

MISSION FIELD.

"CHINA'S MILLIONS."

(From the July Number of Mission Field N. Y.)

The Rev. Dr. Ashmore has published in China a missionary leaflet describing the almost countless masses of heathen in the various provinces of the empire. From this publication we take the following with regard to the provinces within Bishop Boone's jurisdiction:

Dr. Ashmore says: "Let us make the different provinces of China pass in review before us, one at a time, each with its vast army of living men, women and children. That will be better than giving a lump number. You will get a more detailed impression. Soldiers marching in 'close order' will take about two and a half feet to each man, but so much time will be required that we must put them closer than that and save every inch we can, and every minute of time. So we will expect them to march in 'lock step' and allow only a foot and a half to each person. In one mile there are 5,280 ft. At lockstep, there will be 3,520 persons to each mile. Each million of them will stretch along for a distance say, of 284 miles.

"Honan, 'south of the river,' contains 23,037,171 people. Their column will be 6,534 miles long, and will require 326 days to pass along. For forty-six Sundays, one after another, you can think of them, and hear missionary chapters in the Bible read about them, with the missionary application left out. The promises made to the whole earth, are localized to one's own church or association. There they go—without hope and without God in the world, and without any one to teach them—and yet, in the United States, we have 80,000 ministers of evangelical denominations, multitudes of whom are doing nothing but just listening to other people preach.

"Kiangsu—population 37,843,501—enough to stock an empire of itself. Japan is an empire, yet it has not so many people as that province. Great Britain is an empire; France has called itself an empire; Germany is an empire yet, but the population of none of them is much larger. The Kiangsu part of the procession will reach 10,750 miles, and will require in passing 537 days. Such numbers are appalling. While they are filing along by the million, seventy-seven Sabbaths will pass over your heads. You will need a chaplain of your own, to preach to you who review the procession. During all these days he can preach to you a whole body of theology upon all manner of subjects except your duty to save the perishing. Twice during that time will 'Merrie Christmas' come and go; twice will you sing Christmas carols, and hear about the birth of Him who was given to save all mankind. Twice will you eat your Christmas dinner, and send around among your friends your costly presents and superfluous albums, and yet forget to send a

little frankincense and myrrh to those breadless, starving hosts whom Christ in vision committed to your trust.

"Nganhwui—here is another one nearly as large. O her great countries are groups of states and districts; China is a group of empires. It is a great empire, made up of smaller empires. The population of this province is 34,168,054. This line will extend 9,706 miles, and will take up 455 days of your time.

"Hupoh comes next—another great nation in itself—27,370,098 strong, stretching far away, the head and foot of the line 7,775 miles apart, and consuming more than a solid year in the march. Yonder comes the yellow imperial banner of Hunan, 'south of the lake.' Following it is a file of 18,652,507 human beings who have never heard of Christ. They reach back 5,290 miles more. O Lord, deliver us from indolence and selfishness!"

FRAGMENTS from Mission Field, N. Y., for July:—

The Rev. Dr. Ashmore writes from China: "Things brighten in this eastern sky. I never knew a more hopeful time in Chinese Missions."

In the province of Travancore, India, Christianity has so far displaced heathenism that one man out of every five ranges himself among the followers of Christ.

Lord Dufferin recognizes the danger of purely secular instruction in India and has issued a circular on the subject. He states that he would be glad to see a large increase of state-aided schools under directly religious management.

At the recent annual meeting of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society it was stated that there had been good success at almost every station. The receipts for the year were \$133,000. There are now at home nearly 900 associations, and upward of 500 working parties in support of the mission.

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