

IN FAR OFF FIELDS.

BY MRS. DAVIDSON.

(Continued.)

BUT of all the heathen lands which demand the attention of the people of Canada Japan and China seem to claim the first place. From being far removed, they have suddenly become nearly connected with us.

The Chinese force themselves on our attention. They come over in numbers to our country, for there are now 30,000, in the City of Victoria, British Columbia.

Has not the Providence of God, "who wills that all men should be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth," brought them to us? Has not the great Ruler of nations a design in thus thrusting them under our notice?

Representatives they are to us of a nation of 405,000,000 of people, (this, assuming that they all come from China Proper.)

Four hundred and five millions! What do we understand of such numbers?

Two illustrations may help us to grasp the immensity of the number.

Suppose these people of the eighteen provinces of China Proper, were to stand with arms outstretched, clasping each others hands, they would encompass the earth at the equator sixteen times!

Again, it is computed that of the people that die daily in the whole world, every fourth is a Chinese, and that twenty-one thousand die every day.

It is only during the last thirty years that this densely populated country has been open to our missionaries.

As, when the Israelites of old, came to the Red Sea, the word of the Lord went forth "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward," even so now by His providential opening of this great country, teeming with its millions of idolaters, the same Lord says to us "Go forward." Difficulties there are in the path, great and manifold, but they will vanish before the power of our Commander and Leader. The waters shall stand on an heap, when the feet of the faithful heralds of the Truth, step boldly in, bearing the Ark of the Covenant represented by the Holy Word and Sacraments which are committed, not only to our faithful keeping, but to our active and speedy dissemination. We have to act, God will give the blessing.

When Dr. Morrison (who first translated the Bible into Chinese), went to China in 1807, a wealthy merchant asked him tauntingly, "Do you expect to make an impression on the idolatry of the great Chinese Empire?"

"No, sir," said Morrison, "but I expect that God will."

The faith of the same man was put to a severe test, for it was seven years before he could baptize a single convert! But his confidence in God remained unshaken, he worked on, the foundation was laid whereon others could work. *God's work has made, and will make its way.*

From 1807 to 1842 the work was all preparatory. In 1842 Hong-Kong was ceded to the British, and the five ports were opened to all nations.

England and America at once sent out missionaries, but their still restricted work was difficult, and unacceptable to the Chinese, who regarded them with aversion and jealousy.

But by the treaty of 1861 the principles of the Christian religion were recognized as good; and it decreed:

"Hereafter, those who quietly profess and teach these doctrines shall not be harassed or persecuted on account of their Faith."

Thus was a great door and effectual opened. That door has been entered by some 500 missionaries of whom 120 European and native are under our three Bishops. Of the nature of their work, hear what the American Consul, Col. Deuby says (specifying at the same time that he does not address the churches, but as a politician he speaks to the world at large.)

"Believe nobody when he sneers at the missionaries; that man is simply not posted in the work." He then goes on to speak of the benefit of the schools "under the shadow of the 'forbidden city'" mentions twenty-three hospitals, superintended by mission doctors, on small salaries, two at their own charge," and concludes, "it is difficult to say too much good of the work in China."

An appeal has lately been made for one thousand such missionaries, who (we are told), if they can follow the Chinese mode, can live on \$200 a year each. Comforts are not asked for, the appeal is for men and women, and the bare necessities of life. The work is now most encouraging, but for lack of means it can only extend, in the most primary way, to about one-tenth of the country. The brave men and women of the Inland China Mission, now some 500 in number, have travelled through an immense tract of unknown country, publishing the Gospel, but they need the fulness of Gospel ordinance for themselves, and for those whom they are bringing to a knowledge of Christ.

Our own th. Bishops of Mid China, North China and South China (fancy the size of those Dioceses), are working hard; educating and sending forth native evangelists, teachers and medical men, and establishing hospitals.

A Chinaman who was restored to health at the lately established hospital at Mingpo and at the same time was converted to the Faith, returned to his native town, Dagib, invited missionaries there, helped them to the utmost of