

V.—GENERAL MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

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Extracts and Translations from Foreign Periodicals.

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CHINA AND JAPAN.

—Missionary KUNZE, in the *Missions-Freund*, gives some pleasing descriptions of landscapes in the province of Canton. "The region through which the East River pursues its course is, as almost everywhere in the Canton province, mountainous. One mountain valley follows another. The mountains are often bald, or only overgrown with dwarf fir trees. Yet there are here and there romantic forest ravines out of which, it is true, an idol temple usually rises, thus lowering our delight of the natural beauties around. Behind the ranges of hills which line the banks of the river rise higher and yet higher mountains, over which, on the north, rises still higher Mount Lofen. This is more than 4000 feet high, and is covered with various Buddhist monasteries. It is said that among the monks are many people of rank. The story goes among the people that mandarins, who had reason to fear deposition or condemnation to death, have feigned themselves dead, had themselves borne into the mortuary hall, have there escaped from their coffins, and joined the monks of Mount Lofen. In this way they saved their lives and saved their wealth to their families, which, in the event of their execution, would have escheated to the State."

—The station at Tshu-thong-au is thus described: "A beautiful chapel was built there, together with a helper's dwelling, and dedicated on Palm Sunday, 1890. From the neighboring hill you have a splendid view over the whole valley. The region is very populous and wonderfully beautiful; village suc-

ceeds village, surrounded by bamboo groves, their darker green picturesquely contrasting with the brighter green of the rice fields. Through the latter wind the silver threads of canals and irrigating ditches. In the background rise the mountains in terraces of increasing height as they recede, until in the far distance they lose themselves in the vaporous blue. The fresh green of the growing fields is everywhere the focal point of natural beauty in China."

—"English people are beginning to understand how the absence of intercommunications makes the parts of China which are distant from the seat of war quite safe for missionary work. Dr. Griffith John, writing from a place some days' journey further inland than Hankow, says that the people 'appear to take as little interest in Peking and Canton as they do in Canada and Wales.' He has been making a most successful tour in places where no European missionary, but only catechists, have hitherto labored. At Pahi-tz-Nau, Tien-Men, Tsau-shih, and Nix-kia-po the mandarins were friendly, the opposition was silenced, and many converts were baptized. At the last-named town the ancestral hall was cleared and used for service. Out of 200 candidates for baptism, 66 were baptized, coming from 14 villages. There are candidates for baptism in 13 more villages. This part of the Hupeh Province is therefore very hopeful."—*Church Missionary Intelligence*.

—"By the time this issue comes before our readers, the Japanese occupation of Formosa will have begun. There will almost certainly be some initial difficulties with the Chinese city populations, and a firm hand may be required to insure the establishment of the new régime. But if Japan continues to show the skill and determination and admi-