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It will be valuable in the near future and more valuable as the Young People's Forward Movement for Missions advances



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## China.

### POPULATION.

Various estimates have been made of the population of China. The Chinese ambassador at Paris stated it to be four hundred millions. Dr. Legge, forty years a missionary in China, and now professor of Chinese in the University of Oxford, thinks no one can say anything more definite than this.

Several expedients have been adopted by various writers on China, to enable the mind to take this "great idea" in, such as the following. If one should count two thousand an hour, day and night without stopping, it would take him twenty days to count one million—and yet China contains four hundred millions. The population is more than six times as large as the United States. The population of Great Britain, the United States, Germany, France and Russia combined only make sixty-one per cent. of the population of China. Should all come over to the Dominion at once the Canadians would be out-voted eighty to one. If all the world were placed in a row, every fourth man, woman, or child would be a Chinaman, a Chinese woman, or a Chinese child; in other words, to evangelize China means to evangelize one-quarter of the population of the globe. Thirty-three thousand (more than in the city of London, Ont.) die every day; and as many as the population of the whole Dominion are buried every five months.

### EXTENT AND RESOURCES.

China can be dissected into one hundred and four Englands, or one hundred and seventy six Scotlands; it is seven times the size of France, and has one plain greater by half than the German empire. One river is larger than even the Mississippi. Lay China on the United States and it will overrun into the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. It is divided into eighteen provinces, each one, on an average, nearly as large as Great Britain.

Its coal fields are twenty times greater than those of all Europe. The conditions of its climate and soil have made intercourse with the rest of the world needless, teeming millions having been sustained there since the patriarchal age.

### HISTORY.

When Abraham was leaving Ur of Chaldea, Chinese astronomers made observations which have since been verified. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome have all risen and fallen since its history began. With the mariner's compass, porcelain and gunpowder, the Chinese were familiar hundreds of years in advance of other nations. They were dressed in silk when the inhabitants of Britain wore coats of blue paint. They manufactured paper twelve hundred years before it was known in Europe, and invented printing five hundred years before

Caxton was born. Their laws were codified two thousand years ago, and have been revised every five years since. They had a lexicon of their language seventeen hundred years ago—still a standard. China was seven hundred years old when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. She had already existed fifteen hundred years when Isaiah (Isaiah xlix. 12) prophesied of her future conversion. Her civilization is founded upon Confucius, who was born 550 B.C., and whose death preceded the birth of Socrates.

The Chinese text-books are the same as they were two thousand years ago. Their geography gives nine tenths of the globe to China, a square inch to England, and the United States and Canada are left out altogether. They still think China celestial as compared with other nations. Their isolation is founded upon inordinate conceit, arising from ignorance. Consequently, when Westerners attempt to preach to them salvation through Christ, they scornfully ask: What can these people teach us, who themselves only yesterday emerged from barbarism?

### THE OPENING OF CHINA.

The taking of Canton, China, by the English in 1840, followed by the ceding of Hong Kong and the opening of five cities, paved the way for the Treaty of Tientsin in 1858, by which Christianity was tolerated. On the authority of Hon. W. B. Reed, American ambassador, toleration was introduced at the suggestion of the Chinese officials themselves.

The Roman Catholics have had missionaries in China for nearly six hundred years. In 1870 they claimed 404,530 adherents, and yet in all that time they have not given the Bible to the Chinese, nor any portion of it. Morrison was the first Protestant missionary, arriving there in 1807. By 1819 he had, with the assistance of Milne, the whole Bible translated into the language. During his whole career in China he could only work for Christ in secret.

### PROGRESS OF CHRISTIANITY.

The progress of Christianity in China has been discouragingly slow—more so than in any other portion of the globe. At the end of seven years Morrison had one convert; at his death, in 1834, there were only four. Fifteen years after the translation of the Bible (a work which occupied twelve years of time), there were only four native Christians in the whole Empire to read it. In 1843 there were six converts reported, in 1855, 361; in 1863, 2,000; in 1873, 6,000; in 1882, 20,000; in 1885, 25,000. In 1890 the Shanghai Conference reported 31,000 communicants, and 100,000 native nominal Christians; in 1891 the communicants' return numbered 40,350. This represents the gain during forty nine years, as work only fairly began in 1842, when China first became open for resident missionaries at