

centuries ago. We had it revised and it is now in use in Mexico. That is one little outcome of these conferences."

July 6th, from 9 a. m., to 10 o'clock, we enjoyed a delightful hour in prayer, praise, and very short addresses. This is to be continued from day to day, and promises to be a most profitable and soul refreshing exercise. During the forenoon Dr. Gracey presented for discussion this topic: "What can we do to organize the churches at home in the work of helping our foreign mission field to such literature as can be readily picked up and sent abroad?" He said: There are three classes of demand for the literature that we have at home: 1. The literature that the missionaries need. 2. The need of English books among native preachers. There is a dearth of literature among them, and if retired ministers want to give away their libraries here is the best place for them. 3. The non-Christian class who read English, who are reading Tom Paine and Col. Ingersol in English. There are many who are willing to give their books, but there should be a central distributing bureau, and this Union should take the matter up.

Several spoke endorsing this idea, some of whom urged that caution must be used, lest the contents of our waste baskets and lumber room be shipped to our mission fields. A committee was then appointed to consider and report.

In the afternoon a letter was read from Dr. J. H. Fagg, a Hollander, who is in Ching Chow, China, thirty miles inland from Amoy. It was dated April 16th, 1889, and was in part as follows:

"The missionary movement in this section tends from the centre inland. A feature of encouragement is the increased willingness to hear preaching. But idolatry is solidly entrenched. Wooden images filch thousands of dollars from the natives every year. Idolatry is a gigantic system of robbery. There is great prejudice against us, and the expulsion of Chinese from Australia and America has increased it. The good work, however, is going on, and we all pray that it may continue."

Dr. Kip was invited to speak in reference to the latter. He said:

I am very well acquainted with the locality of which Dr. Fagg writes. The latitude is about the same as Key West. The climate is mild. The city of which he speaks as having a population of 100,000, when I first went to China twenty-eight years ago had half a million. The reason of this falling off is the long-haired rebels, who swept down on the place after the dispersion of their forces by Gordon. One church lost fifteen of its thirty members. The rebels held the

city six months and devastated the country. Seven-tenths of the city was destroyed. The marauders finally left and then the imperial troops marched in and claimed a great victory. There are still large unoccupied tracts in the city, but they are being resettled and the missionary work has greatly extended. The first time I visited Chung Chow we had stones thrown at us, but after the people were chastened by their affliction they gave us no further trouble.

In a delightful speech, Rev. Mr. Worley, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, said in substance: I came from the same region as Dr. Kip, but a different province, and they speak a different language. We have five or six dialects in our own conference. In China there is a system of civil service examination. Recently they have introduced in this examination western service and mathematics. They have thus lowered the standard of ancient classics and given a better chance to those educated in our schools. The conservative party opposed the change, but it was made, and we consider it a great step forward. The railroads, which are a great civilizing influence, are extending. Telegraph lines now connect all the principal points in China. The Emperor has a little toy railroad in his imperial grounds for himself and wife to ride on. In Foo Chow I have seen in use the old customs of having the pulpit in the centre, and screens running across with men on one side and women on the other. In the early days of the missionaries a woman was not expected to even appear in a public meeting, but now they are allowed to speak. It is a very hard thing for women in China to remove the bandages from their feet, which are put there when they are children to make the feet small. But now the Christian women are unbinding their feet, and I know of some whose feet had been bound for fifty years and afterward straightened out nearly natural. In Foo Chow a man using tobacco can not be admitted to a Methodist conference. I doubt if that is true in all parts of America. The temperance movement is progressing too, and we have many who are taking the triple pledge, opium, tobacco and wine. A Chinaman had as soon drink poison as a glass of cold water, and some of our missionaries, when asked to take wine, retaliate by asking the Chinaman to have a glass of water.

Evidently Southern China is a hopeful field for missionary effort. The evening was devoted to a "recognition meeting." Missionaries were expected to tell who they were, from what country and what society—to what people—in what language—how long—and whether they intended to return, all in three minutes. Vain expectation. The