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WATCHMAN, WHAT OF THE NIGHT ?

"The morning cometh," but much of night remains, seeming all the darker from the growing light around it. But this darkness too must disappear. Be it ours to watch, work and wait; wait, watch, and work, that whether the perfect day come sooner or later we may leave the world brighter than we found it.

The Chinese Poor China! How dense her darkness. On the morning of the first of August, at Hwa Sang, twelve miles from Ke Cheug, in the Province of Foo kien, China, a band of some eighty men armed with swords and spears made a sudden attack on the workers of the English Church Missionary Society, and the Rev. Mr. Stewart and his wife, their nurse, and six lady missionaries, were killed, under circumstances of the most atrocious barbarity, and two of the Stewart children, aged respectively six years and thirteen months were so badly injured that they died soon after. The attack was wholly unexpected, and half an hour after not one of the ruffians was to be seen.

The cause of the riot may be simply and generally stated as race prejudice, hatred of foreigners, and a determination to drive them from the country. Rev. Mr. Stewart had been working in the neighborhood for twelve years, and other English and American missionaries for a length of time. The Vegetarians, one of the many secret societies with which China is honey-combed, grew more hostile. Some months previous there had been threatening, but it was thought that the danger was past, until like a bolt out of a clear sky the blow fell, and a band of them perpetrated this horrible massacre. However these secret societies may differ, they agree in their hatred of foreigners, and their organization, like the infamous "Mafia," and "Ku-Klux," makes them all the more dangerous.

Mandarins and officials not only countenance, these awful deeds but help to inflame the passions of the people. One method of doing this is by placards with all kinds of horrible tales.

The chief of police in one place issued the following proclamation during some recent riots at Cheng-tu.

"At the present time we have ample evidence that foreigners deceive and kidnap small children. You, soldiers and people, must not be disturbed and flurried. When the cases are brought before us, we certainly will not be lenient with them."

Another placard, which appeared a day or two before the riots, said :

"It is hereby notified that at the present time foreign barbarians are hiring bad characters to steal small children, that they may extract oil from them for their use. I have a female servant who has personally seen this done. I therefore exhort you, good people, not to allow your children to go out. I hope you will act in accordance with this."

The result is hard to foresee. It is reported that the government has refused to allow foreign officials to be present at the investigation of the case. If it be left to the Chinese authorities it will be a farce. They will follow their usual custom: talk loudly of justice, pay some damages, perhaps pick up a few poor wretches, in or out of prison, execute them, and pretend that the murderers had been punished.

Threats or warnings on the part of other nations, or promises on the part of the Chinese, are simply valueless. Their authorities must be made to feel, ere such scenes will be stopped. To see this we need but look at their awful record.

Massacres The number and frequency of such in the Past. outrages is almost incredible. The *New York Tribune* thus sums up those of the past twenty-five years, and these are by no means the beginning of the sad history:—

"In 1870 occurred the Tientsin massacre, when the French Consul, the French interpreter and his bride, and twenty nuns, were killed amid circumstances of revolting barbarity. In 1871 there were outrages at Yang-Chow; in 1872 at Hankow and Shanghai; in 1874 there was a massacre of the French at Shanghai; in 1875 occurred the Margary murder; and in 1876 the missionaries at Foo-chow were raided and infamously assaulted. The year 1883 saw the British concession at