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A CRITIQUE OF THE CHINESE NOTIONS AND
PRACTICE OF FILIAL PIETY.

Read before the Conference of Canton Missionaries, April, 1879. (enlarged).

BY REV. ERNEST FABER, OF THE RHENISH MISSION.

(Continued from Page 428).

祭義 THE IDEA OF SACRIFICING.

1. The sacrifices (to ancestors) are not desirable too often, if often they become troublesome, if troublesome they are irreverent. Sacrifices are not desirable too seldom; if seldom they become neglected, if neglected they are then forgotten. The superior man therefore, accords himself to the course of Heaven, offering in spring the *Joh*—in autumn the *Shang*—sacrifices. When the dew falls as hoar-frost the superior man, in passing through it, will feel sadness in his heart not in regard to the cold (but to his ancestors). In spring when the dew moistens like rain, the superior man, in passing through it, will feel gladness in his heart as if he were about to see them. There is joy in receiving the coming and sorrow in taking leave from departing ones. *Joh* has, therefore, music, and *Shang* has none. (The departed come and go with the life of nature).

2. The strict fasting (for three days) is for the inner (heart), the broken or lenient fasting is for the outer (things). In the fasting days one thinks on their abode, on their laughing and conversation, on their intentions, on their propensities, on their desires. After fasting three days one sees those for whom fasting is done, (because the thoughts have come to the utmost 思之至故也).

On the day of sacrificing one enters the private-room and will tenderly see their place, and going out the door in procession one

Shantung Presbytery.

DEAR SIR,—

The Annual Meeting of Presbytery, in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Shantung Province, was held at the city of Tunchow last month. The written and verbal reports from all parts of the field showed that the year had been one of trial, but on the whole one of marked progress.

Many of the people have been impoverished by the Famine. Business of various kinds has suffered so that many find it impossible to get employment. Our Christians have also suffered so that they find it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to meet their obligations to support preachers and schools. The review of the Church records and the discussion connected therewith disclosed startling facts in reference to the extremely loose notions held in this Province on the subject of second marriages. There seems to be little or none of the sacredness with which first marriages are regarded. It was made plain that this is a subject on which special instruction must be given. Another fruitful source of a low state of morals is the intense opposition to the marriage of widows. This is held to be so disgraceful that, as a matter of fact, no widows of respectability marry. We find that our Christians are unable to act on the Scripture teaching on this subject and lay aside all their early impressions and prejudices. During the year both Missionaries and native preachers have been able to spend more time preaching in new regions than any previous year.

In certain districts the Gospel has been preached and books left in every town and village. In a few places the open opposition was such that it seemed wisest to lose no time in passing to the next village. The intense indifference to the truth in other places did not tend to cheer the heart of the laborers. In some places, however, many, both men and women, were not only willing, but anxious to hear. Not a few who received copies of the Gospels and Christian books, in the early part of the year studied them, so that they are now able to give a clear outline of the life and work of Christ. A number desire baptism. Little groups in different places meet regularly on the Sabbath for worship and the study of God's Word. A year ago it was proposed to disband one of the apparently lifeless Church organizations in the interior. One man plead earnestly for longer patience. There are now signs of new life in that place and a hopeful convert has lately been baptized.

The reports from the Inland Churches all spoke with thankfulness of a visit of two months, which two of the Ladies of our Mission were able to make in the Autumn. They seemed to have done much to cheer and strengthen the faith, especially of the children and their mothers.

A marked change of progress is seen in the facility with which Church discipline is now exercised. There is now a public sentiment which makes men, not lost to all sense of shame, feel very uncomfort-

able to be brought under discipline. This is very different from the earlier stages of the work, when unworthy members treated with contempt punishment unconnected with fines or beating. During the year 82 were received into the Church on profession of faith. There are now 613 communicants on our Church roll. There were less than 20, when the Presbytery was organized 14 years ago. Several members have died strong in the faith, one of them aged 86 years. Their dying testimony to the truth has strengthened the faith of those who remain. After a pleasant meeting extending over five days Presbytery adjourned to meet at Chefoo, the 2nd Friday in December, 1880.

Yours truly,

HUNTER CORBETT.

Chefoo, 20th January, 1880.

Report from Shauwu.

ED. CHINESE RECORDER :—

When I wrote the report of the first year's labor in this place I expected, in the future, to print an Annual Report in due form, but I find that a brief statement is, perhaps, in better keeping with the real extent of the work.

The "First Annual Report" closed with June 1878 and included the first twelve months labor. This report includes eighteen months of time but only twelve months of actual work.

The new building, combining hospital and dispensary, was opened to receive patients and dispense medicine last April. The whole number of patients recorded in the eighteen months is 2356. Of these there are 466 old and 1890 new patients; there are 1590 men including the 62 hospital patients, 78 women, 153 boys and 69 girls. Included in the above number are 32 opium patients. The whole number of patients from the beginning, May 1877, is 4656. Amount received for medicine \$104,38. Amount received from the beginning \$141.47. The names of some of the most common diseases treated are:—Abscess, Ague, Bronchitis, Boils, Conjunctivitis, Diarrhoea, Dropsy, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Elephantiasis, Enlarged Spleen, Entropium, Injury, Lichen Tropicus, Opium Habit, Opacity of Cornea, Phthisis, Pterygium, Rheumatism, Scabies, Scrofula, Suicide, Ulcers and Worms. Some of the rarer forms of disease are:—Aphonia, Bronchocele, Cancer, Epilepsy, Glaucoma, Haemoptisis, Insanity, Leprosy, Lichen Circumscript, Lachrymitis, Poisoning, Pneumonia, Tetanus, Burmese Ringworm (*Tinia Imbricata*), and Ovarian Tumor.

I dont know that there any cases worthy of particular mention. Sungical operations are all included under "Minor Surgery." Nono have been willing to submit to any operation requiring an anaesthetic.