

THE REBIRTH OF CHINA

A New Era in Human History

By Rev. John Mackay

The clocks in our homes strike the hours to remind us of the passing of the old and the coming of the new periods of time, but no clock strikes to call attention to new eras in human history. These eras pass swiftly into being, as part of the moving drama of our crowded lives, and only to the eyes of spiritual insight do they show their stupendous significance.

The other day when Dr. Sun Yat Sen was declared president of the Republic of China such an era dawned, an era pregnant with significance for the whole human race.

The line of development of which our civilization is the fruit has been confined almost exclusively to one half of the globe. The great classic which has moulded our modes of thought and our moral ideas is the Bible, and it has only one doubtful reference to the Ultimate East. Side by side with it has come to us the treasures of Greece and Rome, and these all deal with the Western world, so that our thought and our traditions are all rooted in scenes enacted by races of various shades of white.

But long before any of these civilizations in which our root had their being, an Empire of steady, patient, hard-working people was in existence beyond the great Divide of Asia in the wide fields of China, an Empire with the arts and industries far in advance of its Western compeers.

From time to time the two halves of the world met. The West got glimpses of China to be filled with admiration for its orderliness and steady development; China got glimpses of the West, only to be filled with disgust for its rapacity and its coarse brutality, until she settled down with well founded contempt for the cruder races beyond the home land.

Ptolemy, writing in the Second Century A.D., says of the Chinese: "The people are civilized, mild, just and frugal, eschewing collisions with their neighbors and even shy of close intercourse,