

## CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY.

Mr John Ross, a British official, evidently well acquainted with China, has an interesting article in the current Contemporary on this subject. "Fear of foreign aggression, and fear alone," he tells us, has been the secret spring, and is the only explanation, of Chinese foreign policy. Hence the dread of any connection with the foreigner. \* \* \* What single point of contact have the Chinese ever voluntarily granted to the foreigner? What terms already granted through fear have the Chinese not endeavored to emasculate and destroy? This fear has already produced many unpleasant effects and its tale is not yet full." Dealing with present grave complications Mr. Ross says: "It is for the well-being of China that Europe should at the present crisis demand all that is right. It will be but an aggravation of the present evils and a preparation for a still more terrible day of reckoning if demands are made which will be a prolongation of the inequitable past, and which will tend to conform the Chinese belief of foreign designs upon their land." In writing of missionary influence on native public opinion in China, Mr. Ross exonerates in a large measure Protestant Missionaries from blame for recent troubles; but the Roman Catholic church comes in for unstinted condemnation, and not without good cause it would appear. Next week we shall reproduce this portion of Mr. Ross' paper and let our readers form their own judgment on his presentation of the case. All the articles in this number are well up to the mark, and will be read with interest. Leonard Scott, Publication Company, New York.

At a reception given to Pte. Thomson, at Orillia, Rev. Dr. Grant, referring to objections made by some people to the present war in the Transvaal, is reported by the Packet as affirming, "That he thoroughly believed that the war in South Africa was the most righteous that Great Britain had ever entered upon, from which it she had shrunk she would come down in rank among the nations till she would not have been respected by even the meanest of them. He was equally convinced that the wiping out of the Boer republics was a righteous act. These republics had been founded for the purpose of perpetuating slavery, and had been cemented in the blood of the Kafir." Dr. Grant, on this subject, does not see altogether eye to eye with his namesake of Queen's.

Rev. Dr. W. A. Hunter, formerly pastor of Erskine Church, Toronto, and who removed to Denver, Colorado, for his health, was married there on the 3rd inst., to Miss Holden, of Montreal. The many Canadian friends of Dr. and Mrs. Hunter, tender them hearty congratulations on this happy event.

The blank schedules for half yearly claims, and annual returns for Home Missions and Augmentation have been mailed to the conveners in the several Presbyteries. Should any one fail to receive them within a reasonable time, he is requested to notify the secretary, Rev. Dr. Santerville, Owen Sound.

## HONAN MISSIONARIES COMPLIMENTED.

The British Consul in Hankow in acknowledging a note of thanks from Dr. R. P. MacKay, Secretary of the Foreign Mission Committee, for his kindness to our missionaries during their escape from Honan, says, "I was of course pleased to be able to assist the missionaries of your church to the best of my ability, but they owe their safety chiefly to their own bravery and resourcefulness and to the protection of H. E. the Viceroy Chang at Wuchang." He further writes: "The An Yang magistrate reported that your houses, furniture, etc., are under official care." The latter clause refers to the buildings at Chang Te, and confirms news already received.

## Suggestions to Kirk Sessions.

DEAR BRETHREN:—At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Century Fund held on the 3rd inst., it was resolved to transmit to all Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions, the following facts and suggestions:

To 31st December, 1900, the actual subscriptions reported for Debt Fund amounted to \$90,000, and those to the Common Fund to \$460,000. It is proper, however, to state that the Executive had before them conservative estimates for the several Presbyteries as to the additional amounts that would be forthcoming from congregations where the canvass has not yet been made or in which it has not yet been completed. These show an additional \$80,000 for the Common Fund and \$60,000 for the Debt Fund. Adding these estimates to the amount actually subscribed, the total for the Common Fund is \$500,000 and for the Debt Fund, \$730,000.

It will be seen that, whilst the proposed \$1,000,000 has been considerably exceeded, the Common Fund—the very core of the undertaking—is likely to be short to the amount of \$100,000. In order to realize the full amount of \$600,000 so urgently needed for the extension and strengthening of the missionary and other enterprises of the Church, the committee respectfully seek the prompt, cordial and earnest co-operation of every Kirk Session, and request that Presbyteries shall, at their next meeting, call for reports as to what action has been taken in each congregation and mission station within the bounds.

The suggestions are as follows:

1.—That the canvass shall, without delay, be untiringly prosecuted to a completion wherever it has not been fully overtaken, and that steps be taken to secure the cordial co-operation of the Sabbath School, Christian Endeavor Society and other organizations in the Church.

2.—That a supplementary canvas shall be made among friends who may be thought able to increase their contributions. Many will, no doubt, be stirred to further liberality if waited upon and fully informed as to the present position. When deemed necessary or helpful, the Committee will be happy to provide special assistance for carrying out this suggestion.

3.—Congregations which have largely devoted their subscriptions to the removal of debt, are requested at their annual meeting or at a special meeting, to consider the propriety of increasing the proportion to be given to the Common Fund.

4.—In the Memorial volume to be published, it is desirable that all congregations, all mission stations, and every family

of each congregation and mission station, should have a place, and sessions are asked to secure that no one shall be deprived of the honor and pleasure of helping to a successful issue this, the greatest enterprise in which our Church has ever been engaged.

5.—The annual collections for the schemes of the Church being now nearly closed, Kirk Sessions and Century Fund Committees are asked, diligently to secure that contributions to the Century Fund shall be paid as early as possible, so that all may be in the hands of the General Treasurers by the date at which the Fund is to be completed—1st May, 1901.

6.—To attain these ends, it is advisable that, at this juncture, a special meeting of session shall be held, for conference with Committees of Management or Deacon's Courts, and that the whole subject of the Century Fund work in the congregation shall be carefully considered and appropriate action arranged for.

The returns show that the great body of our people in moderate circumstances have been contributing according to ability, and that, in the outlying Presbyteries of the Church there has been a very generous response. The committee believe that this fact should be known so that those in moderate circumstances may continue their interest, and that those to whom God has given an ampler share of prosperity, may put the copestone on the goodly edifice, some largely increasing the subscriptions they have already made, and others hastening to make subscriptions commensurate with the occasion and the work.

Brethren, we beg to remind you that the honor of our Church is at stake in this matter. This thank offering to God was undertaken by the unanimous voice of our General Assembly and has been endorsed by all our Synods and Presbyteries. Being so pledged, even partial failure would be a reproach and disaster. Especially, there ought to be no possibility of failure when God has favored our country with a season of such wide-spread prosperity as we are passing through. Nor ought it to be thought possible that there should be failure, when it is known that small and weak congregations in farthest East and newest North and remotest West;—congregations of miners in Dawson City, of red men on our great plains and of converted Hindus in Trinidad,—have joined in doing their share, and that in the two months campaign just ended, well \$150,000 has been added to the Common Fund. We shall not fail if, with one accord, you rise to the help of the movement and make the winter campaign what it ought to be, the hearty registration of your gratitude for all that God has done for your congregations, and through them for the homes and hearts under your care. In Name of the Committee,

Yours faithfully,

ROBT. H. WARDEN, Convener,  
W. G. WALLACE, Secretary,  
R. CAMPBELL, Agent.

Toronto, 10th Jan. 1901.

The American Kitchen Magazine for January is called the Men's Number. The article of chief interest is entitled "How to Place Housekeeping on a business-like basis," in which ten men give their views on the subject. "How a Bachelor kept himself" will give new ideas to unmarried men who have grown tired of boarding-house life. The different departments contain as usual many helpful items. The Home Science Publishing Co., Boston Mass.