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Strange Worship in China.

(By Rev. Jas. Carson, B.A., in 'Daybreak'.)

The picture which you see before you is a tablet erected to the worship of the Fox—a form of religious service not at all uncommon in Manchuria. This is the very tablet worshipped by the Taotal, or chief magistrate, of Newchwang, up to the day of his flight during the late troubles.

The moment he fled from the Yamen, or official residence, the looters set to work, and carried off everything that was removable. At last there remained only this little shrine, nailed to the court-yard wall, op-

Now, do not suppose that this religious service is performed by the poor and ignorant only. The devotees are amongst the highest in the land, even the Governors and Viceroys of Provinces.

And why is this? Because the wily little fellow is supposed to have control of the official seals belonging to the high offices of government.

In the absence of a temple, a room in the Yamen is set apart for religious purposes. There is no image or likeness to be seen; but only a tablet with an inscription such as you see. The official enters the room, kneels down, kotows three times, offers

And the inscriptions at the sides are in praise of the object of worship: 'Thy great virtue penetrates to the most secret places in nature.' 'If men would but acknowledge the honor of thy majesty, all places would be filled with thy glory.'

In that awful catalogue of sin with which the Apostle charges mankind, is not this special sin to be found, namely, changing the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of a four-footed beast; and worshipping and serving the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever.—Amen

Beyond the River.

'We know but little about the other side,' said a lady in regard to the land beyond the river.

A friend said to her: 'You know that we invited you to visit us a year or two ago, and you came. When you received the invitation you had no idea about our house, the scenery, surroundings or country. Indeed, you had never seen any place with which you could compare it, and so form any idea of it. But this you did know—that you would be most joyfully received with open arms, and, knowing this, you were fully satisfied. The scenery would come after the welcome.'

Another similar incident is worthy of recording. A lady who has very recently passed over was preceded by her son, and her thoughts as well as her heart followed after him, and she often expressed a wish that she could know about his home and surroundings—a wish most natural to a cherishing mother, the desire that such a mother has for any absent child.

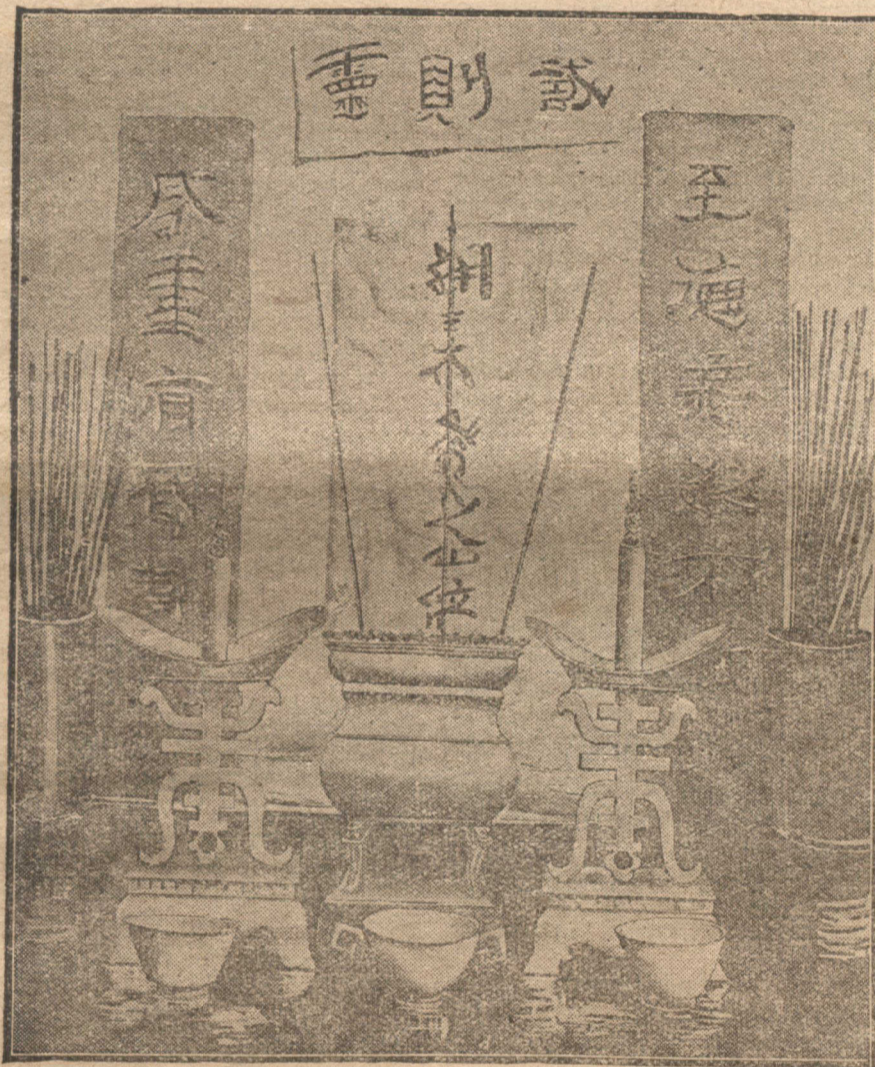
Her husband said to her: 'Suppose I were somewhere in the continent of Asia, and that you knew that I was perfectly familiar with the country and with the people, and that the people were my friends. And suppose that our son were also in Asia. Now, which would you prefer to know—that our son were in some particular locality which you could point out on the map, or to know that he was with me?'

'We shall be with Christ. That is enough!—Friendly Greetings.'

Our Post Office Crusade.

A short time ago two appeals came from India for papers. I had never had an communication with the missionaries who sent these. It rather troubled me to know how I was to supply the new demand. Almost immediately after their arrival, however, offers of help came and one gentleman, Mr. D. M. Kinley, of Coventry, Ont., mailed sufficient funds to supply six native gentlemen with papers for a year and one for six months. A number have taken names and some have kindly sent me papers. It would be best, however, for people to mail their papers direct to India and thus save postage, 1c for every two ounces. Parcels must be carefully done up, clearly addressed and full postage paid.

'Donald,' I am glad to say, has received a warm welcome from his Canadian cousins. Several nice papers are going to him. On



TABLET FOR FOX WORSHIP.

posite the private apartments of the Mandarin. Their superstitious fears would not allow them to touch it; or, perhaps, they thought it not worth carrying away!

The Chinese have a great reverence for the crafty little fox, as the animal into which they think human spirits enter in preference to any other, and are, therefore, afraid to destroy it or displease it.

And the Manchus are still more given to animal worship—including the tiger, the stoat, the bean-rat, etc.—than even the Chinese proper.

In Moukden there is a temple to the fox; and almost every garden in Kirin has its wooden shrine, the size of a large doll-house, where adoration is paid to Mr. and Mrs. Fox and family.

three cups of wine, three sticks of incense, and lights two red candles. Observe in the picture the three sticks of incense resting in the incense-burner.

Then, again, another reason why the fox received such adoration is the belief that it has the power of changing at will into the human form, or of entering the bodies of men and women.

Many of the 'Boxers' claimed that they were so possessed. And so they were, but by something more wicked than the fox.

Now, as to the meaning of the Chinese 'characters' or words on the tablet. The three horizontal words at top read: 'The sincere seeker shall find.'

The vertical column in the middle means: 'The Sacred Shrine of His Honor, Mr. Fox.'