

than we have to efficiently guard it. Besides, the "Son of Heaven's" claim to universal empire is a factor which has not been sufficiently considered. The time will come when the Chinese will try to make it good.

Self-preservation demands the evangelization of the Chinese. China is destined to become either a conservator or a menace to Christendom. Which it shall be depends largely upon the missionary effort of this century. When the time comes, as it inevitably will, when an outlet must be found for the swarming millions of this land, and when they may try to make good their claim to universal empire, it will be well for us if she is a Christian land.

#### IV. Reasons for hopefulness.

I see strong reasons for believing in the speedy evangelization of the land of Sinim.

1. The opening of the country. Only a little more than 300 years ago Francis Xavier, the noted Catholic missionary, stood before the walls of the Middle Kingdom vainly seeking admittance. It seemed to the devoted Jesuit that it was surrounded by a wall of exclusion as high as heaven and as hard as adamant, and he called out in the agony of his soul, "O rock, rock! when wilt thou open to my Master!" Humanly speaking, there was little prospect of ever penetrating this wall of exclusion, yet three centuries has seen it broken down, removed, entirely swept away. The missionary to-day has access to the entire eighteen provinces of the Empire.

2. There is better feeling upon the part of the people. I make this statement with a full knowledge of the recent disturbances in China. Were there not better feeling there would have been fifty Tientsin massacres since last May. These troubles in China have been greatly misunderstood in this country. They are not "Anti-Missionary" riots, but an insurrectionary movement upon the part of a treasonable secret society. The Emperor's edict is an inspiration to all who believe in the providential ordering of events. It is a distinct recognition of Christianity, and assures protection to missionaries and native converts.

3. Increased willingness to hear the Gospel. There has been a notable change in this respect in recent years. There is no trouble to get large, attentive audiences to listen to the preaching of the Gospel.

4. Success.—Twenty-five years ago there were less than 500 converts in the whole Empire. Thirteen years ago there were 13,000 communicants; now there are 40,000. In 1878, 13,000 native Christians contributed \$9000 to the support of the Gospel. Last year the 40,000 converts gave \$40,000; and the beginning of modern missions dates from the opening of the country in 1860. Besides, it must be remembered that success in missions cannot be computed by arithmetic. You cannot count heads and say this represents the results of missionary enterprise. There is an unknown quantity to be taken into consideration. You cannot measure in a table of statistics the breaking down of prejudice, the removing of