

1881



1895

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"THIS IS THE VICTORY, EVEN OUR FAITH."

N.B.—Communications for this Department post-marked after the 18th of the month will appear in following month.

N.B.—All subscriptions for the OUTLOOK must be sent to the Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto.

N.B.—Certificates of Life Membership may be obtained by addressing Miss Ogden, Room 20, Wesley Buildings.

Editorial Notes.

IS it not significant at this crisis in the history of China our subject of prayer for this month should be "Work among the Chinese?"

Since October, '91, the Methodist Church of Canada has been engaged in missionary labors in one province of Western China, Ts-Chuen. Our own Woman's Missionary Society has three missionaries at work in this province.

In 1887 our Society established a Chinese Rescue Home at Victoria, B.C., and at present we have two missionaries employed in this Home. Since its inception the work has moved along in a quiet, unostentatious manner, the Home never sheltering more than sixteen, and this number only for a short time; but the work accomplished has been signally God-honored, for we learn that not one of those rescued has returned to her former impure life. But to the majority of our readers the details of our work among the Chinese here and in the walled kingdom are too familiar to need repetition, so for a brief space we will turn our attention to a consideration of the field and its needs rather than our special work and workers.

According to the latest statistics, gleaned from the "Statesman's Year Book," the present population of China is estimated at 402,680,000—one-third of the human race. Its area, 4,218,401 square miles; being one-third larger than all Europe. The religions of the Chinese are Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism, but "the one universal religion is the worship of ancestors." In this latter particular they have a broad field, for China ranks among the nations of antiquity. It is recorded that the Church at Antioch sent Christians to China in 107 A.D., and it is deemed probable that the founders of China "came from the vicinity of the Caspian Sea 2,700 years B.C., bringing with them the knowledge of writing and astronomy." There have been few great inventions—except those of modern days—that were not known in China centuries before they came into use elsewhere. Dr. Pierson says: "The mariner's compass, movable type, printing and paper, porcelain, silk, gunpowder, etc., being long familiar to this remarkable and exclusive people." They are many removes from the term "uneducated," boasting as they do "a social structure on firmer foundations than any other empire, with one system of manners, letters and policy." Their system of education is of a high type. Civil service, with compulsory, competitive examinations, and brains and skill—not birth and wealth—the broad highway to public honors and official positions. Despite all this they are, in many respects, a degraded people, because lacking the essential qualities of a true elevation, viz., the uplifting power of Christianity.

The Celestial Empire is truly a white harvest field, with 900 of its walled cities still *without one witness for Christ*. "To supply one missionary to every 50,000 people in this land, there is still a call for 6,400 men and women." At present it is estimated there are but 1,600 foreign workers and 2,000 native helpers, with 600 churches, 100 of which are self-supporting, and communicants to the number of 60,000. Who will gainsay that the nucleus of this ingathering was not formed in 1807 by Robert Morrison, the pioneer missionary to China, who, with strong faith in God and his own call to the work, labored on unaided for seven long years before he was rewarded with one "seal to his ministry or soul for his hire"? The need for more workers in China