

strange thing : Confucianism is now and will be in future the most serious obstacle to the progress of Christ's Kingdom in China. Whatever truth there may be in Confucianism, it is not such as prepared China to accept a higher and better system. There is nothing broad enough, sympathetic and loving enough in the Sage, to lead us to suppose that he would rebuke his disciples for their attitude to Him who is the Truth, if he were living in China to-day.

We arrived at Lin Hsein late in the evening and took up our quarters in an inn right inside the south gate of the city. Next morning being Sabbath we went out to the fair, and sold a great many books to the people there. It can scarcely be called selling books, as the charge is merely nominal and intended to turn away people who would take the books to destroy them or put them to other uses. Not infrequently Chinese windows are found with panes made from Christian books. The people were somewhat restless at the fair, as the weather was cold. Now and again a group would listen well until something else arrested their attention, and then they would all rush away like a herd of cattle stampeding. Chinese teachers were out in good numbers, and did not conceal their contempt for the 'foreign devils.' A wicked leer, and a piercing look as if to frighten us, indicated the elevation from which they glanced at us. I am often wondering what the Lord, who spoke so severely to the scribes and Pharisees, would say to a crowd of Chinese teachers. Indeed, it is difficult to see how He could live even three years with them without breaking His great heart. Can these conceited, scornful, cruel men, without love of God or man, and with the mark of Satan on their leering countenances, be the blind guides of China and her people? A very pleasant lad not more than fourteen years old, dressed in fine silks, came where I was and asked for books. I gave him a copy of a book by Mr. Milne, one of the pioneer missionaries of this land. He was as fair a lad as I have seen anywhere. It saddened me to think of his fate. Into that youthful mind will be instilled for the next ten years all that can make a man sordid, mean, unkind and cruel. He will be as proud as Lucifer, and as false too. His frank and beautiful face will be changed and transformed into these inhuman faces which scorn to smile and from which the blush of shame long since departed. I think of the same lad in some homes that I have known. He would be the pride of the family. He would probably grow up to be a man strong in mind as well as well as in body—a man with a loving, kindly heart. He would know ten times more than he can ever know in China, yet he would not be a detestable and conceited prig. He would be the friend of man and the servant of God, and whereas he is now the heir of destruction, he would then be the child of God and a joint-heir with Christ of glory everlasting. What ex-