

and returned in the morning in company with a man who knew something of Christianity, and was favourably disposed. On Sunday morning Mr. John went into the city to preach for two hours before daybreak, and returned to breakfast. Then we all went to the city together, and took some books with us. Rain poured down all the time, but some work was done; and before returning to the boat, Mr. John and Shew preached to a large congregation in the porch of the temple of the Chinese Vulcan. The people were much quieter than they had ever been before, and Shew says it is the first time he has ever been in Shau-gan without being upbraided on account of his religion. On Sunday evening we got a few miles down the river, and early on Monday arrived at a small market-town a few miles distant from a village which is Christian, and where there is a preacher supported entirely by native contributions. It was Mr. John's intention to have spent Sunday with these Christians; but it was ordered otherwise. Although the rain was falling heavily, we all started for the Christian village—not an easy undertaking, considering the want of roads and the abundance of mud. When we arrived, about thirty men collected in a short time in one of the houses, and had a little meeting. No woman could come out, and many of the men were from home or engaged. Their meeting together was spontaneous, and will compare favourably with anything of the kind at home. I was much struck by the honesty and warmth of their religion; but the Chinese do not allow their feelings to carry them away, and are far enough from fanaticism. They are pre-eminently the people of decency and order. The movement here has been most interesting and satisfactory. The latter fact may be accounted for because none of the Christians have in one way or another got foreign rice or money. There is great need of a little chapel being built, with a room attached, where a missionary from Hankow might live for a few days. The morning after he arrived home, Mr. John received a cheque for £50 for this very purpose, which is far more than is required.

It has been decided to send Shew to

the village which has renounced idolatry, for a month. He starts to-day. By that time Mr. John will go back to see what has been done, and spend a short time with the people. What I have been permitted to see has borne me up greatly.

#### ON MISSIONS IN CHINA.

In opening the Conference held in London, Lord Polwarth spoke of the vast extent and population of China—"a country which contains something like 360,000,000"—"an empire vast in its extent of 5,000,000 square miles." This country and population are at length opened up to missionary enterprise. "It is possible to enter in there. It is possible to go into that great harvest-field and reap. It is possible to go to these millions of China and tell them the glad tidings of great glory. It is possible to go to them in their heathendom and darkness, and tell them of a Saviour who can save them. It is possible to go to the furnishing millions of China, and tell them of the Bread of Life, of which, if a man eat, he shall live for ever. Who can think of the fact that it is possible to reach these millions, without having an intense desire to be in some way or other a messenger, or to send forth a messenger of the good news of Divine grace to them?"

The Rev. Mr. Hudson Taylor, editor of "China's Millions," spoke specially of the size of China and its population.

#### THE CHINESE ARE A PEOPLE FULL OF VIGOR

They are a people of great mental power, whose influence will be far more widely felt than it has hitherto been. They are spreading abroad now. They are colonising all the great islands of the Eastern Archipelago. They have crossed the Pacific, and in great numbers. They are to be found in San Francisco; and it is no small difficulty to the American Government to know how to deal with these earnest, and industrious, and laborious, and frugal colonists who have come in such numbers amongst them. They are going southward, and in New Guinea and Australia they are to be found in great numbers. They are going westwards. We shall feel their influence