

Surely there is much hope of a people thus anxious to rid themselves of sin.

Like ourselves, the Koreans watch out the old year. Mr. Gale writes of the new year's season as it was before the song of salvation had been heard through the land. He writes of one dear old Korean grandmother who asked on his arrival for the first time in a village if he had any good books with him.

"Why, no," he said, "we have given them away long ago; but where did you ever hear of a good book?"

"Oh!" she answered, "I know of the Western Book, and I know Westerners are good people, and that they have not come to harm us."

The New Testament has been the real missionary in Korea. Before ever the missionary dared enter the Hermit Kingdom the New Testament was translated into Korean by the Rev. John Ross, then residing in Mukden. Large numbers of copies were sent into the country. When the missionaries arrived they found people in all parts of the land familiar with the Gospel, just as the old grandmother who asked Mr. Gale about the Western Book. When we remember that it is only twenty years since the doors of Korea were opened to the missionaries, and then, at first, only to the medical missionary, we marvel at the work that has been done.

The Korean has from the beginning shown a peculiarly receptive mind. It is no uncommon thing for a group of them to gather on the street and discuss the Gospel. In a few years after the entrance of the missionary



KOREAN COSTUMES AND VILLAGE SCENE.

in 1884 eight hundred converts had been won. To-day there are five thousand native Christians in a population of twelve million. "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few."

The present war in the East has naturally caused a good deal of unrest as to the outcome for Korea. Should Russia win and Korea become her prize it is unlikely that she would tolerate the work of other branches of the Christian Church in the land. The fall of Port Arthur has been a subject of great rejoicing to the missionaries in that land. Said a writer in an exchange some time ago: "The missionaries in Korea, to a man, I believe, are therefore hoping and sometimes praying for the victory of the heathen over the Christian, for we believe the heathen will prosper Christianity of a vital, forceful type more than the Christian nation."

The little church first erected in Korea stands as a bridge over which we trust the millions of that land will pass from the temple worship of other days into the white light of truth.