

common in China. The village school is also conspicuous by its absence very often. The post office and that of the local newspaper are not to be found among the Chinese. The inhabitants are not disturbed here early or late by the sound of the steam whistle, and we never meet men who quicken their pace at the approach of the railway train. We are not favoured with shopkeeper's advertisements in their windows or elsewhere, as at home, and may have considerable trouble in securing the most common fare. China has had a form of civilization for many centuries, but the countless blessings of Christian civilization are entirely unknown in the interior of this Empire. Men of "light and leading" have not been wanting in Honan, but the Sun of Righteousness has not yet arisen here with healing in His wings. Chinese scholars think that China's golden age lies in the distant past, while Christian workers believe that it lies in the near or distant future. Apart from the spiritual benefits which Christianity invariably brings in its train, it tends to multiply material advantages which "China's millions" sadly need.

Mission work in any part, or for the benefit of any one class in China, as in all other lands, is attended with many difficulties. The work to be done in evangelizing the millions of this broad Empire is stupendous; the time in which to reach the existing generation

with the gospel is very short; and the number of workers altogether too small. The missionary is not able always or often to choose where or how he will work. In view of the pressing demands he feels that he ought to work in all ways, at all times, and, if that were possible, in all places. The man who desires work in a city can get several of 30,000 inhabitants each given into his charge in Honan. He who believes in missions to the classes, as distinguished from the masses, can get hundreds of officials and many thousands of gentry (?) as proud, self-satisfied, and hard to reach as those classes are in any part of the world probably. The man whose heart yearns for "the common people," will find thousands of them in hundreds of villages in all parts of Honan and broad China; and he who believes he can reach and hold the crowd can endeavour to do so daily in any quarter. The work requires to be done everywhere and should be neglected nowhere.

It so happened that the writer's earliest experiences in attempting to utter a few sentences in Chinese were in the villages; and while anxious to undertake any branch of the work, as occasion offers or ability permits, work among the villagers will not at any time be regarded as unimportant. In this, as in every department of Christian service, we do well to study carefully and imitate wisely the example of the Lord Jesus. Of Him