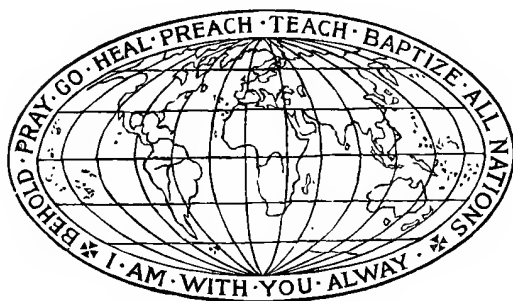


STUDENTS AND THE MODERN MISSIONARY CRUSADE

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CHINA

A Review of the Status in Different Sections

In Northern China

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It is a remote field, and not without dangers and trials; it needs heroes; it needs the Christ; and to those who go in His name this same Christ will be a shield and buckler, and will give an exceeding great reward. Pray for West China.

PERMANENT FACTORS WHICH MAKE CHINA A MOST INVITING FIELD

THE REV. HUNTER CORBETT, D.D., LL.D., CHEFOO

THE SUBJECT which has been assigned me is one of vital interest, not only to China but also to the whole world. It includes the country, the people, their urgent need of the Gospel, the unparalleled opportunities for missionary work, the responsibility of the Christian Church, and an outlook bright with hope. A study of the geography of the country, the history of the past and present, and the manifold influences which for centuries have molded the people should prove of thrilling interest to every thoughtful and sympathetic Christian.

I. The country itself will first be considered. The size and richness of the country, capable of supporting its teeming millions of people, must deeply impress every earnest student of China. The Chinese Empire is one and a quarter times as large as all Europe. The fertility of the soil, the industry, resources, and economy of the people are manifest from the fact that 400,000,000 have for centuries been able to subsist in a country where great factories are unknown and whose rich mines are practically undeveloped.

China possesses every variety of climate, from almost perpetual summer and tropical vegetation in the south, to the coldest weather in the north, where not only plains and mountains, but the ocean along the shores are held at times in the icy grasp of winter. Every variety of fruit, flowers, and grain can be cultivated in some part or other of the vast Empire. Caravans of camels and donkeys are seen carrying burdens and travelers.

In China, one seems to be living under conditions similar to those of Bible times. The Bible, therefore, is a book of marvelous interest to all who will read it—a book thoroughly up-to-date. More than forty years ago a scholarly Chinese was won for Christ. After years of Bible study, he died persuaded that the Apostle Paul must either himself have been a Chinaman, or else had lived at some period of his life in China; otherwise, how could he have drawn such a true and masterly picture of the condition of men living in heathen darkness as is that found in the first chapter of the Epistle to the Romans? Moreover, how could he have described the nature

of the law which makes sin known as given in Romans vii? He also adduced the offering of sacrifices to idols and numerous questions mentioned in those epistles written to churches emerging from heathenism.

II. Secondly, we are to consider China's people. Think of one-third of the human race living in the Empire! Moreover, justice to this people requires profound respect because of their many noble and praiseworthy qualities. There exists a deep respect also for education and learning. This feeling pervades all classes, and in the future, still more than in the past, this must prove a potent factor in the nation's progress. There is also, in the main, reverence for parents, for the aged, for teachers, and lasting gratitude to benefactors. They display tireless energy, industry, perseverance, and an economy unsurpassed by any people. They have intense love for home and family. They are usually law-abiding, peaceable, and have high ideals. Commercial honesty of a high order exists among them. The Chinese Classics, memorized by every educated man, abound in noble sentiments, and are so pure that they may be safely read in any home. They have a literature that antedates any literature in Europe. They are a brainy people, equal to any task that teachers from the West have been able to set before them. They have been able to hold their own with the ablest statesmen and merchants that Western nations have as yet sent to China. According to their opportunities, they are intelligent, bright, brave, and capable of great self-sacrifice for a definite purpose.

China, after living alone for 3,000 years, as though surrounded by a massive stone wall, is now awakening from the sleep of ages, and longing for something higher and better than she has hitherto enjoyed. The government is establishing schools and colleges in all parts of the Empire, in which Western learning is to hold a prominent place. Post-offices and telegraphic communication now reach every important center, and newspapers, which a few years ago were scarcely known, are now published and are widely read. Extensive railroads are being built; coal mines, practically unlimited in extent, are being worked by machinery from the West; steam printing presses and type foundries, owned and worked solely by the Chinese, are now successfully competing in printing for the Bible and tract societies and in printing school books and publications of various kinds. Probably 10,000 Chinese students, supported either by the government, or representing rich and influential families, are now being educated in Japan, Europe, and the United States. Military schools and colleges, managed by able officers from Japan and Europe, are crowded with students, who will soon be qualified for leadership in the new army now being organized on Western models. One million rifles of the latest pattern have been ordered from Europe for this new army. If China should organize an army on the same basis as Germany has done, 40,000,-

000 men could be put into the field, and millions still be left to cultivate the fields and carry on the nation's industries. Military men from Western countries testify that there are no braver, more obedient and efficient soldiers than the Chinese, when properly drilled, officered, and armed.

China, the largest, and hitherto the most unchanging nation on earth, is now in a ferment with the leaven of a new life. She is now entering upon a great crisis in her history. Like the Jews, they have gone into all the earth, speak the languages of the world, and yet remain a separate people. The Chinaman can live in any climate and take care of himself. Everywhere he goes he takes his religion with him. When this mighty people are won for Christ, what a power they will be in the world. China is not a dying race, but a strong and vigorous people, a nation with a destiny, with a constitutional form of government, and with a parliament nearing materialization.

A question of overwhelming importance is, What are Western nations going to do with the millions of the Chinese? Or perhaps the question may be asked, What are the Chinese going to do with the people of the West in coming centuries? To evangelize China and treat her justly was never so urgent as now. It is not simple duty, it is true wisdom, it is wise warfare. There is now an opportunity to show friendship for this Empire that will make China our friend.

III. The great and imperative need of China is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel alone reveals the one true and living "God our Savior, who will have all men to be saved, and to come into the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." "He that believeth in the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life." There are millions now in China living without hope and without God. Can we understand what that means? Those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death have hearts dying of hunger and thirst which can only be satisfied by a saving knowledge of Jesus, who said "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." When called to meet death, all is dark and hopeless. They die as they live, without hope. The wailing for dead, heard day and night, means that there is none of the sunshine and hope of heaven to cheer and sustain the sad and lonely and bereaved hearts.

IV. Consider China's right to the Gospel. It is seen from the following considerations:

1. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." How much of the world is found in China?

2. Our Savior's last command, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." Jesus came into the world

to save sinners; all equally need this salvation. What does the world include? China is the same needy world as when the words were first uttered.

3. The one object for which the Church exists is the glory of God in the conversion of the world. The very essence of the Christian religion is missionary.

4. To-day the same Macedonian agonizing cry comes from China: "Come over and help us." Do we hear the voice and feel the love of Christ constraining us? God has formed hearts for Himself, and only the knowledge of God, and the peace which God gives, ruling in the heart, can satisfy every longing.

China needs, above all, a true and loving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. With this foundation will come strong Christian character, happy Christian homes, where children will be trained in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, the Christian Sabbath, Christian schools and churches in every parish, asylums for the blind, the orphan, the aged and the infirm, the insane and helpless, and the manifold blessings of the Gospel which elevates, purifies, ennobles life, and makes this earth to rejoice and blossom as the rose.

V. The question which now urgently demands a prompt answer from every child of God is, Does the love of Christ so constrain us that we are willing to obey Christ and do all in our power to make known the Gospel to the perishing? Do we believe with all our hearts that "Jesus" is the only name given under heaven among men, whereby we must be saved? Do we believe that the Gospel is the God-given power to arouse the conscience, lead men to forsake sin, and accept salvation through Christ? Are we honestly trying to give the answer to God's questions, answers that we shall wish to stand by at the day of judgment? "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?" Are we each asking the question that Saul asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Are we willing to let God decide, and cheerfully and loyally follow wherever God may lead? Do we desire to stay at home, or go to the ends of the earth and make the most of life by faithfully doing the work that God would have us do, namely, proclaim to every one that God is a Spirit and that they who would worship must worship Him in spirit and in truth? Are we willing to have Christ place us where our lives may mean much for the extension of our Redeemer's Kingdom here upon the earth?

Some years ago a man nearing eighty years listened as I preached in the street of an inland town in China. As I told of the loving heavenly Father and of the Savior who went about doing good on earth, healing the sick, the blind, the leper, and told how He

died that all might live, the old man came closer and closer and said: "Tell me that again; I never heard such good news; it cheers my sad and lonely heart." After listening over and over to the story of Jesus and His love, he asked with all the earnestness of his being, "Are you sure that if I believe in Jesus He will save me?" It was my glad privilege to assure him that whosoever believeth shall be saved, that salvation is as free as the air we breathe. He said it seemed too good to be true: "If Jesus saves me, when I reach heaven, the first thing I do will be to fall down before Him and thank Him with all my heart and soul for having died for me, and then I will thank Him for having put it into your heart to come and tell me the good news." He then asked, "How long is it since Jesus came into the world to save men?" "More than 1,800 years." "What! You surely do not mean that! Can it be that God's people have known of this precious Savior all these centuries, and I never heard of Him until now, in extreme old age, when my feet are standing on the edge of the grave! Why did you not come sooner? Why did you not come before my father and mother and brothers and sisters died? They never heard of Jesus and salvation. Through faith in His name, what can be done for them?" These are questions which I could never answer. I knew not why God's people, during all the centuries, have not been constrained by the love of Christ, and in loyalty to Him and in obedience to the command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," have signally failed to do so. We are not responsible for the past, but surely every one of us who loves Jesus is responsible for some worthy share in the living present. Can we loiter a single moment when souls are daily perishing?

China is now open as never before. The opportunities for missionary works in every branch are practically unlimited. The field is ripe for the harvest. Can we remain silent? Is any church member willing to follow in the footsteps of the priest and Levite, who did no positive harm to the man suffering and perishing by the wayside? The sin of omission was their condemnation; shall it be ours? Think of the place God has given us as a nation and as a Church in the history of the world. Think of the full salvation given to us to share with others and the honor and the privilege of being co-workers with Jesus Christ. Think of the great numbers of educated, intelligent, and enterprising men and women, and of the wealth given to the Church—all that is needed in establishing Christ's Kingdom in the world. Surely we live in a day of marvelous opportunity and privilege such as have never been given to past generations. In the Kingdom of God, as in the affairs of men, there is a tide which must be taken at the flood in order to succeed. In China, as in other lands, the Gospel, faithfully lived, preached, and believed, has caused many a prodigal to come to himself and return to his Father's home. It has made new men and new women, estab-

lished many happy Christian homes, and developed all that is best and noblest in men and women. The Gospel, under the power of the Holy Spirit, creates an atmosphere of love, purity, peace, and joy, and brings the sunshine of heaven into many hearts and homes.

THE APPEAL OF CHINA'S WOMEN

MISS FRANCES B. PATTERSON, TIENTSIN

It has been said that China is the greatest mission field in the world. It is great in extent of territory, in population, in resources, in history, in its ancient civilization; but it is greatest of all to-day in opportunity.

The Russo-Japanese war has set in motion forces that are incalculable in their influence on the history of the world.

"We are living, we are dwelling
In a grand and awful time;
In an age on ages telling,
To be living is sublime."

Dr. Arthur Smith says that the changes now taking place in China are the most wonderful in the world. Think of a daily newspaper for women in Peking! Imagine an industrial department in the Tientsin prison, where the prisoners are taught useful trades, a proportion of income from sales being set apart to start them in their new trade when they are discharged! When the letter came telling of these marvelous changes, one could but think, Can this be China? Can this be Tientsin, whose prison formerly was a synonym for greed and unspeakable cruelty? One writes from Peking, "So many changes are taking place these days, and so many more are in the air, that it almost seems as though we lived in Chicago." Another writes: "If we fail, the peace of the world is endangered; for China is in her most critical hour." But every missionary believes in ultimate victory, for—

"Right is right, since God is God,
And right the day will win.
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter were a sin."

One writes: "The key-note of our annual meeting was undying faith." "Faith is confidence in the realization of one's hopes; it is a conviction regarding things which are not yet visible." "We are not of those who draw back, but are expecting the fulfilment of God's promises."