

imagine, Christian people, friends of missions. They feel, I suppose, that the sacrifice of so many lives in the cause of Christ in behalf of China, is too great a waste—is an extravagant demand on the resources of the Christian Church. What a strange conception of the Church, of its place and mission in the world! What about the tens of thousands of lives that have been sacrificed in South Africa, within one year, on behalf of the British empire! What would the Christian Church in Europe have been without her confessors and martyrs! Was it to be expected that the conquest of China would be achieved without the Cross and the Crown of Thorns? Was there not a need for this terrible baptism of fire and blood with which the native Church in China is being baptized?

Missionaries resume their work! Of course they will, and with as little delay as possible. I am hoping that within a short time *most* of the mission stations will be reoccupied, and that before long *all* will be in full working order. There is not a merchant in China who talks about these troubles as likely to prevent the resumption of trade, but the reverse. Men of business are looking into the future with new hope, and are laying plans with the expectation of good developments in every direction. Shall the missionary fall behind the merchants? Shall he be less daring, less ambitious? I think of the government stepping in and forbidding merchants entering China again on account of these troubles! The thing is too absurd to be thinkable. We, the missionaries, have no intention of backing out of China, and there is not a government in the world that can keep us out, or that dares to make the attempt.

Moreover, the societies can not abandon China without condemning China to sin and perdition.

The great need of China to-day is vital religion. What the Chinese need, above all else, is a heavenly principle that shall infuse a new moral and spiritual life into the nation, a mighty power that shall transform them in their inmost being, a Divine inspiration that shall create within their breast aspirations after holiness and eternal life. In other words, what they need is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Apart from Christianity I can see no hope for China. There is no power in the religious systems of the country to develop a holy character, a true manhood. China can not advance in the path of true progress without a complete change in the religious life of the nation. It is Christ alone who can lead in the glorious dawn of the Chinese renaissance; the new birth of a mighty nation to liberty and righteousness, and ever-expanding civilization. Feeling this to be true, in our heart of hearts, we, the missionaries, have come to China to preach Christ, unto one a stumbling-block and unto another foolishness, but unto them that are called, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. This is our work, and woe to us if we turn our backs on it.

There is one fact that cheers my heart greatly as I

think of the future, namely that we shall have in China as a result of this terrible trial, a purer, stronger, a nobler Church than we had before. We shall have also a Church wonderfully qualified for witness bearing. The Chinese have been looking upon the Christians as "rice converts." It will be more difficult for them to look upon the Christians in that light after the splendid proofs they have given of their perfect sincerity during these four months of testing. The Church in China has passed through one of the severest persecutions with which the Christian Church has ever been tried, and we know that thousands of converts have faced suffering and death in their most appalling forms, rather than deny their faith in the Lord who bought them. Yes, the Church in China can stand to-day before the whole world, Christian and heathen, as a witness-bearing church, and say: "From henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear branded on my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."

Let the people of God in Christian lands be of good courage. These troubles in China will soon be over, and the demand for missionaries will be greater than ever. China will soon be prepared for the churches; *will the churches be prepared for China?* May God so move the Christians at home that they shall be prepared to joyfully undertake the new duties and responsibilities which the new China shall devolve upon them.

A CENTURY'S DAWN.

Far flames abroad a century's dawn;
Its sapphire depths may nothing mar;
Let earthly mists be all withdrawn,
And Christ the new sky's Morning Star.

We treasure gems from all the past,
All heroes' souls of light and fire;
We breathe their inspiration vast,
To concord with their Lord aspire.

Now upward, onward, Heavenward run,
And into Christ's full stature grow;
The Morning Star becomes a sun;
Beatitudes from worship flow.

The day-dawn sings. The noon-tide comes.
Our God Himself our dwelling place,
In His High House are many homes
For all who, contrite, seek His face.

With cherubim and seraphim,
Hosannas lift to God on high;
Let all our accents echo Him
Whose Right Hand is our panop'y

—Joseph Cook.

NORTH CHINA MISSION.

THE NATIVE CHRISTIANS.

Dr. Ament, of the American Board of Commissioners, wrote from Peking, August 28, speaking especially of the character and condition of the native Christians who have passed through the siege. The