

Missionary World.

GOOD NEWS FROM CHINA.

The following extracts from a letter received by Mrs. Goforth from Mr. Goforth, will be found interesting:

"He says, in speaking of the new place Chan Te Fu:—'I have never felt so rested in any place in China; it seems as if this is the place God has allotted for us to fix our dwelling place. I am pleased with the houses. The one I am preparing for ourselves is large enough to allow for two bedrooms, and a good large living room. The roof is far higher and the house wider than any at Chu Wang; there is also a verandah in the same courtyard there are buildings enough for kitchen, storeroom and coalroom. To have the open fields all about us, and the mountains to the West, is surely all we could hope for, and, strange to say, the street is named *Chu Chung Chieh*, Bell Smith street. Ten converts from Tsai Yuan'h have come in to-day to welcome me back, one of whom has brought the deed of a house which he wants to give the mission for a meeting place in his native town. This has indeed been a happy blessed day.'

"The country looks its best just now. The wheat fields are promising an abundant harvest. The view from our compound is lovely, to the North and West the mountains can be seen, the sun setting behind. . . . I had six of the neighbors in last night to worship. The Lord is using Sir'h (the young-gate keeper) to bring them in."

"The Hsien magistrate (one of the highest officials) sent to ask me to let him have the 'Wau Kua Kang Pau' (Chinese Review of our Times). I sent it to him with the message that I would send it every month as it came. I am glad to find he is taking an interest in foreign affairs, and that I can supply him with such an excellent paper. Every day I have enquirers in to see me, that shows the advantage of a 'Fu' centre."

"May 25th. I am here now two weeks alone; everything is going on pleasantly. I am getting my Chinese brushed up again. At Wang lin Chiao, there seems to be a splendid work of grace begun; a bright young man of twenty-seven is the leader. He heard us first at the great Hsien Hsien fair, the year I was taken ill there. He had been searching for light among the Buddhists. He travelled 1,500 li (about 700 miles) to a famed Buddhist resort, but got no help. He then left wife and family and went to a noted temple in the mountains, but still found no peace. When he first heard us he could not accept what we said, but he bought some books, has been led step by step to the true foundation, and has found peace at last. The believers at his home and district have subscribed enough to buy a piece of land, and are going to build a chapel. It certainly is wonderful to see how the Spirit of God is leading men to the Lamb of God. In the morning we study Luke's Gospel, and in the evening the Psalms with the Chinese. . . .

"Sabbath. My subject forenoon and afternoon unto the Chinese was the 'Sacrifice of Christ. Oh! how wondrous!' Again and again I could scarce keep the tears back. Mr. Li (the teacher) has returned from home; he seems to me as an old friend. The task of reading the whole of the New Testament in Chinese, during the voyage, was almost too much for my eyes, and I am now glad to have Li to save my eyes. . . . 'The Mandarin (official) here wants to know if our Doctor can give him a new set of upper teeth. He would provide a special room for the Doctor at the official residence, while in attendance on him.'"

"I have had a good forenoon's study, having had my breakfast by 6 o'clock, but this afternoon I was receiving visitors until 7.30. A believer from Tao Kung came and will spend the night with us. I am glad to have so many coming to see

me. There are three men in the city now who may be considered enquirers, besides there are several others very hopeful. I am delighted with the attitude of the people towards us. The Master is working in the hearts of men. Oh for His grace sufficient not to hinder His work. Sir'h (the young gate-keeper) is the hottest-hearted boy I have seen in China. The Lord has a future before him."

"May 9th, Hsin Tsun. Donald and I started from Hsin Tsun yesterday morning. It was late in the afternoon before we arrived here; on account of the floods we were obliged to go a long way round. There are about 10,000 soldiers in the village, but we have succeeded in making them friendly. I was delighted to find how interesting the gospel story was to some of them. I went to the home of Wang Fu Lui, and met with all the Christians and enquirers and had worship with them. The room was full with men and the women stood outside at the window. I spoke on the 7th ch. of Rev. The drought followed by floods in the spring and fall last year has forced many of them to feed on leaves. The women spoke out their delight when we talked of the time when they shall *hunger no more*, etc. Oh blessed words to them! Mrs. Wang Fu Lin, and the other women send you greetings. They remember with delight your visit here."

. . . Later, We had another very busy day yesterday with the soldiers and enquirers. To-day I start for Chang Te Fu, and Donald goes back to Chu Wang. The roads are horrid, the barrows go slowly; I consequently had time to talk with people by the way. I have had several good talks; it is a joyful work to serve the Master. There is promise of an abundant wheat harvest. I have never seen such fine wheat in China, but there must be a great deal of suffering before the wheat is ripe."

THE GLORY OF MISSIONS.

The glory of missions is seen in four things. It is seen in—

1. Their origin. The movement began in Paradise, and was reinforced in the great commission on Olivet and the planting of the kingdom of God, which was typified in the stone cut from the mountain to fill the whole world.

2. Their motives operating on the church of God. These are found in the greatness and peril of man. Man is immortal, and to insure a blessed immortality he must be made pure.

3. Their methods. Go, teach, baptize; secure repentance, faith, conversion, and organization into the church. With the living voice goes the Bible.

4. Their triumphs. They made a new East, a new Europe, a new America, and hasten to conquer the remotest nations. The gates of the nations are all open; the head of the Christian column already enters the strong work of paganism. The objections to this movement are frivolous. Evolution finds a new headship in Christ, and paganism objects to the succor of the poor and war on caste. The leveling principle is the glory of the gospel, and the hindrances will ere long be swept from its path.—*Joseph Cook*.

There are men who mean to be unselfish, and there are men who are unselfish. Back of Dr. Mackay's unselfishness lies intellect; back of intellect, vim; back of vim, stick-to-itiveness, grit, quick resolution, and patient endurance and, pervading all, faith in the righteousness of his purpose. To such men, not only the Gibraltar of Formosa but the Gibraltars of the world will always yield.

In the first quarter of a century of its existence, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church, which has its headquarters at Philadelphia, collected for Foreign Missions the sum of \$2,690,956.53. We believe that it will do better in the next twenty-five years.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

The Standard: Give us a man's definition of success and we will tell you what is his character.

Religious Herald: It is not the flowery, theoretical sermon, but the sound practical one that successfully wins souls to Christ.

Phillips Brooks, D.D.: Religion is not something that is fastened upon the outside of life, but is the awakening of the truth inside of life.

Joseph Cook, D.D.: It is the temptation of our time to preach a fragmentary and distorted gospel, in the hope of making up an acceptable gospel.

J. F. Clarke: It is time that a little more stress was laid on simple honesty. It is not every man who can be a great saint or a mighty preacher . . . but every man can be faithful in his work.

Cumberland Presbyterian: Giving is doing; a poor man's missionary dollar stands for a day's work in preaching the gospel. Surely every Christian should give the price of one day's work each year to carry out Christ's great commission.

Mid-Continent: When a skeptic once tried to convince Addison, the English essayist, that the Christian religion was a delusion, "the baseless fabric of a vision," his reply was: "No matter. Call it a dream, if you will. But don't wake me up. Let me cherish the sweet delusion, since it makes me both a happier and a better man."

D. L. Moody: Some people asserted that the Bible was going out, but for his part he believed it was just coming in. There had been more Bibles printed in the last month than in the first 1,800 years of the Christian era, and one house in New York had sold 110,000 of them in one year. When Jesus said, "My words shall not pass away," there were no stenographers and no publishing houses, and he Himself was considered a deceiver, and yet His words have lived.

David J. Burrell, D.D.: How many there are who embitter their lives by "borrowing trouble!" Their path heavenward is lined on either side, if they but knew it, with fountains of living waters and trees laden with the purest and sweetest joys of life; but these are unheeded because they have seen a mirage—a vision of tenuous mist that seems like desert sands, a far off. What shall be done for this self-torture of the soul? Nothing but the patience of hope.

Christian Mirror: The "New woman" is most lovely when she is not "too new," and when into her new vocations she carries the same sweet and gentle spirit that made her mother dear, and her memory sacred. The applause of the popular palm will little satisfy the nature made to hunger for babies' smiles and babies' fingers; and but a brief experience of the jury box will suffice to show her that the kitchen itself is a haven of rest and a paradise of content beside it.

Philadelphia Presbyterian: Scotland is indebted to the manse for her literature. With only two or three exceptions, the pastor's family has furnished the best, ripest and highest products of the pen in that land of literary activity. The manse develops readers and thinkers. Its atmosphere is one of mental as well as of spiritual culture and development. He who breathes it from early childhood is almost sure to show the effects of it in after life in more or less marked forms.

Christian Endeavor.

CONQUERING DIFFICULTIES, WITH CHRIST'S HELP.

REV. W. S. McTAVISH, B.D., ST. GEORGE.

Aug. 25—2 Cor. ii, 24-28; xii, 7-10.

The Christian sees many a lion in his path. Every Endeavorer will find that he must some time or other climb the hill difficulty. When running the race of life he will discover obstacles in his way. If the just man falls seven times something must trip him. Few have ever entered into heaven without first passing through much tribulation. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous" (Ps. xxxiv. 19). "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim. iii. 12).

Owing to changes in time and conditions the difficulties which confront us may be very different from those with which Paul had to contend, nevertheless they may be very real, very perplexing and very discouraging. Paul was wounded in one way by the thorn in the flesh; we may be stung in quite another way, nevertheless in our own case the pain may be very acute. No Jew would dare throw a stone at us to-day, but those who were once our companions may sneer at us because we refuse to engage with them in amusements which we consider questionable, and that sneer may sting us to the quick. We may never be in perils of waters, but we may be in the deep waters of personal and family affliction and may feel the need of strong supporting grace. We may not be in any danger at the hands of our countrymen, but if deputed to go and look after a member of the Society who has grown careless, may we not find the task a very distasteful one? We are not burdened as Paul was with the care of all the churches but we may have a special interest in one Church or one prayer-meeting, and if that Church should appear to be growing cold and dead, or that prayer-meeting more and more neglected, would we not find it difficult to continue our labors in the face of such discouraging appearances?

How can we overcome the difficulties and surmount the obstacles which meet us along the journey of life? Through Christ. Paul once said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." He bore with the thorn in the flesh because there came ringing down to him from the throne of infinite majesty and power the words; "My grace is sufficient for thee." Though all his friends forsook him at his trial in Rome he did not lose heart, for he knew that Christ was at his side. If we were conscious always, as Paul was then, that the Lord is near, we would grapple with our gravest difficulties with a stout heart and courageous spirit. There is wonderful comfort in the thought that the Lord is at hand. Once when the disciples were on a fishing expedition they met with such ill success that they would have given up in despair had not Christ appeared to them and told them how they could succeed. Peter found it difficult, yea impossible, to walk upon the waters, but he overcame the difficulty with Christ's help. If when confronted with difficulty, we could only see Christ near and ready to strengthen, bless, uphold, we would grapple it with vigor and there would be no surrender until we sang our song of triumph.

"Fight manfully onward,
Dark passions subdue;
Look ever to Jesus,
He will carry you through."

How much comfort there is in the words which we sometimes sing,

"He to-day and He to-morrow
Grace sufficient gives his own!"

The van mission of the English Primitive Methodist Church in the villages has proved so great a success that it is proposed to extend this form of activity in many directions. Weak churches have been encouraged, sound literature distributed, and the religious needs of lonely districts met.