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No. V.

China and Missions.

“BEHOLD THESE SHALL COME FROM FAR, AND LO, THESE
 FROM THE NORTH AND FROM THE WEST, AND THESE
 FROM THE LAND OF SINIM. Isaiah XLIX : 12.

IT is now pretty generally conceded that the name “SINIM” in the passage quoted refers to China, and that we are justified in accepting the statement as an express promise of the evangelization of the CHINESE. China proper extends from 18 to 41 N. Lat., and from 97 to 123 E. Long. It is about 1474 miles from North to South, and 1355 miles from West to East. The coast line is upwards of 2500 miles long. Beyond these limits, however, there is a vast additional expanse of territory belonging to the empire, while the adjoining Kingdoms of Siam, Java, and Sumatra are largely peopled by Chinese. The surface of the country is divided into the mountainous, the hilly, and the Great Plain. This last, corresponding to the great “fertile belt” of our own country in the far North-West, is seven hundred miles in length, varying in breadth from one hundred and fifty to five hundred miles. Its area is estimated at 210,000 square miles. The most interesting feature of the Plain is the enormous population which it contains—one hundred and seventy-seven millions. It is the most densely peopled part of the world of the same size. Of the eighteen vast provinces in which China proper is divided we find two

with an average population of 850 to the square mile—the average for the whole of the United States of America is only *twelve* persons to the square mile. Its cities are crowded. Canton has a population of 2,500,000, Peking has upwards of a million, Nankin has half a million, and Amoy, 250,000. It is *supposed that fully one tenth of the people live by the fisheries and a large proportion live in boats.* In Canton alone it is estimated that no less than 300,000 thus live on the surface of the water. They are born, they marry, they die on the water. The two rivers, the Hoangho and the Yiangate-yang, respectively 2500 and 3000 miles in length, are among the greatest in the world. The great Wall, built two thousand years ago, as a defence against the Tartars, is thirteen hundred miles in length, but it is quite useless now. The Provinces south of the great wall are computed to contain *four hundred millions of inhabitants.* That is a good deal more than one fourth of the entire population of the globe. If we add the heathen populations of India, Thibet and Japan, we find a compact mass of heathenism—fully one half of the human family—living, as their ancestors before them have lived and died, without the knowledge of the way of salvation. Let us think of it. A million of people die in China every month. At that rate the entire population of Canada, or of London, would be annihilated in three months and a half. Every fourth child that comes into the world is a Chinese. Every fourth man, woman and child who dies is a Chinese. And these four hundred millions are a nation of idolaters!

The Chinese trace their history back to 3000 years before Christ. Though the oldest nation in the world, they shew no symptoms of decay. They are as full of vigour and pro-