with no one to regard,
or enforce these God-given affections, they are broken and trampled upon.
Consider the enforced idleness and confinement which is the portion of
the women, "without God and without hope in the world," and no know-
ledge of "The man that shall be as a hiding-place from the wind, and a
covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow
of a great rock in a weary land." Will not you, dear reader, ask yourself,
is there anything I can do to change this dark picture? Yes, you can pray
that they may be speedily delivered from this bondage and occupy the
position you do, in the home and social circle, through the power of the
gospel. You can help to support a medical lady or teacher, if you cannot
do yourself. "If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death,
and those that are ready to be slain, thou sayest, behold we knew it
not; doth not He that pondereth the heart consider it? and He that keepeth
the soul, doth not He know it? and shall not He render to every man
according to His works."