

which has fallen on all ancient nations. They are proud of their language and institutions, and so they might when compared with their neighbours. They were, however, so isolated by their peculiar language, that they knew nothing of western nations until recently. The respect of the Chinese for parents was a great element of excellence and stability. Confucius taught with great emphasis honor to parents, and made the parents responsible for this conduct on the part of their children. Confucius also inculcated the arts of peace almost in scripture language; he taught the people to be industrious, to do good, and to live peaceably with their neighbours. China taking soil, climate and extent into consideration, was undoubtedly the finest country in the world. It was healthy and fertile in a high degree. The difficulty of learning the language was very great and missionaries were apt to break down upon it. Out of the 44,000 characters about 8,000 are all that are positively necessary. The Chinese adorn their doors with large red stripes of paper with good moral quotations from Confucius. Rev. Mr. Burns had a remarkable faculty for learning Chinese characters and reading them. This language is a serious difficulty to the people; they cannot read their own characters easily; no one can read straight on without pausing and studying the characters, and these characters are not flexible enough to express thought fully. They greatly value a foreigner who could read their language. When missionaries came in contact with Chinese, they found many parallels between their sacred books. They understand that God would make a revelation of himself. Confucius did not pretend to teach religion; the missionaries show that our book just supplies this want, by teaching that religion which Confucius left out. The Emperor who reigned when Christ was born, was remarkably enough the Emperor of Peace. This was the first and last instance of the use of that title. He (Mr. W.) had never been insulted or interrupted or ridiculed, although sometimes the individuals of a Chinese audience would ask questions. At the first English war, at the attack on Chusan, one of the first shots had killed the Chinese Admiral. In his cabin was found a New Testament, with many notes and marks and signs of perusal. Woman was educated and respected in China. Females learn to read and write and to keep accounts. The Chinese marry only one wife, which marriage is very a solemn business. The rights of women are fully ascertained by Chinese law, and the polygamy which prevails is like the case of Sarah and Hagar, chiefly owing to the first wife who asks her husband to take a subordinate wife, that she may have a servant who cannot leave her. It is the inviolability of marriage and the respect for mothers and grandmothers which preserves China.

The Chinese authorities had never broken up a religious congregation although the Portuguese authorities of Macao had done so. In 1846 there were more Missionaries than converts; but now God has blessed Chinese Missions in a remarkable manner. The converts all do something, and it was hoped they would be able to maintain their own religious institutions soon. The success had been greatest at Amoy and Ningpo. In one place there was a congregation of 300 Chinese, which had grown out of a school. A new settler going into the forest, when he makes a clearing, thinks it of some importance. A stranger coming along, would say, this is still a forest. The one would see only the clearing, the other only the woods. Thus Missionaries thought a good deal was done when travellers saw nothing. The Chinese religion is the worship of Ancestors. The fifth commandment has been raised so unduly

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