

Very little has been made known regarding the colony of late years, and what has come to light is saddening in the extreme.

Such are a few of the historical incidents regarding one small remnant of God's chosen people.

Their past is full of interest and instruction. Their career in China has been a chequered one. One cannot avoid asking, was there a Divine purpose in their coming to this land? If so, how has that purpose been fulfilled? Have the Chinese been benefitted by contact with them, or have they degenerated through their intercourse with the latter? They possessed a certain amount of knowledge of the true God, and for many centuries worshipped Him, after the Divinely prescribed manner in the Old Testament, but there is little to show that they gave to others a knowledge of Him. Their history does not materially differ from that of other sections of the same race in different lands, but their position in the heart of China for such a length of time has been a strange one. The Christian owes so much to the Jew that he cannot view without mingled feelings such a history as the race presents —

Their present position is about as hopeless as the most rabid of their enemies could desire it to be. They have preserved their identity for about two thousand years, and are about to lose it now *by absorption into heathenism*. It has often been observed that when Jews become Christians they lose many of their characteristics. In that case they lose their traits by the adoption of an elevating and ennobling faith. Here the very reverse of that process is taking place. This is occurring too at a time when the evangelization of China by Protestant Missionaries is being carried forward in a vigorous, hopeful spirit. To quote again from Dr. Martin's suggestive article: "Near the margin of the Poyang lake there stands a lofty rock, so peculiar and solitary that it is known by the name of the "little orphan." The adjacent shore is low and level, and its kindred rocks are all on the opposite side of the lake, whence it seems to have been torn away by some violent convulsion, and planted immovably in the bosom of the water. Such to me appeared that fragment of the Israelitish nation. A rock rent from the sides of Mount Zion by some great national catastrophe and projected into the central plain of China, it has stood there, while the centuries rolled by, sublime in its antiquity and solitude. It is now on the verge of being swallowed up by the flood of paganism, and the spectacle is a mournful one. The Jews themselves are deeply conscious of their sad situation, and the shadow of an inevitable destiny seems to be resting upon them."