

In 1853 the number of native Christians was	351
" 1863 " " " "	1,974
" 1864 " " " "	2,607
" 1868 " " " "	5,743
The present number is very nearly.....	8,000

But we should get a very inadequate idea of the work done if we were to look only at the number of communicants. Over 500 different books have been printed in the Chinese language by Protestant missionaries, including the Sacred Scriptures, commentaries, theological, educational, linguistic, historical, geographical, mathematical, astronomical, and botanical works—books ranging in size and importance from the child's primer to Dr. Martin's translation of Wheaton's "International Law," Dr. Hobson's medical and physiological works, and Mr. Wylie's translation of "Euclid's Geometry" and "Herschell's Astronomy."

Besides, the vast advance made in eradicating the prejudices of the people, securing their confidence, and gaining entrance into the interior, is to be taken into the account. The fact that 50,000 native patients are annually treated in Protestant missionary hospitals is also full of significance.

It is a common thing for us to meet with people now who say that for eight or ten or more years they have not worshipped idols; that they were convinced by preaching that they heard, or books that they received so long ago, that idolatry was wrong, and had given it up. We find them now, in interior cities and villages, ready to become adherents of the Gospel of Christ.

II. What are our prospects for the future?

Answer.—Rev. M. J. Knowlton, of Ningpo, calls attention to the fact that of late the number of out-stations of native preachers, and of converts has doubled once in a period of a little over three years; and that we may reasonably expect that by the year 1900 the native Christians will number over two millions. Bishop Kingsley, in addressing the native Methodist preachers at Foochow, in 1869, reminded them that there were more Methodists then in Foochow than there were in America a hundred years before. Let this fact be borne in mind—viz., that, although the Chinese move slowly, when they begin to move, they move in masses—and there is no reason why this rule may not operate to the advantage of Christianity. In the Foochow mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church we had last year 931 members and 969 probationers, showing the work of the year preceding to have equalled in the number of converts all the years of the mission's history that had gone before. Such facts as these will have weight with all thinking minds.

III. What is the character of Chinese converts?

Answer.—As among converts at home, there is every variety of character among them; but in general they are faithful, earnest, devoted men. The difference between them and their Pagan neighbours is marked. The Pagan neighbour is dirty. The Christian