

agents and colporteurs? Is it a mere array of offices and names? or are there such marks of God's blessing resting upon the labours of the men already engaged as alone can justify the increase of their number? Your Committee, in answer, would unreservedly acknowledge their dependence on the help and influence of the Holy Spirit, while at the same time they believe that no one can read the following sketch of the work of the past year without saying—"Behold the Lord our God hath set the land before us, let us go up and possess it."

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**TIENTSIN.**—Here Mr. Olsson, one of the European Colporteurs, has been at work; the Rev. Mr. Candlin, who kindly superintends him, says: "His sales are excellent and exceed our expectation. It is impossible to speak too highly of his diligence and devotion." In the streets of Tientsin he makes good sales. While on his journeys he says that, if there are in a crowd one or two persons not well disposed, they are soon put down by the more numerous friendly people. "Thank God, I have had the majority of the people in every place to take my part." At one village an inhabitant insisted on accompanying him and helping him in his work; and as this kind volunteer appeared to know everybody and to possess great influence, Olsson found that on his recommendation many of the people bought, not a single copy, but several portions each. The innkeepers also proved valuable allies.

**"A FRIENDLY INNKEEPER.**—At one village the innkeeper showed them no little kindness. 'His inn being rather crowded by people coming to the market, he put us into his own private room, and a fine room it was. But this was not all. When we left he would not be prevailed upon to receive payment for the use of his room.' So when he returned to the boat, Mr. Olsson sent him one of the New Testaments on foreign paper to show their sense of gratitude."

**"A FRIENDLY HOST.**—At another place, having taken up his position for a while for offering his books outside an inn, the innkeeper purchased two copies and was exceedingly friendly and affable. Some one went off with a book without paying for it. The innkeeper hearing of it made the strictest inquiry through the inn, but not finding the person, he came and insisted on paying for the book himself, though Mr. Olsson strongly objected to his doing so. He actually put the cash into Mr. Olsson's pocket, saying he would not allow any one to impose upon him at his doors, and very kindly and earnestly invited him to come again soon to visit him."

Mr. Olsson says he has been greatly cheered in his journeys to find natives spontaneously bearing testimony to the excellence of the teaching given in the Scriptures, and to see the way in which one man will urge another to purchase with the unanswerable argument, "I have the book myself, and so I know what it contains." He gives one little incident which shows well how the colporteur may prepare the way for the regular missionary.

"The keeper of a tea shop to whom he had previously sold books, and whose shop he occasionally visited with books, begged him to come and take him to the chapel the next Lord's day. This Mr. Olsson did. Later on the man sought him out, and expressed a desire, as he had also done once before, to become a member of some Christian Church. Mr. Olsson told him, if he would meet him at his house at 5 p.m., he would take him to see one of the missionaries. He appeared glad and punctually came. The missionary, after some necessary questions, placed him under the religious instruction of some native Christians."

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**A CHINESE CONFESSION OF FAITH.**—After listening to what the colporteurs said he proposed to meet them again in a day or two, and at the time appointed he brought them two papers he had written, which he presented