

yet one man refused \$2,000 to give up his faith. They are all eager to work and to spread the knowledge of the Saviour who has done so much for them among their fellow countrymen. There are at present nine native clergymen working under the Church Missionary Society and 174 native teachers.

We shall naturally feel an interest in the present lot and prospects of China's women. Like those of India they are utterly ignorant, for though the men prize education for themselves, there are actually *no schools for women except mission schools*. The high class women are kept much in seclusion, like their Indian sisters, and it is impossible for the missionaries to gain access to them. Women are needed for this work. If the women of China could come under the influence of the gospel, the outlook over the millions of heathen in the vast empire would be more hopeful.

No sketch, however brief, of Chinese missions, would be complete without at least mention of the wonderful mission to the 500,000 blind, which was begun by the Rev. W. H. Murray, a few years ago. This energetic man, who was a colporteur sent out by the Scottish National Bible Society, pitying the wretched existence of this poverty-stricken and wholly ignorant mass of humanity, thought out a method which reduced the multitudinous signs of the language to 420 *sounds*, represented by a system of equivalent raised dots. This proved so simple that his first pupil, a man, learned to read in six weeks; the second, a boy, in less than two months. These blind Bible readers prove capital missionaries; it is such a wonder to the Chinese that a blind man should read, that crowds gather round him to hear, and we know that without a syllable of man "the entrance of the word giveth light, it giveth understanding unto the simple."

When we consider that for an ordinary Chinese school-boy to read such a book as the Chinese "Jack the Giant Killer," he must study 1,200 characters, and that it will take him about six years to read such a book as the Bible, we can hardly over-estimate the importance of these often unconscious missionaries.

What are the present pressing needs of China? An earnest appeal has lately been made by the Rev. J. H. Horsburgh, of the C. M. S., for 1,000 missionaries, particularly for West China. It is desired to form a central home for each group of stations, to which the missionaries can go for rest, or in time of sickness. These missionaries would live in nearly every respect like the Chinese themselves and dress in Chinese costume. This is found a great advantage, as in the country districts people in European dress are likely to be mobbed.

A college training for this work, though useful, is not necessary, but Mr. Horsburgh gives an original specimen of what he terms an excel-

lent college course for the intending Chinese missionary.

"Live on rice, bread and vegetables, in one room, in a back street, if possible with a crochety friend," he says. "Study in the morning, angle for souls in the afternoon, work for God in the evening. Those who are not tired out by this severe course prove splendidly trained collegians."

For this work only fifty pounds a year with each missionary is needed. To raise this, Mr. Horsburgh gives some novel methods. "Let thirty-five Christians be responsible for a penny stamp a day or a year," he says, "or 250 Sunday scholars give a penny a week each, the amount would then be raised for one missionary."

This is the time for the missionary to go to China. The people are beginning to be discontented with their present religions. The opening up of China to foreign trade and residents has brought the people more in contact with the outside world. They are beginning to feel their religions insufficient, possibly too, out of date, and there is much practical unbelief among them. This, then, is the time for the Christian missionary to step forth with the Gospel of Christ Jesus to supply a need that is for the first time felt.

Has not China, moreover, a special claim upon British people? The shadow of the great wrong done by our nation, in the matter of the opium trade, more than 100 years ago, still rests darkly on the land. Do we not owe to it all the light we can send? The pioneer work has been nobly done. The Christian Church of to-day enters into the labour of those who were not afraid to stand alone amid difficulties and persecutions for the Master's sake. The work is now one of extension, and if heretofore the Chinese has essentially been the nation of the past, we believe that, by means of Christ's Gospel, it is destined to be, as has been lately put forward, the nation of the future.

NORTH-WEST INDIAN MISSIONS.

BY REV. C. L. INGLES, TORONTO.



THE writer of this article had the success of mission work among the North-West Indians clearly shown to him by a visit paid on the 8th of August to the Sarcee Indian Reserve near Calgary, followed by a visit paid on the 12th of the same month to the Rupert's Land Industrial School for Indian children at Middlechurch, near Winnipeg, which school is under the charge of the Rev. W. A. Burman, B.D.

On the Sarcee Reserve we have a missionary, the Rev. H. W. G. Stocken, who is sup-