

shakes his head in the direction of his village, as he supposes, leaving me in the dark as much as ever. "Have you any temples there?" "Of course, we have." "How many gods have you in your honorable country?" "They are innumerable," is the ready reply. Then he may be questioned about the gods themselves. He readily admits that the gods are mud and wood, and he has not been in the least benefited by them. He says there has not only been no benefit, but there has been positive loss of time and money. Alas! I heard one of them commending Christianity to the rest in the sense that time and money were saved by worshipping the true God; for, said he, you don't have to buy incense, and, as he is worshipped with the heart, it is not necessary to go to the temples twice a month. Truly, said he, there is a manifest advantage. Some of them seem greatly surprised when they are told that it is not necessary to burn incense to God, and that He is to be worshipped daily in spirit. How are you going to worship Him if you don't burn incense and paper money? is one of their most common questions, and it is by no means easy to give them a right conception of what worship without any external accessories means. Changing the subject, we ask the man, "Are you a sinner?" Confidently and firmly he answers, "I am not." You may go over the whole decalogue and point out to him where he has transgressed and where he has come short, but he may still be confident that he is a righteous man. In fact, his view is quite the reverse of yours. You say the righteous are few and the transgressors many, but his inward thought is, especially if he be a student, the righteous are many, and the unrighteous very few. It takes but a superficial examination to show that his idea of righteousness is wholly inadequate. While most of them appear to be quite indifferent about their sins, even after admitting that they are sinners, a few take a more serious view of the matter and are in consequence more ready to accept the gospel. Speculative difficulties, which rarely trouble the average Christian in the home lands, meet some of them on the very threshold of their