

parts of characters, into "Four Myriads of Bastards." They are charged with an unlimited capacity for using violent language. Hence the proverb: "Ten sharpers cannot talk down one Tientsin man and ten Tientsin wranglers cannot talk down one Mohammedan." They are exceedingly clannish and present a combined front. Mr. Noyes, of Canton, says of them: "They hold tenaciously to their religion, not necessarily to its doctrines, but they do not easily leave their sect." A Lin Ching Mohammedan said in effect: "We have nothing like church discipline. If a man is unfaithful we leave that to God." When appointed to office they find no trouble in going through the forms of the Chinese ritual.

Mohammedanism in China does not seem to have gained its numbers by proselytizing. The Mohammedans of to-day trace their descent for hundreds of years from Mohammedan families. They have multiplied by natural increase. They, also, it is said, add largely to their numbers by purchasing children in famine times, just as the Catholics do. They have been known, in a single famine, to purchase as many as ten thousand. If they are zealous missionaries in Africa, they are certainly not so here. What will be their future in China? Who knows.

*Lin Ching.*

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