

to guide mariners to a safe haven, and that fall stunned and dying at the base. We are in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom we are to shine as lights in the world, holding forth the Word of Life. He who uplifts God's Beacon has nothing to fear. The church is on the Rock of Ages, and survives the shock of all assault, moveless and serene.

"O! where are kings and empires now,
Of old that went and came?
But, Lord, thy church is praying yet,
A thousand years the same."

A NOBLE TESTIMONY TO AMERICAN MISSIONARIES.

LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN MINISTER TO CHINA.

[The following remarkable letter was addressed to Gen. Jas. M. Shackelford as a private communication, but the writer has yielded to the desire of many to have its testimony made public.—Eds.]

Legation of United States, Peking, March 20, 1886.

Letter to Gen. Shackelford, Evansville, Indiana:

DEAR GENERAL—I wrote you some time since about the missionaries. Since then I have gone through some of the missions here, and will go through all. Believe nobody when he sneers at them. The man is simply not posted on the work. With your enthusiastic religious nature, you can realize the view that the believing Christian takes of the divine side of the question. I, unfortunately more worldly, look at it as the ancient Roman would have done, who said, "I am a man, and nothing that is human is indifferent to me."

I saw a quiet, cheerful woman teaching forty or more Chinese girls; she teaches in Chinese the ordinary branches of common school education. Beneath the shadow of the "forbidden city" I heard these girls sing the Psalms of David and "Home, Sweet Home." I saw a male teacher teaching forty or more boys the translation of the arithmetic used at home; these boys did examples for me at the blackboard. I saw their little Chinese dormitories, where they slept on kang; their plain but neat refectory; their kitchen, with its great piles of rice. I saw their chapel; I visited the dispensaries, complete and perfect as any apothecary shop at home; then the consultation rooms, their wards for patients, coming, without money or price, to be treated by the finest medical and surgical talent in the world. There are twenty-three of these hospitals in China. Think of it! Is there a more perfect charity in the world? The details of all the system were explained to me. There are two of these medical missionaries here who receive no pay whatever. The practice of the law is magnificent; but who can rival the devotedness of these men to humanity?

I have seen missionaries go hence a hundred miles, into districts where there is not a white person of any nationality, and they do it as coolly as you went into battle at Shiloh. And these men have remarkable learning, intelligence and courage. It is perhaps a fault that they court nobody, make no effort to attract attention, fight no selfish battle.