

Address delivered by D. B. McCarter, M. D.
at celebration of the jubilee year
of his residence in the Far East
— 1894, February 19.

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THE Treaty which was signed on the 29th of August, 1842, on board one of H. B. M.'s vessels of war lying off the city of Nan-king was the first step in throwing open the Middle Kingdom, as it has been called, to Western Commerce and Christian Missionary enterprise.

Foreign ships had indeed traded with China for more than 200 years, but for almost the whole of that time they were restricted to the port of Canton; and the foreign merchants were restricted to the row of buildings outside of the city, known as the "Thirteen Factories," enclosed with a wall, and with a garden in front upon the bank of the Pearl river. Entrance to the city was denied them, and the history of the foreign trade with China is that of a succession of altercation and strife which culminated in what is frequently referred to as the "Opium war."

Roman Catholic missionaries had labored in China from the times of Matteo Ricci and the Jesuit savans sent out at the instance of Colbert, A. D. 1663-83; and before them, from the times of the Mongul dynasty, the Nestorian missionaries had planted the Standard of the cross throughout the whole of the Empire; but the missionaries had been banished and their churches confiscated. Many of the missionaries suffered martyrdom; and at the time of the treaty referred to, and for some years after, they penetrated the interior with shaven heads and plaited queues, dressed like Chinese, and "Smuggled," as one of them said, "like a keg of contraband liquor," from one place to another, running the risk of imprisonment and death if discovered, as was in many instances the case. But the Treaty of Nan-king changed all this. The Plenipotentiaries who negotiated the treaty were, on the part of Her Britannic Majesty, Sir Henry Pottinger, who had distinguished himself in India; and on the part of His Imperial Chinese Majesty, Kiying, a Manchu Tartar, a relative of the reigning emperor, and viceroy of the two Kwang provinces. By that treaty the

islands of Kulangsu, at the port of Amoy, and Chu-san, lying near the port of Ning-po, were occupied temporarily by British troops as material guarantees for the payment of the war indemnity. Five ports on the coast of China were opened for foreign residence and trade, and the island of Hong-Kong was ceded to the British crown in perpetuity.

[Hong-Kong is almost the largest of a numerous group of islands lying at the mouth of the Pearl river (upon which is situated the provincial capital, Kwang-chow-fu, best known to foreigners by its Portuguese pronunciation of Canton^x), to which place, as I have already said, the trade between the maritime nations of the West and the Chinese Empire had been restricted for more than 200 years. The island of Hong-Kong consists mainly of a ridge of rocky hills culminating in six principal peaks rising from the shores of the bay by steep ascent to the height of from 1000 to 1800 feet, and intersected by narrow fertile ravines and valleys abounding in a profusion of tropical and semitropical trees and other plants, the investigation of which for many years afforded abundant material for the labors of more than one distinguished botanist.]

[I can well recall the bright sunny day, the 19th of February 1844, when the good ship "Huntress," after a long but pleasant voyage of 146 days, dropped anchor in the harbor of Hong-Kong. English men-of-war and merchantmen, American clipper ships, and clumsy Chinese Junks formed a strange but interesting feature of the scene. It was the 2d day of the Chinese New Year. The Smaller Junks with their mat sails, the little "tanku," (*egg shaped*) boats, plying between the ships and the shore, and sculled by barefooted women clad in jackets and trousers, with long queues hanging down behind, (and perhaps a baby strapped upon their backs), the clashing of almost innumerable gongs, and firing of fire-crackers, kept up an incessant and bewildering din; while on the land, procession after procession carrying gorgeous banners and long dragons carried upon poles by twenty or more men, with the firing of

x from Kwang Tung, the capital of the province

‘double headers,’ and now and then of small cannon or matchlocks, all combined to make up an assemblage of sights and sounds such as one newly arrived from the Western world would hardly be likely ever to forget.

Hong-Kong, at that time, gave little promise of being, what it has since become, one of the best known and most important of Great Britain's foreign possessions; with its splendid land locked harbor, its numerous handsome public buildings, the palatial establishments of its merchant princes, its beautiful botanic gardens, and its well-built streets crowded with a bustling throng made up of people of almost every nation and tribe under heaven, speaking discordant languages, and dressed in almost every kind of garb.

At that time, fifty years ago, the sides of the hills were ragged with excavations. Streets or building sites were being dug out; huge round masses, (“boulders” as the unlearned called them) of syenite or basalt lay here and there, to the uncovering and disintegration of which was then attributed the great mortality that prevailed among the European and East Indian residents. With the exception of the residence of the chief Justice of the Colony, the Morrison School taught by the Rev. S. R. Brown, (afterwards one of the pioneer missionaries to Japan), and the London Mission's Hospital under Dr. Benjamin Hobson, (these two side by side upon one of the smaller hills), and the mercantile establishment of Messrs Jardine and Matheson, at East-point, European buildings were few and interspersed promiscuously with mud houses and mat-sheds.

Among the foreigners then at Hong-Kong were Sir Henry Pottinger, the negotiator of the new treaty; Sir Hugh (afterwards Lord) Gough, and Sir Gordon Bremer, the military and Naval Commanders in Chief in the war that had so lately terminated. They could generally be seen at the early Sunday service in the large mat-shed, long since replaced by the Cathedral of the Bishop of Victoria.

(Sir) Harry Parkes, then a rosy youth of 18 or 19, years of

age, and, (Sir) Walter Medhurst, both youthful interpreters during the war, were then in Hong-Kong; the latter the son of the missionary, the Rev. Dr. W. H. Medhurst, and the former a nephew of the wife of the veteran missionary Gutzlaff, (who had also acted as an interpreter during the war), and was then holding the office of Chinese Secretary, but was widely known for his long and venturesome voyages in Chinese junks, dressed in Chinese costume, and for his translation of the Holy Scriptures, which for many years was the most complete and intelligible translation that had ever been made.

1830 There were at that time also in Hong-Kong, the Rev. Dr. E. C. Bridgman, the first American missionary to China, who reached there on Feb. 19th. 1840, and who was the first to greet me before I landed, and the Rev. Dyer Ball M. D. both of them missionaries of the A. B. C. F. M. Board, (the latter then conducting a dispensary, and also superintending the cutting on wooden blocks of Christian tracts in Chinese. His eldest daughter, some years after, became the wife of the Rev. Dr. Happer of our B. F. M. P. C.); Dr. Legge of the London mission, (since translator of the Chinese Classics, and professor of Chinese at Oxford.) The Rev. Wm. Dean of the American Baptist Union (still living in the U. S. A. at the age of 87), the Rev. J. L. Shuck, and the Rev. Issachar J. Roberts of the same mission were there also.

(One of Mr. Robert's catechumens afterwards became the fanatical leader of the Taiping rebels, and reigned several years in Nan-King, under the title of the "Heavenly King").

At Amoy were the Rev. J. Abel of the A. B. C. F. M., and the Rev. W. J. Boone, afterwards the first Bishop of the American Episcopal Church at Shanghai, who acted as the medium of communication between the British troops and the Chinese, who recognized them as neutrals. Dr. and Mrs. Hepburn of the B. F. M. P. C. were there, with another American medical missionary named Cumming, all three of whom are still living.

(The Rev. W. M. Lowrie, brother of the Secretary Emeritus

of our B. F. M. P. C., was at Macao. Mr. Lowrie, like Dr. Hepburn, had been originally sent to Singapore, in endeavoring to reach which port his ship struck upon a shoal in the China Sea, and several of the crew perished. Mr. Lowrie and 20 others, crowded into one boat, after a very perilous experience in a violent storm, finally succeeded in reaching one of the Philippine Islands, from whence he reached Manila in a native boat, and thence again returned to Hong-Kong. There he heard that a printer with his wife was being sent out from New-York, with a printing press and a font of movable metallic type; and that a medical missionary, with whom he was instructed to proceed to Ning-po and commence a new mission among the Chinese of that region, was to come by the same opportunity. When I reached China, Mr. Lowrie was, as I have said at Macao awaiting our arrival; and was residing with S. Wells Williams, then a missionary printer, who was engaged in editing the Chinese Repository, and in compiling his Tonic dictionary. (Dr.) Williams had living with him three or four Japanese sailors who had been shipwrecked upon the N. W. Coast of N. America, and sent over to China. A well known American business house, Messrs. Talbot, Olyphant and Co., undertook to have the shipwrecked men carried to their own country; and for that purpose fitted out one of their ships, the "Morrison," which carried as passengers, not only the Japanese sailors, but the senior partner of the house of T. O. & Co., C. W. King Esq., and his lady, and Drs. Peter Parker and S. Wells Williams. But the men were not allowed to land; and the ship was fired upon with cannon and driven off. The name Cape King remains upon the old charts as a memento of the visit of the first American lady who ever came to this part of the Eastern world. Dr. Williams kept two or three of these men with him, and from them acquired a considerable amount of knowledge of the Japanese spoken language, which was of material assistance to him when he came to Japan in 1852 with Commodore Perry's Expedition, as interpreter.

Macao, a Portuguese settlement dating back to 1557, is situated on the most south-western extremity of the large island of Hiang-Shan, at the mouth of the Pearl River, about forty miles west from Hong-Kong. The settlement is a walled and fortified city, much smaller than Hong-Kong, but, like that place, very rocky. It was, in 1844, a beautiful place, with picturesque old churches, and convents, beautiful terraced gardens filled with tropical fruit-trees, and with a Praya (or Plaza as the Spanish call it), facing the Sea, with a line of elegant buildings recalling, according to some travellers, the view of the Bay of Naples. At the time I speak of, Hong-Kong was as yet too rough and unhealthy a place for families to reside in; and ladies were not yet permitted to live in Canton; so that the families of the foreign merchants congregated in beautiful Macao, forming a most delightful society, to which Mr. Lowrie acted as pastor, preaching outside the walls of the city, close by the foreign cemetery where I saw the slab that covers the remains of Robert Morrison, the first Protestant Missionary to China. A tall cotton tree stretched its branches over the tomb, and had almost covered it with its handsome crimson flowers.

Not far off, also without side the walls, was the "Lazar" or leper hospital, where I embraced the opportunity to study that terrible disease in all its stages.

The rapid developement of Hong-Kong, in a very few years drew away the foreign trade, as well as the foreign families; and the place after a while degenerated into the head-quarters of the infamous coolie trade. When the Chinese Viceroy Ho broke this up by his vigorous measures, it became more and more impoverished, and a disastrous typhoon finished the ruin of the beautiful settlement.

It having been found that the printer, Mr. Cole, being of course quite ignorant of the Chinese language, could not set up his press without the assistance of Mr. Lowrie, it was determined that Mr. Lowrie should remain in Macao and that the

medical missionary should go alone to Ningpo. Accordingly I took passage in a Chinese "fast-boat" for Hong-Kong. It was just sunset when I started, and my last reminiscence of Macao is the mellow chiming of the bells of the San José College.

After some delay at Hong-Kong, (owing to difficulty in finding a coasting schooner bound up the coast), consoled however by the pleasant hospitality of my afterwards life-long friend, the Rev. S. R. Brown, I finally sailed in the American Schooner Eagle on the 12th. of June for the island of Chusan, which I reached in safety on the 19th; having as *compagnons du voyage*, among others, the Spanish Commissioner Don Sinibaldo de Mas, a distinguished linguist, who spoke a dozen European and Oriental languages, an Italian R. C. missionary, and a Chinese R. C. priest educated in Italy, whom I found reading his Latin Breviary, while the other passengers were kept below by sea sickness, and with whom I had very interesting conversations in Latin, that being the only language we had in common.

Chusan is a large, fertile island upon which is the large walled city of Ting-hai; and scattered over the island, are 18 thickly populated villages. It is the largest island of the Chusan archipelago, and has a splendid harbor; in which were lying at anchor when I entered it, several British men-of-war. One of them was, if I remember correctly, a large old fashioned three decker, or "74." The island was one of the two held by the British troops (consisting of European soldiers and East Indian Sepoys) as a material guarantee for the payment by the Chinese to Great Britain of the large indemnity exacted for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the so-called "Opium war." It was then under the command of a "Brigadier," Lt. Col. Campbell, [who served in the war in the Spanish Peninsula, where he led a forlorn hope at the siege of Badajos, which was taken by Wellington in 1812. Lt. Col. Campbell afterwards became Lord Clyde, one of the heroes of the

Crimean war, and of the relief of Lucknow, in the Indian mutiny in 1857.] The military magistrate of the island was Capt. Bamfield, of the Hon. E. I. Co's. Service,* a pious man to whom I had a note of introduction. He received me very courteously, and invited me to dinner, where I met a number of military officers, some of them pious men, and the harbor-master, a British master in the Navy, who kindly chartered a small Chinese junk to take me to Ningpo, some 70 or 80 miles distant. I then called upon Miss Aldersey, a wealthy English lady who had been laboring in Java, and was now living (with a young adopted child, Miss Leisk, afterwards the wife of Bishop Russel of Ningpo, and two Christian Indo-Chinese girls who had followed her from Batavia), in a Chinese family in the middle of the cantonment. Miss Aldersey at once took me to see some patients in whom she was interested, and a few months afterwards came to Ningpo where for 16 years she labored in harmony with our mission; conducting at her own expense a large boarding School for Chinese girls.

1844. The next morning, having got my trunks and boxes of books, clothes, medicines, and instruments from the "Eagle," I started for Ningpo, which I reached the same night; and the next morning, June 21st, I called upon H. B. M's. Consul, Robert Thom Esq., who kindly entertained me for a few days, until, with his assistance, I found a small house upon the North bank of the river and opposite to the city, in which I took up my residence, and commenced what I thought would be my life work in China, as a medical missionary among the Chinese. After a couple of months, Miss Aldersey and her family came over to Ningpo; and a month or two later I was joined by the Rev. R. Q. Way and wife, of Liberty Co., Georgia. As soon as they had become a little settled, I left them in the house I had been occupying, and took up my quarters in a Taoist temple inside the city walls, where the monks rented me a couple of rooms and allowed me to open my hospital and dispensary.

* Capt. Bamfield was afterwards killed at the battle of Chillianwalla in India.

Of Ningpo, its walls and moats, its comparatively wide and cleanly streets, its sombre dilapidated pagoda, its two bridges of boats, its numberless canals leading in every direction thronged with passenger boats, and its richly fertile, but malarious, rice-fields, time would not permit me to speak; nor is it necessary, for the story has been told already more than once.

The next Spring our mission at Ning-po was reinforced by the arrival of the Rev. W. M. Lowrie, who came over and lived with me in the temple, and the Rev. M. S. Culbertson and wife, who took up their abode on the North bank, while the Rev. A. W. Loomis and his wife went back to Chu-sau, where they labored until the retrocession to the Chinese government of Chu-sau by the British; after which they joined us at Ning-po. The next year, 1845, is memorable for the arrival of the French plenipotentiary Lagrené; who came with a corps of savants and who had just negotiated at Canton, with the viceroy Ki-Ying, a treaty by which he had secured immunity and protection to subjects of His Chinese Imperial Majesty, who professed the Roman Catholic faith. This was at once taken advantage of by the British and American Ministers upon the "Most highly favored nation" principle, and was the first real foothold gained for the missionary work in China.

The same year witnessed the removal of the printing press from Macao to Ningpo, and the establishment of the Boys boarding school under Mr. Way, and of a regular service for the Chinese in the Chapel belonging to our mission upon the North bank. The boarding school for girls was established the following year by Mrs. Cole, the wife of our printer. In 1847, Mr. Lowrie who had gone to Shanghai as one of the delegates for the translation of the Bible into Chinese, was, while in a native junk returning to Ningpo upon mission business, waylaid by pirates, and by them thrown into the sea and drowned.

When our mission was founded in Ningpo, besides the missionaries whom I have mentioned as being in Hong-Kong and

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Amoy, there were at Shanghai, the veteran missionary and scholar Dr. W. H. Medhurst and the Medical Missionary Lockhart, ^{of the} ~~who still survives in London~~ (both of them London Missionary Society); but save the score or more of converts at Hong-Kong, mostly from Singapore and Malacca, and an old evangelist named Ah-gong who had been baptized by Dr. Milne, there were no Protestant Christians in China. Ah-poo, a native of Swatow, who had received some religious instruction in Siam from the Baptist missionaries there, and who had afterwards been faithfully taught by Mrs. Way, of whose infant son he was the "bearer," having given satisfactory evidence of conversion, was baptized by Mr. Way in the winter of 44-45. The first native of Ningpo, converted under and baptized by our mission was a boy in our boy's-boarding school, who was baptized in 1846. Mr. Lowrie had the joy of witnessing the baptism of Yuing Ko-Kuing; but he was spared the pain and disappointment caused us by his defection, and exclusion from the Church for more than forty years; and of all those of our mission who knew Ko-Kuing, in those times, only Mr. and Mrs. Way and myself survived to hear the joyful news that "the wandering sheep" had been brought back to the fold, and that Yun Ko-Kuing had, after forty three years of separation from the Christian Church, given satisfactory evidence of sincere repentance and a consistent Christian walk and conversation, and had been received again into the communion of the Church at Ningpo.

In
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The Presbyterian Mission in China now comprises a Synod containing five presbyteries with some 7000 communicants, and the whole number of Protestant Christians in China amounts to several tens of thousands; while of all the missionaries who were in China in 1844, there remains on the mission field in 1894, but a single solitary one.

and of all the other foreigners there in China
