

It may seem unwise to speak of any prospect for the future. The Jews are a proverbially difficult race to evangelize or Christianize. Honan is admitted to be one of the hardest provinces in China for Missionaries to obtain a foothold in. Kai-feng-fu, its capital, abounds with officials, literati and military men. All this adds greatly to the difficulty of reaching the Jewish remnant. After his visit Dr. Martin proposed, in a letter to the *Jewish Times*, of New York, the formation of a Jewish Mission. The appeal caused some discussion among the Jews, but produced no further result, except sundry letters in Hebrew which he was requested to forward to a people who had forgotten the language of their fathers. In this letter referred to it was stated that, "the rebuilding of the Synagogue is indispensable to give this maribund colony a rallying point and bond of union: and that without this nothing else can save them from extinction." Such is the deliberate conviction of one of the most competent judges in China. Were money for a Synagogue forthcoming, and a competent Jewish Rabbi as well, they might yet survive. Even were this to happen many other difficulties would stand in the way. It may interest some readers of the JOURNAL to know that Kai-feng-fu was one of the cities first thought of as head-quarters for the Canadian Mission to Honan. Were it possible to get an entrance there for any one of our members, something might yet be attempted in the way of winning some members of the Jewish Colony to Christianity. The prospect for their future has scarcely one ray of hope unless it comes from Christianity.

Christ is the true consolation of Israel. Surely some members of this remnant shall yet be as jewels for His crown. We are all praying now that He may open the way for us into Honan. He is able to do this, and we believe will yet do it. Once settled there, it may be the privilege of some of our number to preach Christ crucified to the Jews in Kai-feng-fu.

MURDOCH MACKENZIE.

*Lin Ching, China.*