

later news of our young missionary, Mr. Brooks, who met his death because he would not remain away from his post in a place of security when his brother missionary and the converts were in imminent danger and needed assistance and comfort. Already of the small staff of missionaries in connection with the North China Mission three have been killed by the Boxers, and when it is remembered that it takes two months before a single gap can be filled, it will be realised how urgent is the call. Will you allow me to make public through your columns our great need of ordained men who will give themselves to this work? Amongst them are urgently needed some men of considerable scholastic and training powers to assist in building up a strong native ministry. Will university men, as well as others, come forward to carry on and develop the work so ably done by men like Norman, Robinson and Brooks, who have laid down their lives in the work? We need also medical missionaries, ladies as well as men, for it would be idle at this hour to point out what our medical missionaries have done and can do. Though we could not send the ladies out until things are more settled, yet we need other educated women who will give themselves to the various forms of mission work. It is important, in view of the great difficulties in the matter of language, and the greater difficulties in dealing with Chinese susceptibilities, that our ladies should have been carefully educated and trained. As England will never relinquish the advantages which an open China offers in the matter of policy and commerce, so may we not confidently say that England's Church will not desert the Christian converts?"—*Church Bells*.

#### MARTYRDOM OF MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

"These are they which came out of great tribulation."

**W**E work quietly on, knowing that our Lord is working with us, and that failure is impossible." Thus wrote the Rev. H. V. Norman from Yung Ching in 1898. Ready both in body and soul to cheerfully accomplish those things that God would "have done," he and two other of the Society's missionaries in North China have within the last six months, been called to lay down their lives for the cause. The martyrdom of the Rev. S. M. W. Brooks, of Ping Yin, on December 31 was recorded in recent numbers of the *Gospel Missionary*, and now it is our sad duty to announce the deaths of the Rev. Harry Vine Norman and the Rev. Charles Robinson. Few particulars have yet been received. By the Foreign Office the Society

was informed that a telegram from Sir Claude MacDonald stated that, according to information given by a Christian who had come from Yung Ching, an attack was made on the Mission there on June 1 by "Boxers," who murdered Mr. Robinson and carried off Mr. Norman. The Chinaman said that he saw Mr. Robinson's body. Sir Claude MacDonald insisted on immediate steps being taken by the Chinese authorities for Mr. Norman's rescue.

A later telegram sent by Bishop Scott from Tientsin reports that both Mr. Norman and Mr. Robinson have been killed, and the daily press not only confirm this news but add that their bodies were dreadfully mutilated.

Mr. Norman was born at Portesham, Dorset, on February 10, 1868. After training at the Missionary College of St. Boniface, Warminster, he was accepted by the Society in 1891, and went out to North China, where he was ordained deacon in 1892 and priest in 1893.

Mr. Robinson also was a student of St. Boniface's College. He was born at Aldbrough, near Darlington, on September 22, 1874, and accompanied Mr. Brooks from England in 1897, and was ordained deacon by Bishop Scott on Trinity Sunday, 1898. A few months ago he experienced a heavy sorrow in the death at sea of the lady who was proceeding to China to become his wife.

Yung Ching, where the two missionaries were lately stationed, is a small, insignificant town fifty miles south of Peking. The district contains about 300 villages, varying in size from a small market-town to a tiny hamlet, the total population being about 50,000. A mission station was begun there by the C.M.S. in 1869, and transferred to the Society in 1880.

From 1869 to 1891 there were only fifty baptisms, but during the next six years there were no less than 230. The Christians, the majority of whom are from the villages, have enjoyed popularity among the citizens, and are known as a peaceable, law-abiding people. In 1898 the local magistrate attended service on Easter Day to see what was meant by worshipping God on that great festival.

The opening of a dispensary in 1896 naturally helped to strengthen the position of the Mission.

A rumor got abroad that Mr. Norman (who had acquired medical knowledge at Salisbury Infirmary) could break the habit of opium smoking, and, in response to many pitiful entreaties, he took in several patients, and eventually sent them home, cured of the habit.

Mr. Norman's labors were indefatigable, and the Church in North China is indebted to the Yung Ching Mission for some of its best native workers.