

edges with a half-a-dozen of Great Britain and Ireland; that is, you will have a million and a half square miles to add for good measure. Change it from its present shape to that of a belt of land a mile wide, and there would be room for a walking match from end to end, of thirty miles a day, continued through more than four and a half centuries.

Dr. Legge, forty years a missionary in China, and now Professor of Chinese in the University at Oxford, does not think that anybody can say anything more definite than the Chinese Ambassador in Paris, who recently stated the population at four hundred millions.

*Populousness compared with other countries.*—There are one-third more people in China than in all the countries of Europe combined; twice as many as on the four continents, Africa, North and South America, and Oceanica. One-third of the human race is in China. Every third person who lives and breathes upon this earth, who toils under the sun, sleeps under God's stars, or sighs and suffers beneath the heaven, is a Chinese. Every third child born into the world looks into the face of a Chinese mother; every third pair given in marriage plight their troth in a Chinese cup of wine; every third orphan weeping through the day, every third widow wailing through the watches of the night, is in China. Every third person who comes to die, or who sits in contemplation on his own dissolution, is a Chinese. One can but ask, What catechism will this third child learn? What prosperity will follow this bridal? What solace will be afforded these widows? What watch-care will be given these orphans? With what hopes will these multitudes depart?

Depart they must, and the ghastly arithmetic startles us, as we estimate how rapidly they go. Thirty-three thousand Chinese die every day! We pale and shudder at the dim outline of the thought. And yet they stay not! Bury all the people in London in three months, and the rest of mankind would start aghast at the grim event. Yet we record and read with carelessness the statement that four times every year that number die in China. It is equal to burying all the people of England in a year and a half; all of Great Britain and Ireland in thirty months; all of New York City in less than a month; all the people of the United States in less than six years! Terrific ordeal of the imagination! We stagger at the arithmetic, and hide our face from the pallid ranks.

We turn to the living. Put them in rank joining hands, and they will girdle the globe ten times at the equator with living, beating human hearts. Make them an army, and let them move