

climate, a great extent of sea coast, and a soil well adapted for agriculture, and yet her inhabitants are vile and superstitious. Their religion is a strange medley of different creeds. They are Deists, Fanatics, and Ascetics, and in their early history their land was crowded with images, idolatry reigning supreme. Steeped, however, in vice and idolatry as this vast empire has been, yet the attention of the Christian Church was early directed to its shores. As far back as the eighth century Nestorian missionaries were found among them sowing the seeds of Divine Truth. During the 13th and 14th centuries Corvino, a missionary of true apostolic zeal, continued the work of evangelization. He translated the New Testament and book of Psalms into their own tongue, and after a time baptized 6000 persons, and founded two churches. In the year 1553, Francis Xavier arrived at the Island of Sancian on his way to China, upon whose evangelization he had set his heart. Unable, however, through the want of a proper means of conveyance, to reach the mainland he was seized by a virulent fever and died. Soon, however, he was followed by an Italian Jesuit who, with commendable zeal, succeeded in establishing himself on Chinese soil. The work continued to make remarkable progress under the earnest labours of Roman Catholic Missionaries for a lengthened period, and now the attention of the Protestant Church became directed to this land. In the year 1806 Robert Morrison, the first Protestant Missionary, was set apart by the London Missionary Society. Having laboured for 27 years he died, and was succeeded by Dr. Milne, and these two men (Morrison and Milne) may be looked upon as the honoured fathers of the Protestant Chinese Mission. In the year 1842 a great impetus was given to the good cause in China. Five ports were opened to foreign trade and traffic, so that within a period of four years no less than 50 missionaries were seen flocking thither to possess the land. Not long after this we find the late Wm. C. Burns sent forth by the English Presbyterian Church. With assiduous earnestness, indefatigable

zeal, and godlike sincerity he commenced and continued his labours until the 4th April, 1868, when he calmly fell asleep in Jesus. He was truly the Evangelist of the 19th century, and, though cut off at the age of 53, yet he wrought hard, and was oftentimes permitted to behold seasons of revival both in the Home and Foreign field. His Memoir so graphically written by his brother should be perused and pondered over by every reader of the *Record*, for he has left behind him foot-prints worthy of imitation by every genuine child of God. Our Heavenly Father has smiled upon the efforts put forth for the evangelization of this vast empire; and now we hail with joy the cheering intelligence of the formation of a Presbyterian Synod consisting of fourteen ministers.

Much has been accomplished in the land of China in the days that are past, and whilst much land yet remaineth to be possessed, yet we think a bright future is evidently opening up for this great nation. Quite a number of Chinese have left their own shores and gone to California. No less than 10,000 of them are now congregated in San Francisco. By a singular concurrence of God's Providence they have been brought there not to remain, for they have invariably made this stipulation, that they be allowed to return to China within six years. Being now brought within the hallowed influences of the gospel, many of these poor benighted ones will return to their native land christianized, and will do much for the extension of God's cause in China, where all religions are now free and Christianity is tolerated throughout the whole empire. How wonderfully God is working among the nations of the earth, and how the little leaven is leavening the whole lump. Let us be encouraged to pray more fervently, and contribute more liberally to the cause of missions, for fields are already white to the harvest.

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OUR next number will contain a full account of the proceedings of the Synod now meeting in St. John.