

were led by Taoism, but, unable to strike a proper mean, leaned strongly toward Agnosticism. He built up the state and exalted the emperor, while he banished all that related to God as the Supreme Being. While this system exalts man, it degrades and dishonors woman.

There are also among the Chinese many Buddhist worshippers, but outside the monasteries the number is small, in proportion to the followers of the other systems.

Does any idea of the true God still linger among them?

One might suppose so from the whole burnt-offering made once a year by the Emperor in the Temple of Heaven, which was recently burned in Peking; and sailors, when overtaken by a storm, when they find their prayers unavailing, cast away the gods of the sea and pray to the Supreme God of Heaven. This is at least suggestive of the true idea of worship.

What is the character of the Chinese?

They are aggressive, penetrating the most remote nations, and adapting themselves to conditions of climate and government, pursue their various avocations with persistent industry and enterprise. They are remarkable for their frugality and thrift, and such qualities must make themselves felt, slowly but surely gaining power and influence. Though apparently stolid and unemotional, they exhibit a capability for firm and controlling Christian faith and principle.

We have great reason to hope for the success of Chinese missions. The progress already made is most encouraging. In every one of the twenty-two open ports of China, in all centres of influence, in scores of cities and interior towns, are to be found well started missionary organizations, some of them with thorough equipments and promising resources. There are already in the field 1,295 missionaries, more than one-half of whom are women; 209 ordained ministers and 1,260 unordained, with 180 female helpers; 37,287 communicants, and 140,000 interested or believers in Christianity. In the various schools, colleges, theological seminaries, girls' schools, and day schools, are found more than 15,000 young men and women who are daily under Christian influence, while 81 medical missionaries reach yearly by the practice of their profession more than half a million of people.