

Missionary.

THE CLEAN SECT IN CHINA.

IT is inevitable that false religions should, when transplanted from one country to another, display different modifications due to different environments. Thus it is natural that the Buddhism of India, China and Japan should be, in important respects, one, and yet, in other important respects, different. On coming to China, the widespread prevalence of Mohammedanism is soon brought to our notice. The number of its followers is placed at 20,000,000. Honan furnishes 200,000. It is surely, then, worth our while to enquire about Chinese Mohammedans, their faith and practice. Very little is said of them in our missionary annals and our missionary conferences; their conversion has no special place on the programme for the 1890 Shanghai Conference. It was not to be expected, therefore, that I could find much literature upon them. Our contact with them here in Lin Ching is close, for we live in their quarter. Our neighbors are all too frequently calling on us, and what better can we do than levy toll upon them, not only in new phrases which fall from their lips, but also in some information regarding their religion, at the same time more than repaying with copious passages of the New Testament and Catechism.

The name by which they are often called in China is the Hui Hui Religion or Sect. This name is a translation from the Arabic. The Chinese Moslem character, a translation of Moslem, which, twice repeated, gives the name, is explained to mean, return and submission, that is to say, a return to God by the right way, and submission to the All-Powerful. In the year 1335, the designation, True and Pure Religion, was authorized by the Emperor. The commonest name for them is the Clean Sect, a name to which their purifications give some color of truth. It is said that they are generally cleaner in their habits than other Chinese.