

Madagascar, of the Mauritius, nor of the aborigines of North and South America, among all of whom there is a large and daily increasing number of earnest and enlightened disciples. Again we have the vast and populous empire of China, where, if we are not misinformed, the religion of Christ has recently been making great and unprecedented progress. At the present moment it is impossible to estimate, even approximately, the blessed results of Missionary labours there, or the number of those who are true Christians. But this we have reason to hope,—that, in addition to the progress made under the eyes and immediate direction of European and American Missionaries, the "*Tai Ping* Revolution," owes its rise and successful progress to Christianity. According to the most reliable and recent accounts that have reached us, a number of the richest, most fertile and populous provinces are united together under the sway of the *Tai Ping* revolutionists. They have cast away from them their old laws, and prejudices and idolatries; they profess to have taken the Bible for their rule of life, and God in Christ to be their God. They hold the great fundamental doctrines of the Gospel, and are represented as most earnest and indefatigable in their endeavours to conform their private life and public procedure to the requirements of the Word of God as far as it is known to them. They are deficient no doubt, in knowledge, and in great want of the means of instruction; but they manifest the greatest anxiety for European Christian instructors. Their progress since the inauguration of their dynasty in 1851, has been in the highest degree striking. Their great king was a humble student at one of the Missionary establishments, became a preacher, was persecuted; became a rebel in self-defence against the Tartar rulers of the country—and now he wields the sceptre of royal dominion over, at least *seventy millions* of his fellow countrymen. His rule upon the whole is beneficent,—far in advance of several European Potentates. He governs avowedly and perhaps sincerely on Christian principles. His chief Minister of State is a Chinese preacher, who has only left the Missionaries at the coast about eighteen months since, and who was a great favourite with them.

Is this movement without meaning as a result of missionary enterprise? That all this should happen in China, the land of innumerable idols—the land of adamantine prejudices, of arrogant self conceit and insolent contempt for foreign nations, ideas and habits—the land which scepticism, indolence, deceit, treachery and heartless cruelty might well call their own? It is full of the most precious meaning to the children of faith everywhere. What a rebuke to lazy, heartless unbelief with its everlasting "*lion in the way*."—And what a glorious pledge to the faithful labourers in the great Missionary enterprise,—whether on the high places of heathendom teaching idolaters the first lessons of Christianity, or at home giving of their own substance and inducing others to give for this object,—that their labours *shall not* be in vain in the Lord!

But we shall be equally impressed with the progress of Modern Missions, if we glance at the number of agents in the field. The Evangelical Churches of Europe and America have already sent forth upwards of *one thousand six hundred* Missionaries; while associated with this noble band of veterans are upwards of *sixteen thousand* native ministers, catechists, scripture readers and schoolmasters whose daily vocation is to teach the religion of Christ to their countrymen.

Again there are the religious tracts and the New Testaments, which have penetrated many regions far beyond the ken of Missionaries, enterprising as they are, and which have brought light and immortal hope to many a dark,