

worked with Chinese Christians who have borne on their bodies the marks of the Lord Jesus; men with great burnt scars on their bodies where they had endured the tortures of fire, in the service of the Gospel. I have trod : in the footsteps of a Chinese martyr who laid down his life for the Lord Jesus, and I have looked upon the spot where they cast his corpse into the river."

*Advantages and Helps.*—Rev. Dr. Williamson pointed out some while ago, in *Evangelical Christendom*, that there is a providential preparation in China for the reception and spread of the Gospel.

There is an educational preparation. They say: "The mind is the man." The competitive examinations have quickened the intellect of China. This gave rise to schools. Hence the large percentage of readers. Then there is one written language for the whole empire. There is a social preparation. Through the observance of filial obligation it has trained the nation to subordination to law and order. There is no communism nor nihilism here. *Divine authority* can be easily taught.

There is a moral preparation. The heart is recognized as the seat of morals. Benevolence is urged in every form and righteousness too. The doctrine of mediation is recognized. They have some knowledge of a true and living God, a power on whom country, family and individual prosperity depends. They possess an applied knowledge of immortality. Their emperors never die, they ascend.

Mr. Wesley is reported to have said that "the devil invented the Chinese language to keep the Gospel out of China. But nothing facilitates its spread more than this. It has been generally supposed that the Chinese language has 80,000 separate characters of which the dictionary of Kawghi explains about 40,000, but the number met with in books is only about 5,000. The spoken languages vary with every province. Though a Canton and a Foo-Chow man cannot understand each other's speech, they will each know what the other writes, as a Frenchman, a German, and an Englishman would know the written Arabic numerals, though not each other's words for them.

The water communications afford a highway to every province of China. Protection is afforded, which is so effectual that missionaries have repeatedly traversed every province of China unmolested and without being asked for their passports.

Amongst the specially favourable things, there is the fact that the people's confidence in their religious systems was disturbed by the Taiping rebellion. "The idol-destroying rebels ever worsted the idol-worshipping imperialists, ever subdued the idol-