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SOME THINGS ABOUT CHINA AND THE CHINESE.

THE dimensions and significance of the missionary problem in China grow upon the thoughts of the Christian world from year to year. All things considered, this is the field of supreme difficulty, and, at the same time, it is the field of supreme interest. The Chinese are manifestly the governing race of Eastern and Central Asia; their national qualities and their geographical position make them so; they evidently hold the key to the future of almost one-half the unevangelized people of the globe. So long as they remain without the Gospel, the great bulk of Asia will be pagan; when they are evangelized, the continent will be Christian and the world will be won.

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A MISSIONARY conference was held in Shanghai last May. The delegates numbered 430, representing all the missionary societies working in China, and for two weeks they discussed the state and prospects of the work. This was probably the most important missionary gathering that ever took place in the foreign field. Subjects were discussed with utmost freedom, diverse opinions were elicited, but the conclusions reached were singularly harmonious. The most significant act of the convention was the issue of a clarion call for one thousand more missionaries for China within five years. We thank God that the Methodist Church has resolved to aid in making up this contingent.

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CHINA has an area of 4,179,559 square miles, and an estimated population 404,180,000. The countries comprising the empire with their respective populations are as follows:

	Miles in Area.	Population.
China Proper .....	1,297,999	383,000,000
Manchuria .....	362,310	12,000,000
Mongolia .....	1,288,000	2,000,000
Thibet .....	651,500	6,000,000
Jungaria .....	147,950	600,000
East Turkestan .....	431,800	580,000

In 1885 the total number of foreigners resident in the open ports of China was 6,698. Among these were 2,534 British subjects, 761 Americans, 747 Japanese, 638 Germans, and 443 Frenchmen.

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IN China there are three prevailing religions. Confucianism, if it can be properly called a religion, is the religion of the State. It deals almost exclusively with the duties of life, and has little or nothing to say

of man's spiritual nature and needs. Taoism is a degrading superstition, which scarcely rises higher than the witchcraft of Africa—a method of driving off evil spirits. Buddhism takes, theoretically, a higher range, but few of the priests really believe or even understand the things they profess to teach. It is a religion of asceticism, meditation, worship of many gods, but as a regenerating force in the hearts and lives of men it is impotent.

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THE Presbyterian missionaries in China, following the example of their brethren in Japan, have agreed upon a basis of union to form the Presbyterian Church of China. The aggregate force of the various Presbyterian churches in China is as follows:—Missionaries, 589; wives of missionaries, 390; single women, 316; ordained native ministers, 209; unordained helpers, 1,260; female helpers, 180; hospitals, 61; dispensaries, 43; patients in 1889, 348,439; organized churches, 520; communicants, 37,287; pupils in schools, 16,816; contributions by native Christians, \$36,884.64. When all these agencies are united in one it will constitute the most powerful ecclesiastical organization in the empire. The union of the Presbyterian bodies in Japan was followed by the happiest results, and doubtless, has had much to do with the movement in China.

LECTURES ON CHINA.

MUCH interest is now felt throughout the Church respecting the proposed China Mission, and our congregations are desirous of obtaining all possible information respecting that country and its people. In this connection we are pleased to state that the Rev. V. C. Hart, B.D., for many years Superintendent of Missions of the M. E. Church in Central and West China, is available for Sunday or week-night services in any of our Churches where his help is desired. He has some lectures on China, with beautiful stereopticon illustrations, which have been listened to with great delight in many places. Bro. Hart's address is Burlington, Ont. We advise brethren to write to him.

THE CHINA INLAND MISSION.

THIS mission, which operates on principles somewhat different from those of the other missionary societies, has become an important factor in the evangelization of China. The *Missionary Review* thus summarizes its salient features:—

“1. It allows no debt, and consequently guarantees no fixed salary. It asks everything and promises nothing.

“2. It insists on the gift of God as the basis of