

3. They are a "brainy" race. There is no question that the Chinese are the most intellectual of all the Asiatics. They are the bankers and the wholesale merchants of the East. Some twelve years ago when General Grant returned from his tour of the world, he said that in his travels he had met three great men, three men who towered head and shoulders above all others, "with whom there were none to compare." One of the pre-eminently great men was Gladstone, England's great statesman; another was Germany's great warrior, Bismarck; and the third of these incomparably great men was Li Hung Chang, Viceroy of Chili and Prime Minister of China. *A Chinaman!* There is to-day no man better versed in statecraft, there is no more shrewd diplomat than Li Hung Chang.

4. The Chinese are a nation of students. In what other country in the world will you find 25,000 students competing in one examination-hall for literary honors? Last month in the city of Nanking there were between 29,000 and 30,000 students attending the triennial examinations. Men will attend the examinations year after year until they are bowed and decrepit with age in the hope of obtaining the coveted prize. It is not an unusual thing for men of seventy-five and eighty years to be found at their place in the hall. So anxious are they to obtain an education, that a man who is too poor to buy oil will steal his neighbor's light through a knot-hole in order that he may study.

Is there no destiny for such a people?

5. China is arousing herself. Some people have an idea that China is dead. She is not dead, or if she is, she is a very lively corpse. She is not asleep, she is shaking off the lethargy of the centuries and arousing herself as a mighty giant for a coming struggle. She has a magnificent fleet of merchant steamers, large dockyards, arsenals, and a complete network of telegraphs over the entire Empire. She has, it is true, but a few hundred miles of railroads, but railroads are coming and they will be built with native material and Chinese labor.

6. China is destined to become one of the great factors in the future development of the world. I do not agree with Lord Wolseley that she is to become the great military power of the future, conquering Russia and India, and crossing swords with England and the United States. This seems to me extravagant; but if Genghis Khan in the beginning of the thirteenth century swept with his Mongol horde from the mouth of the Amoor to the sources of the Danube, what might not an awakened, civilized China do with a possible forty millions of soldiers?

For the above reasons I repeat: The evangelization of China is the *most important* work of the Church of Christ in this age.

Christianizing China is the only solution of the "Chinese Question." Exclusion Acts will not do it. This great problem is thrusting itself upon us. What are we going to do about it? We cannot ignore it—we dare not if we could. We cannot keep them out. We close the front door, but the back door is wide open, and it would take a much larger army