

CHINA.

This vast country is estimated to hold one fifth of the inhabitants of the world; the population numbering between 250,000,000 and 350,000,000. The Missionaries of all societies, including wives, number only 1500, the converts to Christianity about 100,000. In the very centre, is found that extensive Province of Hunan, containing more square miles than England and Scotland together. In this great territory there are *twenty-two million souls*, as yet, practically unreached by the Gospel message. We learn by tidings from those on the spot, that it is not an uncommon sight to meet a priest going about begging with four or five long skewers run through his forearm, and little ribbons hanging from them; or with long iron rods running through his cheeks, and he had made an oath to remove them only when he had collected a certain sum of money. Another way of raising money is for a priest to be bricked into a little sentry box, leaving only a small window through which he can pull a string to attract passersby. Hunan, and Hespah the next Province, are ruled by one Viceroy Chang-Chihtung, and together number *fifty millions*; with about *twenty-five Missionaries*. Think of these most appalling figures—*so large*, as to be almost beyond conception; and *so small*, as to send us to the Throne of Grace in deep contrition and shame that we have done, and are doing, so very little to send the comfort of a Crucified and Risen Saviour to these poor lost souls. Let us remember that to women was entrusted the first message of the Resurrection, and to a woman our dear Lord first showed Himself, saying, "Go tell my brethren." Of the angel's message there is one word we have taken little heed of in the past, and need to act upon more and more as the "coming of the Lord draweth nigh," and that is the word "*quickly*." May the Holy Spirit give us the wish and the power to pray for "more labourers," and give our time, our money, aye ourselves, for His dear Sake, QUICKLY.

Mrs. Boyd's letter continued from January number.

We hope, however, to be able to open them again after the Chinese New Year, which this year, comes about the end of January. The Foundling Home is particularly interesting, because ones heart always goes out to the poor little girls whose lives have been saved from drowning or being buried alive, or something of the kind. There are nearly thirty in the home. Miss Nisbet, who has charge of them, is the right woman in the right place; they love her dearly, it is beautiful to see her with them, and she trains them so nicely. On one occasion, after she had been away for a few days, on her return they clustered around her, one climbed into her knee and said, "you are my friend," another put her arms around her and said, "you are my mother." . . . Some of the ladies have been out itinerating, where they had had the opportunity of seeing some of the girls from the