

FIELD STUDY FOR OCTOBER.

The Chinese Empire occupies a great portion of land in Central and Eastern Asia, and is, in itself, larger than all Europe.

It is made up of China proper, or the eighteen provinces, Manchuria, Mongolia, Thibet and part of Turkestan. China Proper is the most densely populated and the most important, and it is this part of the empire that is generally meant when China is mentioned.

Pekin, the capital, is in the northeast corner of China Proper, and is a little over a hundred miles from the Gulf of Pi-chi-li.

The people of China were partially civilized long before the time of Christ, but in all the centuries since they have not developed, because they have held themselves aloof from all other nations, being perfectly satisfied with themselves, and looking upon all others as barbarians.

The war with Japan, a few years ago, was a great shock to their self-conceit. The teaching of missionaries has opened the eyes of many, and at last China is waking up.

But as yet comparatively few are anxious to learn from other nations, and the large majority are passionately opposed to everything foreign, and wish for nothing so much as to be left to themselves to sleep a little longer.

The hatred of foreigners has increased with the years, and a few months ago a large secret society, called "Boxers," pretending to be very patriotic, determined to drive them all out of the country. The Chinese government either could not or would not control the "Boxers," so foreign governments at once sent ships with armies to protect their people there. Help did not arrive in time to prevent the murder of some, and much suffering to many.

While we await the outcome of it all, we can only pray that God will work through the Christian nations to bring China closer to Himself.

N. B.

E. E. C.

QUESTIONS FOR OCTOBER.

Where is the Chinese Empire?

How does it compare in size with Europe?

What are its great divisions?

Which of these is most important?

What is generally meant when China is spoken of?

What is the capital? Where is it?

Tell what you know of the people of China.

By what means have some of them been aroused?

How do the great majority feel toward foreigners?

How has their hatred of foreigners lately been shown?

What have foreign governments been compelled to do?

What may we do for China at the present time?

"THE BOXERS."

The boys and girls of this age should read and watch carefully the current events, as the results of what is now going on in our new possessions, in South Africa and China, will be of much interest and perhaps of great responsibility to those who will be men and women in a few years. Towns, rivers and people whose names were unknown a few years ago, are now becoming familiar, and in the latest developments in China we are asked to read names that we never tried to read on the tea-chests and the wrappers of the firecrackers.

Let us learn how to pronounce Tien Tsin, Wei-Hai-Wei, Hankow and Shanghai, and then ask God to teach us the lesson He would have us all learn from the disturbed condition of so many countries.

Rev. W. O. Elterich, Chefoo, China, in the Presbyterian Banner, gives an explanation of the Boxers' society, which, we think, will interest our readers. It is a secret society, the members of which go through a drill in which they invoke certain spirits by incantations, and then beat their bodies with a brick to harden the body until they can endure pounding by knives without injury. This drill gives them the nickname of Big Knife. They call themselves "The Society of United Boxers," and are supposed to have an incantation of 19 characters. Those who know eight, can fight ten thousand men, and those acquainted with seventeen or eighteen, can pull down foreign houses as easily as they can move a tea box. They try to make the people believe all this by allowing friends to fire guns at them, but which they manage so as not to injure. Their motto is, "Protect the dynasty, exterminate aliens." Now the reason these men are becoming so dangerous is because the sympathy of the Chinese government is with them, and the lives of the missionaries are in great danger. Pray every night dear children, that they may be protected and that God will restrain these evil men and teach Christian nations to come to the rescue without fear.—[Junior M. M.]

TO OUR READERS.

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