



# MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD.

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF WINNING CHINA FOR CHRIST.

BY REV. JOHN R. HYKES, KIUKIANG, CHINA.

### I. China is to-day *the* great mission field of the world.

Whether we consider the extent and resources of her territory, the number of her population, her antiquity, or the character and possibilities of her people, she is unquestionably the greatest and most important field for missionary operations on the planet.

1. *Size.*—In the Chinese Empire we have one of the largest domains ever swayed by a single power in any age or any part of the world. According to the most careful estimate it comprises a continuous area of more than five and a quarter million square miles. It is one half larger than the United States with Alaska thrown in. It forms one third of the entire Continent of Asia—one tenth of the habitable globe. In extent it is equal to a Europe and a half. Next to Russia it is the largest empire that has ever existed.

2. *Resources.*—In this vast territory the greatest mineral and metallic wealth of the world is stored, and it is practically untouched. Gold and silver are abundant; the diamond, ruby, sapphire, topaz, garnet, agate, and other precious stones are known and used; tin, zinc, lead, nickel, and all the common metals exist in vast stores. Coal and copper are found in every province, and it would scarcely be an exaggeration to say that there is enough coal in China to supply the world for the next twenty centuries. In the Central Provinces men dig a shaft a hundred feet deep, carry the coal up the incline in baskets strapped to their backs—fifty and sixty pounds at a time—and call the process mining! Water is baled out by buckets handed from one level to another, or it is pumped to the surface by a series of rude bamboo pumps, and when these primitive methods fail to keep the mine from becoming flooded, it is abandoned and a new shaft sunk. Yet so abundant is the supply that immense quantities of coal are mined in this rude and laborious way.

The agricultura wealth of China is proverbial. In many parts of Far Cathay it is only necessary to “tickle the soil with a hoe and it will laugh a harvest.” The great plains are cultivated like gardens (indeed, the