London Missionary Society.

URGENT CLAIMS FOR
NEW & EXTENDED MISSIONS IN CHINA.

REPORT

OF

Proceedings at a Special Public Meeting,

HELD AT

THE MANSION HOUSE,

On Tuesday, 15th of March, 1859, under the Presidency of the

RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR.

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URGENT CLAIMS FOR NEW AND EXTENDED MISSIONS

IN

CHINA.

A Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 15, in the Egyptian Hall, Mansion House, with a view of extending the Society's Missions in the Chinese Empire. The attendance was large and highly respectable. The chair was taken by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, who from the first appeared indisposed, and who was ultimately compelled by this cause to retire from the meeting. Among those present were:—

The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury; Sir C. E. Eardley, Bart.; E. Ball, Esq., M. P.; J. Cheetham, Esq., M. P.; B. Scott, Esq., City Chamberlain; T. Chambers, Esq., Common Serjeant; R. Cunliffe, Esq.; G. H. Davis, Esq.; J. K. Welch, Esq.; J. East, Esq.; T. M. Coombs, Esq.; G. Hitchcock, Esq.; W. M. Newton, Esq.; W. Edwards, Esq.; E. Swaine, Esq.; C. M. Robison, Esq.; C. Curling, Esq.; G. A. Lloyd, Esq.; P. Carstairs, Esq.; H. Rutt, Esq.; W. H. Ropes, Esq.; Dr. J. Risdon Bennett; W. French, Esq.; Dr. Lockhart (from China); the Revs. Dr. Spence, Dr. Legge (from China), Dr. Campbell, J. Burnet, D. J. Evans, H. Allon, J. Kennedy, J. Hill, E. Mannering, Geo. Smith, A. M. Henderson, T. W. Aveling, H. Christopherson, J. Fleming, G. L. Herman, W. M. Statham, J. S. Russell, G. Rose, W. Lucy, J. Corbin, F. Soden, R. Robinson, the Secretaries of the Society, &c., &c.

The Rev. Dr. Spence opened the proceedings with prayer.

The Chairman said:—Ladies and gentlemen, I regret that I am too unwell to address you on this occasion; but my regret is very much lessened when I see on the platform so many gentlemen who, taking a deep interest in this meeting, will doubtless, in addressing you, place before you the great object which the London Missionary Society has in view, in such a manner as to excite feelings of liberality on your part, and an earnest desire to advance the cause which we have met within these walls to promote.

The Rev. Dr. Tidman then read the following Statement:-

[&]quot;Of all the kingdoms and empires of the world, China presents to the philanthropist and the Christian a subject of interest the most intense and profound.

"This gigantic and ancient empire, with a population estimated at a third portion of the human race, has continued for ages shut against the progress of knowledge and the blessings of the Gospel. From generation to generation the boast of her despotic rulers has been, that the laws and customs of China change not; and, to preserve inviolate this assumption, equally irrational and impious, nations the most enlightened by science and distinguished by religion, were denounced as barbarians, with whom no intercourse might be held. Under the terror of this prohibition, the unknown millions of China continued, from time immemorial, ignorant of the only true God, worshippers of idols, victims of debasing superstitions, and slaves to vice.

"Over these countless multitudes of immortal beings, excluded from the light of life and the hope of salvation, the Church of Christ long mourned; but prayer to God was made without ceasing that He would open in China a wide and effectual door for the entrance of His truth, and the triumphs of the Saviour; and by a course of events which no human sagacity could foresee, and which Omnipotence only could overrule for good, God has granted the petition of his servants.

"By the treaty of peace with the Government of China in the year 1842, the country to a limited extent became accessible to Christian evangelists; but by the treaties just concluded with our country and other Western nations, facilities for missionary labour are greatly enlarged and more effectually secured. Henceforth our Missionaries may prosecute their labours in fourteen populous Chinese cities, under the direct protection of our national flag, while they will also enjoy the right of extending their benevolent efforts throughout the empire.

"Religious freedom is also guaranteed to all Chinese subjects, so that natives may embrace the Christian faith, and labour, without penalty or hindrance, for its propagation among their countrymen.

"The founders and earliest friends of the London Missionary Society regarded China with deep interest and solicitude; and for a period of nearly forty years, its successive Directors steadily prosecuted preparatory measures for her moral improvement, assured that He who hath given to His Son the heathen for His inheritance, and the uttermost part of the earth for His possession, would never exclude the strongest hold of idolatry from the triumphs of His mercy.

"While China continued closed against Christian efforts, the agents of the Society took possession of Java, Penang, Singapore, and Malacca, as the nearest accessible outposts; waiting for the day when the hand of Omnipotence should throw back the gates of brass, and give access to that long-sealed territory. When at length, in the year 1842, their hope was realised, strengthened by additional fellow-labourers from Britain, they advanced to China proper, and commenced efforts in the cities of Canton, Amoy, and Shanghae, and in the newly-acquired British colony of Hong Kong. From that period to the present they have been diligently employed in making known the way of salvation to thousands and hundreds of thousands of the benighted people, and in efforts to instruct and train the young in useful knowledge and Christian habits; while, by the labours of their medical associates, many thousands afflicted with the most fearful forms of disease have annually been restored to health and comfort.

"The sure tokens of the Divine approval have been graciously vouchsafed to these diversified labours. At each of the four stations a Christian church of native converts has been formed; over one of these an intelligent and devoted Chinese pastor presides; and several valuable native assistants are employed, under the guidance of the Missionaries.

"The translation of the Scriptures by Morrison and Milne—considered as a first attempt—effected in a short period, with few aids, and amidst many difficulties, would obviously be susceptible of improvement, and require revision. None felt the importance of this so

strongly as the translators; and Dr. Morrison was meditating such a revision of his own labours as the occupation of future years, when, while yet in the vigour of his strength, the voice of God called him to his rest.

"On the establishment of the Society's Missions in China proper, the Missionaries felt the necessity, without further delay, of prosecuting this important object; and Dr. Medhurst, whose accurate and unrivalled Chinese scholarship, the fruit of thirty years' laborious study, admirably fitted him for such a task, was specially appointed, together with Messrs. J. Stronach and Milne, to undertake the careful revision of the Chinese Scriptures. For six years they devoted, almost exclusively, their time and energies, sanctified by unceasing prayer, to this great work; and at the close of 1852, with thankful hearts to the God of all grace, they witnessed the completion of their arduous undertaking. The Missionaries have also composed several works on Christianity, Education, and Science, in the Chinese language, which are extensively circulated, and highly valued.

"In the meantime, the process devised and commenced by the lamented Samuel Dyer, of preparing metal type in the Chinese character, was steadily prosecuted, and in the year 1852, a sufficient variety for the printing of the whole Bible was brought into operation at

the Society's Printing Establishments in Hong Kong and Shanghae.

"Thus, after prolonged toil and large expense, the Sacred Volume may now be printed in a convenient form and at small cost, an object of the first importance, but unattainable by any apparatus previously employed. In the preparation of this type the funds of the London Missionary Society were expended to the amount of nearly £4000; an amount which, though large, was well applied, since it has secured blessings for China of such infinite value and vast extent.

"Such are the facilities and encouragements to labour derived from former exertions, and the wonderful events which have issued in the recent treaties with the Chinese Government, as they awaken our gratitude, so they demand our redoubled energy and fervent prayer.

"The voice of God, in the most solemn and impressive accents, is now addressed to the Mission Churches of all lands, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' but to the associated Churches of the London Missionary Society, this call comes with peculiar and unequal force.

"Our honoured fathers sent forth to China the first Protestant Missionaries that ever landed on her shores, and for many years sustained them by sympathy and prayer, while they laboured alone amidst difficulties which have now passed away. Our devoted agents have been distinguished by their Divine Master, both by the value of their labours and the amount of their success; and it solemnly behoves the Society to meet its full measure of obligation, and, by prompt example, to animate the zeal and stimulate the efforts of all kindred institutions.

"Under the influence of these facts, the Directors have determined to employ their best efforts to send forth a strong reinforcement of devoted and well-qualified Chinese Missionaries. They are employing the best means to bring before the rising ministry, and the students of our Colleges, the claims of China on their personal consideration; and it is their hope and prayer to the Lord of the harvest that He would bless these appeals, and thrust forth many additional labourers into the harvest.

"But such are the unavoidable expenses connected with passage and outfit, and the establishment of new Missions in China, that a large increase of funds is required to meet the present and prospective outlay. The Directors, however, cherish the assurance that the long-tried friends of the Society will not allow its course of duty to the perishing heathen to be impeded, or the work of God to be hindered, by the want of pecuniary resources. Already numerous friends have spontaneously forwarded liberal offerings in aid of new Missions; and, while thankful to God, who has disposed the hearts of the contributors to give freely

as He has prospered them, the Directors trust that their offerings may prove but the first-fruits of Christian generosity, becoming an event of such magnitude and importance as the opening of China. In the contemplation both of the solemn claims and bright prospects of that mighty empire, the Directors most earnestly entreat the members of the Society generally, and the affluent and prosperous in particular, devoutly to inquire, 'Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?'"

Dr. Tidman, after reading the preceding statement, observed :- In the paper which I have just read, my Lord Mayor, it is stated that several generous friends have spontaneously presented liberal contributions in furtherance of this object; and I will just give you the substance of the offerings already made. Twelve friends have offered 51. each, ten 101. each, five 201. each, three 251. each, twelve 50%. each, fourteen 100%. each, two congregational contributions amounting together to upwards of 400l. We have also one contribution of 300l., two of 500% each, and two, both anonymous, of 1000% each, making, together with smaller sums, an aggregate of 60851. as a commencement of the new fund for the extension of our Missions in China. Will you allow me, also, my Lord, to give an illustration of what is meant in the paper I have read by "printing the Bible in a convenient form at a small expense." This (presenting it to his Lordship) is the Bible in Chinese, divided into four parts. It is printed by our mission presses at Hong Kong and Shanghae, and the cost, putting out of sight the capital expended on machinery, and looking only at the outlay for paper and printing, does not exceed 2s. Here also is a copy of the New Testament, very beautifully executed, which can be produced for sixpence. It was also remarked in the paper, that we have printed other books besides the Bible. I hold in my hand four publications from the pen of Dr. Hobson-one on the elements of general science, and three on the theory and practice of surgery and medicine. These are all printed, let me observe, through the generous contributions of our countrymen, the British merchants at Shanghae, and their circulation is already producing, and we hope will produce in a still larger degree, very beneficial effects among the native professors of medicine and surgery in China.

The Lord Mayor: I have received several letters from Members of Parliament—friends of ours, who are at this time engaged in the performance of their duties in the House of Commons. Among them is one from Lord John Russell, who expresses his deep regret that he is unable to be present on this occasion. Having previously promised to attend, however, and being detained by his duties in Parliament, his Lordship has inclosed in his letter a donation towards the object of the meeting.

The Rev. Dr. Tidman stated, that among the members of Parliament from whom notes of apology had been received, was Mr. Hanbury, one of the members for the metropolitan county; Mr. Baxter, Mr. Hadfield, Mr. Kinnaird, and others.

The Earl of Shaftesbury said—My Lord, I have to move the following resolution:—

"That this Meeting, devoutly recognising the wise and all-controlling providence of God in the several events by which the empire of China has been opened to the influence of the science, freedom, and religion of Europe and America, most earnestly desires that her future intercourse with the nations of the West may greatly conduce to her social improvement and national prosperity; but, above all, contemplating the gross superstition and moral

debasement so fearfully prevalent throughout the various classes of the Chinese people, this meeting regards it as the solemn duty of all Evangelical Protestant Churches, to employ the holy and benevolent means prescribed by their common Saviour for extending the matchless blessings of His grace to the multitudinous population of that vast empire."

No one, I am sure, will impute blame to me, if I commence the few observations that I have to make by expressing on the part of this great assembly our deep regret that your Lordship should be labouring under indisposition, and unable, therefore, to take that prominent part which you otherwise would have taken in the proceedings. My Lord, I hope and trust I shall be excused if I am very brief in the remarks which I address to this meeting. I came in haste, and I must go in haste; but I am so deeply impressed with the value of this Society, so deeply sensible of the necessity of its operations, and so filled with esteem and respect for its conductors, that if I had time I would go to the very ends of the earth to serve the purposes of the London Missionary Society. We are here for the purpose of seizing a great opportunity which is now presented to us, and occupying the ground which lies before us for extended operations in the Chinese field. This opportunity is afforded to us by the treaty which has lately been concluded. By that treaty two great advantages have been secured. In the first place, free access is given to every Missionary into all parts of the Chinese empire; and, secondly, security of life and property is promised to the Chinese who shall embrace the Christian profession. Now, my Lord, at this time of day it would, I think, be almost an affront to the people of England to devote any argumentation to a demonstration of the propriety, the necessity, and the value of foreign Missions. We are here simply to state the case, and to appeal to others to come to our aid when we are endeavouring to make use of the new facilities which are now presented to us. The Committee of the London Missionary Society wishes to avail itself of this great opportunity, and I trust that there will be no backwardness at the present time in strengthening its hands. If the Directors were now entering the field for the first time, we should wish them "God speed;" but the effort which they are making is, in fact, a new start after a long series of efforts, and they wish to recommence their operations with additional vigour, with additional hope, and with additional strength derived from your assistance. Recollect that fifty years ago this Society sent out the first Protestant Missionary to the empire of China. We wish well,-we will to the utmost of our power, give our assistance to all others who are engaged in labouring in this vineyard; but in this case we will utilise the standing proverb, and say, "First come first served." They were the first in the vineyard, and they shall receive the first assistance. Not only were they first in the vineyard, but they have been the most conspicuous, the most persevering, and the most extended in their efforts; and they have, therefore, a right not merely to ask, but to demand, at our hands everything that we can contribute by personal assistance, by our money, and by our prayers to the throne of the Almighty. I find from a little paper which has been placed in my hands, that other Societies have also agents in China. The Church Missionary Society has, it appears, eight agents; the Wesleyan Missionary Society has for the last six years had five; and other agencies which have more recently entered the field, make up a total of eighteen. The London Missionary Society has fifteen agents, and the request of the Committee is that they may be enabled to double the number. The Society might very well have asked for more; but if its demands be so limited, so modest, the greater and more imperative is the obligation resting upon you to come forward and render that assistance from which it hopes to derive such large and permanent results. Well, then, looking at the operations of this Society, are you dissatisfied with the result? Are you dissatisfied with the fruits obtained from the labours which have been bestowed? Are you dissatisfied with the men that have been produced? Can anybody in this country, or in any other country, present names more conspicuous, or more deserving of admiration, than the names of Morrison, and Medhurst, and Milne, and Dyer, to which I may add, though last not least, the name of our friend Dr. Legge, who has just returned from China? Are you, I say, dissatisfied with their work? Few of us, I believe, are able to enter into the length and breadth of the mighty toil of those great men who are now gone. We see the results, we enjoy the benefit, but we know not the labour and anxiety which they underwent before their work was brought to anything like presentability. Look at that mighty work, the translation of the Scriptures. See in what abundance they printed tracts in the Chinese language. Consider with what patience they formed dictionaries, made grammars, and did everything in their power to afford facilities for the acquisition of the Chinese language. The labours of these men extended over thirty years or more-the best portion of their lives; and now that they are gone, and as the result of their exertions, men of less gigantic proportions acquire in about ten years what it cost them about thirty years to bring into form and presentability. And do you suppose that there are not men connected with the London Missionary Society at the present time, as zealous, and in some respects as able, as those who have gone before them? God be praised, there is, in the present day, no lack of men ready to be employed in any great Missionary enterprise. There is abundance of heart, abundance of zeal, abundance of energy. We know the way, we have the agents; and all that is wanted for the securing great results in the age in which we live, is that those who are in possession of this world's goods should come forth and pour them into the Lord's treasury, for the purpose of giving employment to those who, having devoted their time and ability to the acquisition of the requisite knowledge, are only waiting for others to place in their hands the necessary means. Well, now, I must say that, this being the state of things before us, we have many grounds of great encouragement. In the first place, it is a matter of great encouragement to us to remember that we are about to address some three hundred millions of people. Take off one half, or one third of this number, and still it is a most gigantic mass of immortal souls that is presented to our view. We are about to address many millions of human beings, all speaking the same language; and, although there may be considerable variety in the dialects of that vast empire, yet there is, I am told, a most marvellous uniformity in the written language-a uniformity so great that the Bible printed at Canton may be circulated with advantage in the remotest part of the Chinese empire. Moreover, we have this great advantage in China-an advantage which

by comparison may well put our own country to shame—that almost the whole of the people, from the highest to the lowest, are able to read. This being the case, and there being this remarkable uniformity in the written language, you see at once that very great facilities are thus afforded for the operations and progress of missions. Moreover, the religious system of China tends to increase these facilities. There is no established ecclesiastical system there,—no vast depository of bigotry and error, to resist the inroads of the Missionary and the advance of the true faith. The Chinese are, moreover, a remarkable people in many respects. They are, on the whole, a people addicted to order, having a great regard for external decency, and being in some respects fitted for the reception of the peculiar discipline which the Christian religion would introduce among them. I am told that there is great physical uniformity among the Chinese people throughout the whole extent of the empire, so that they are, perhaps, the least mixed race of any to be found on the face of the earth. All this presents very great facilities on the first view of the operations of the Missionaries; and it is for us, having these facilities before us, to bestir ourselves to the utmost while the door is open, instead of waiting till it is shut, in which case we might have to knock for a century to come before we could again obtain admission. Looking at the other side of the question, there is no doubt a large amount of discouragement to be feared. There is no doubt that you have to deal with a people who are in many respects hard and apparently unimpressible; that you have to deal with a people who are extremely arrogant and self-conceited, full of pride in their antiquity, their history, and their literature; resembling very much in that respect the civilised nations of former periods in the history of the world, and presenting a system very adverse to the reception of any new faith, and particularly to the reception of the humbling doctrines of the Gospel. I admit, therefore, that if we were to look only at the surface, much more if we were to ransack our minds for all that could be urged on this subject, we should have discouragements growing up in a fearful crop and sufficient in amount to daunt the stoutest heart. But I say that in matters like this, difficulties are not our business. It is for us to consider duties, and when the duty is undeniable, and the way is clear, and the means are known, it is our business to use the means which God has placed in our hands; it is our business to go forth boldly and leave the issue to Almighty God. If we succeed, the result will be among the most glorious and magnificent in the annals of the human race; if we fail, we shall be no worse than we are now; but we shall at least have this consolation that, though we failed, we did endeavour, relying on the blessing of Almighty God, to give the Chinese "in this world the knowledge of his truth, and in the world to come life everlasting."

EDWARD Ball, Esq., M.P., on rising to second the resolution, said: My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, I can feel no hesitation, on an occasion when we are met to consider the propriety of any system for carrying out that great command of our Master to go to all nations and communicate to every people the everlasting Gospel of our God—I can feel no hesitation on such an occasion in advocating the propriety of rendering our best assistance to the cause. If I felt any diffidence in coming forward, I should be encouraged by the fact that our proceedings have been opened with an earnest entreaty for God's help, to impart His strength to our minds and memories, to diffuse a healthy feeling in

our hearts, and to prepare our souls so that we may cordially enter upon the performance of our duties, and discharge them in a manner that may be pleasing in His sight. We have had such a preparation this morning; and I feel, therefore, it is an especial privilege that in this great country, men of all classes, and persons in every grade of society, should be found so willing, so ready, and so prompt, to assist in that great cause which has made England the medium of communicating the Evangelical message to the world, and has placed her, by God's manifest and supreme blessing, above all the nations of the earth. No doubt there have been other peoples that have obtained honours almost equalling those which have been won by England. There have been, for instance, Greece and Rome, ancient Egypt and Babylon; but they employed not the power and influence which God gave them to promote His glory. They sought earthly distinction, and the conquest of the world. This country, on the other hand, enjoys the great distinction of having diffused through the earth that knowledge which God has given her, and in the fulfilment of that duty she continues to maintain her supremacy amongst the nations that surround her. We have had events occurring that would have shaken any other land to the centre. We have had a mutiny in the East Indies, and we have had a monetary crisis which has rolled over and crushed many of the greatest houses in the country. But we have suppressed the mutiny; we are escaping from the monetary crisis; and we are earning, by the discharge of our present duty, a higher and nobler distinction than ever yet fell to the lot of any other country. I have heard of a noble Premier who said that the two happiest days in his life were when the Queen sent for him to form a ministry; and when wearied and worn out with his official duties, he went again to her Majesty to tender her his resignation. But in the service in which we are engaged we can never be weary. In the service of our God there can never be that terrible toil, that deep anxiety, those little passions of little minds, that surround the earthly minister. We shall never go to tender our resignation. We have buckled on our armour, and we shall never cry, "Hold, enough!" Our two happiest days will be that in which we first entered upon our work, and that when we shall enter upon our reward-when the work will be done, the victory accomplished, the triumph achieved. Those who enter upon the Chinese Mission will never say their work is finished until China is evangelised. We read of Nelson, that just before one of his great fights, when the fleet of the enemy was in sight, he called his officers around him and said, "There's the enemy, shake hands; and to your duty." That is just our position. The enemy is before us. We are told that there are 300 millions of people under the dominion of the Prince of Darkness. Our duty is to go at once and attack his kingdom, and by God's blessing it shall be demolished. I hope that an impetus will be given to the great work by this meeting, that will encourage us to go on with it and to prosper.

The Lord Mayor having been compelled by indisposition to retire, the chair was taken by the City Chamberlain (B. Scott, Esq.), who put the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Scorr: I am sure you will all sympathize with his Lordship, and, I may add, with myself, in the painful circumstances under which the chair devolves upon me this day. On the present occasion I will only express one or two thoughts

which occupy my mind as bearing on the subject before us. There is actually greater freedom for the propagation of the Gospel in China at this moment than exists in France or in any other state of Europe, whether Catholic or Protestant; for I am ashamed to say that there are Protestant states in Europe where the Word of God has not free course. It is wonderful that, while this state of things exists in every kingdom in Europe, a door should be thrown open by which we may influence the hearts of 300 millions of human beings. There may be one or two here and there who may sneer at our efforts as chimerical; but men with black, or tawny, or yellow skins are nevertheless men even as ourselves. We are charged with neglecting the heathen at our own doors, and we are told that we ought to endeavour to convert them before we send Missionaries abroad. There is truth in that statement. Like every other fallacy which seizes upon the public mind, it consists partly of a truth, partly of a falsehood. It is our duty to care for the heathen at home—to feed them, to clothe them, to convert them. We have very much to do in these respects; but it is also true that the Christian Church has duties on the other side of the world; and that the heathen abroad have claims upon us. If the heathen are men like ourselves, and sinners like ourselves, we have no excuse for not sending the Gospel to them. Their very follies and their crimes alone stamp them as men for whom the same Saviour died. But the assertion that the Christian Church has neglected or overlooked those at at home is false. There has lately been published an article by Mr. Low, showing the amount contributed by all the benevolent societies connected with London; and I find that there are collected by the societies of London, for home purposes, a sum of no less than 1,222,000l. per annum, exclusive of the poor-rates, of all private benefactions, and collections at churches and chapels. Now, what is done for Foreign Missions? The total income of all the Missionary Societies of the Christian Church in this land amounts to no more than 459,000 l.; and this is contributed not by London merely, but by the whole country. So that you will see that the fact is as false as the inference that those who promote Missions abroad neglect the heathen at home. Under these circumstances, we have a great duty to perform. We are not met together simply to discuss this matter, but for the practical purpose of aiding this great Society. The Society is testing our Christian liberality. Some of us can give 51., some of us 101., some 1001.; from some we will accept 500l., and from some 1000l. We have a list that will adapt itself to the circumstances of every one, and I trust that each will ask himself, "What ought I to give?" Mr. Scott then called upon the Rev. George SMITH, of Poplar, who proposed the following resolution :-

"That this Meeting reviews with thankfulness the gracious indications of the Divine favour vouchsafed to the labours of the London Missionary Society during the last half century, on behalf of China—in the translation and revision of the Bible in Chinese—in the preparation of valuable works on education, science, and religion—in the invention and use of metal type, and the vigorous employment of the printing press—in the establishment of hospitals, and the support of medical Missionaries for the relief of the poor and afflicted—in various efforts to promote the Christian education of the young, and to prepare native converts for the work of evangelists—and in the formation, by its Missionaries, of Christian churches composed of numerous and honourable members of both sexes. From these and similar labours of kindred societies, this meeting cherishes the confident assurance that the

large and effectual blessing of the Divine Head of the Church may be anticipated, in answer to the prayers of His people on their future labours; by which the millions of China will be brought to the knowledge of His Word, and the enjoyment of salvation."

This resolution is a very interesting and important one. to look back upon the fifty years referred to in this resolution, without being reminded of the wonderful improvement which has taken place in the condition of our own country, and the corresponding improvement which has gone on by its side in the different countries to which our missionary efforts have been directed. I hold that home evangelisation and Christian efforts abroad perfectly harmonise. I have always found that the people who care most for home, and who feel most compassion for them that are ready to perish at their own door, are those who send out a line of benevolence which reaches to the ends of the earth. I think that we never ought to exalt the claims of one Christian enterprise at the expense of the claims of the other, lest we should at the last hear the dreadful voice of God saying to us, "These things ought ye to have done, and not to leave the others undone." I cannot look back on the period to which this resolution refers without thinking of the wonderful advance which has been made within our own memory. The law has been amended, the condition of the people has been elevated, we have better morals, and I am happy to think, a larger share, an unexampled amount of the Divine blessing in connection with the evangelical efforts of the Church of God at home. These things have occurred within the memory of living men; but that which we have attempted to do on behalf of our countrymen has not been confined to them. We have cared not only for the down-trodden in Great Britain, but we have cared also for the wretched sons of Africa. We have taken a sponge, and dipping it in the waters of Christian philanthropy, have wiped out with it the foulest blot upon our escutcheon, and let 800,000 hapless slaves go free. But our labours have not been confined even to Africa or to India; for I am glad to say they have been directed to that wonderful empire, China. I cannot look at the different Protestant missionary societies without thinking that God has communicated to them a great variety of gifts, and a great variety of usefulness; and the prosperity of one is, in my judgment, the prosperity of the whole. I rejoice in all that has been done by other institutions; but the peculiar feature of the London Missionary Society is, that it is has gone forward as a pioneer. It has raised up men like Milne, Morrison, Medhurst, Dyer, and living men like the one who has come here this day-men who would be an honour to any Christian church. Nor must it be thought that those who have lived and laboured in our churches have left no successors. I feel thankful to Almighty God for having raised them up, and put the broad seal of His approbation upon their labours. What mighty works have there not been done in the way of preparation for China! Fifty years ago, the whole of that vast empire was surrounded by a wall of prejudice and a physical wall, which prevented any European from going in. Now the whole population lies open to our efforts; and they are a people possessing a large amount of intelligence. They are, moreover, a people who are educated up to a certain point; and they are, at any rate, persons who have immortal spirits, and for whom Christ died. If we were met here to report a comparative failure, there would be no disgrace in it; but we are in a very different position.

We have been enabled to complete and revise the translation of the whole of the Scriptures, and to introduce the use of metallic type for the Chinese character. We have only to look at the representatives of the press who are here, to feel how deeply we are indebted to them for the utterance of truth as well as for the diffusion of intelligence; and the time will come, when in China the influence of the press will make itself known. Then we have been successfully cultivating benevolent feelings amongst the natives; and the introduction of medical Missionaries has afforded a beautiful example of the manner in which the Gospel can benefit both the souls and the bodies of men. Congregations of the natives have been collected together. Men and women have been brought into the fellowship of the truth; and there are converts who may be counted by hundreds, comprising Chinamen and Chinawomen, who, not less than Englishmen and Englishwomen, have felt the power of God unto salvation. There have been converts in China who would not do discredit to any church in England, but who have been faithful under circumstances of much trial and temptation. I believe that the conversion of China will be the ultimate step in the subjugation of the

whole earth to the authority of our adorable Lord. J. CHEETHAM, Esq., M.P., in seconding the resolution, said,-I think there are two classes of individuals who ought to take a peculiar interest in the proceedings of this day. The first is the class of zealous Christians who are anxious for the evangelisation of all their fellow men, and especially for that wide portion of it by whom the London Missionary Society is now seeking to direct our efforts and our zeal. The other class is that portion of our fellow-citizens, that highly educated and philanthropic class who take an interest in the elevation of their countrymen, but who are too apt to look upon Missionary efforts as the efforts of fanatics or of mistaken men. To Christians this work will be one that will remind them of the happy position in which the Church is placed at the present day. We have now opened to our efforts not less than one-half of the whole human family. We have that great Empire now happily under the direct sway of her Majesty; we have China and we have Japan; the populations of which make up at least half the human race. Thirty or forty years ago these lands were closed to us; but now they are thrown open, and there is nothing to impede the exertions of Christians for their evangelisation. In China we shall not have to contend with the Hindoos, who, bound together by the ties of caste, present an almost insurmountable barrier to our efforts. Neither shall we have a nation to deal with whom in past days we had misgoverned, and thereby raised obstacles to the labours of our Missionaries. We shall have a people prepared to meet our Missionaries, a nation of considerable civilisation, a land everywhere pervaded with roads, and canals, and water-courses. It is a country, in fact, which is ready to listen to the voices of our agents. The Christian portion of the Church, therefore, must rejoice at the opening which has been made in China, and must be ready to assist in the enterprise which we are about to undertake with redoubled vigour. With regard to the other class, who, I said, ought to regard our work with deep interest, I need only point them to the great literary efforts which our Missionaries have made to facilitate the acquirement of the most difficult language in the world. By the industry of the Missionaries, those difficulties have been overcome, dictionaries and grammars have been completed, and even portions of works have been printed, which are circulated amongst the Chinese themselves. Then, again, if you look at the hospitals which have been established in connection with our Missions, I think we are entitled, on mere literary and philanthropic grounds, to ask those of our countrymen who take an interest in such pursuits to come forward and assist our Society in the efforts it is making.

The Rev. Dr. Legge, Missionary from China, in supporting the resolution, said: Mr. Chairman and friends, about this time last year, I recollect Lord Elgin, in replying to an address from the merchants at Shanghae, concluded in terms to the following effect:-"Gentlemen, I mean to do my part here effectually; I shall secure a treaty that will throw open China to our commerce, and then your part will begin; it is mine to throw open the door, to clear the channels and highways, and it will be yours to enter in and occupy the land, sending to its great marts the merchandise of our country, till you have permeated and filled the vast empire of China with the productions of Great Britain. I consider myself a pioneer; all that I can do is merely preliminary; upon you will devolve the duty of showing that the manufacturing West can maintain a successful competition with this manufacturing East, even in its own markets." Lord Elgin, has amply redeemed this promise. He has thrown open China to the commerce of the world, and I think it will be the fault of our merchants if they do not, before many years have run their course, by a prudent adaptation of their fabrics to the requirements of the Chinese people, effect such an expansion of the trade of Manchester, Sheffield, and other places as their largest wishes could contemplate. But Lord Elgin has done more than throw open China to our commerce. He has done great things also for the Church of Christ; he has thrown the country open, as it never was open before, to the preaching of the Gospel; and as we have heard to-day, he has obtained the precious boon of toleration for Chinese Christians. Sir, there is a voice in Providence from the results of Lord Elgin's mission to China-a voice in Providence to the Christian people, and especially of the associate churches and Missionary Societies of Great Britain and of other lands; it says to them all, "The mountains are brought low, and the highways are exalted; go up and possess the land." I believe, Mr Chairman, that our merchants will do their work in China. Their agents will soon be found in the remotest parts of the country; the splash of their oar, and the whistle of their steam will be heard in its inmost waters. If I be spared to live as many years more as I have lived in China, I expect to see railways laid down in that country, into the tea-growing and silk-producing districts, along the banks of the Yang-tse and other streams. And I believe, Sir, with equal confidence, that the Christian Church, that Missionary Societies will do their work in China. I expect to see in no distant future the departure of many Christian men from our country, men of wealth and education, not connected with any Missionary Society, their departure for the distant East sustained by the high and holy ambition of winning souls to Christ. I see such men going forth in the future; and I see the agents of the London Missionary Society going forth, not as now, in twos and threes, but by tens and by twenties. I see them going forth, striving as Paul did, "not to preach Christ where He has been named," but to found new missions: not to build, as must be done in this and in all old Christian countries.

on another man's foundation, but to lay a foundation themselves. Yes, the Christian Church will do its work as well as the merchants of our country will do theirs; and before many years have elapsed we shall have had, I trust, in every one of the eighteen provinces of China, "the proclamation of the truth as it is in Jesus." I have had experience of the Chinese people and of Missions among them now for between nineteen and twenty years; and when I look back upon what has been done, I cannot but, as a member of the Chinese Mission, express my grateful acknowledgments to God, thank Him, and take courage. This resolution speaks of special departments of labour, to which attention has been given, and in which a great deal of success has been realised. I will only refer to them in a sentence or two. First, let me allude to one which has more of a secular character than the others, but our success in which it is, I think, desirable, should be more fully known. Reference is made here to the invention and use of metal type. Now that was the special work of the Rev. Samuel Dyer; and the Society was led into it, I think, without knowing the immediate outlay which it would involve; but the work has now been done, and in the view of it no one can help rejoicing that the Society was honoured to accomplish it. Why, that work commands an appreciation throughout the whole civilised world. It was only in the beginning of last year that the Russian plenipotentiary in China, Count Putiatine, called at our Mission House, and made an arrangement with Mr. Chalmers and myself that we should supply him with the matrices struck from our punches, of the Chinese character. It appeared that the Russian government wanted to compile a Chinese and Russian dictionary at St. Petersburg, and in order to make a commencement of the work they were obliged to come to our Mission House at Hong Kong. Then again, and since my return to this country, I have had more than one interview with a distinguished gentleman of Paris, Mons. Mohl, who is, I believe, the superintendent of the printing department of the Institute of France, and who wants our assistance in forming for the Institute a complete fount of type embracing every character in the Chinese language. Therefore, the formation of metal types, viewed as a portion of our Missionary enterprise, may be considered to have been effected successfully and well; and I believe that as the invention comes into use more and more extensively among the Chinese, the results will more than realise any anticipation in which Mr. Smith has indulged. But I wish to speak chiefly of what is the greatest and most direct result, or rather, of the one result which we wish to accomplish by our Missionary labours, namely, the conversion of souls and the formation of Christian churches. I say, then, that the effects of our Protestant Missions in China, during the period that has elapsed since the conclusion of the treaty of Nankin in 1842, are in this respect of a very encouraging character. Within that time, the converts have increased from less than ten to more than a thousand; and the present converts, men and women, are persons to whom, I believe, the attendants at this meeting and the members of all the Christian Churches throughout England, would be glad to give the right hand of fellowship. Now, I am happy to have an opportunity thus publicly, in this hall, in the Mansion House of London, of making this declaration. Most of you have probably read the letters from the "Times" correspondent in China. Those letters are in many respects interesting and

instructive; but in one of them the writer expresses, or rather insinuates, in a somewhat irritating manner, his doubts and suspicions on this point. After observing that no professed supporter of Missionary institutions could desire to see Missionaries multiplied in China more than he did, he proceeds to say, that if any one says he believes we are making sincere converts, either he is the subject of a delusion or he is guilty of a fraud. Now, sir, I think I know my brother Englishmen, Scotchmen, Americans and Germans, Lutherans and Calvinists, Presbyterians, Wesleyans, and Independents-I think I know them well enough, I say, to spurn the characterising of them in such a manner. I think I know myself well enough to feel assured that I cannot be described in either of those ways. And I do affirm, for my brethren and myself, that we have every reason to believe that we have made, and are making sincere converts. Just let me refer, by way of presenting an example, to one of the members of our Chinese church in Hong Kong. That man is employed in connection with the Mission as superintendent of our printing office, at a salary of thirty dollars a month. His name is Wong Shing. In the beginning of last year that name appeared on the jury list of the colony, that being the first time that the name of a Chinese had been seen on the list in connection with the names of Englishmen. Sir John Bowring told me that when the sheriff's list was submitted for approval, some member or members of the council expressed their astonishment that the name of a Chinese should have been given in by the sheriff. This man's character, however, was known to his Excellency and the majority of the council, and the result was that the list appeared, ultimately, just as it had been handed in by the sheriff. A few weeks after that occurrence, the Registrar of the Supreme Court in Hong Kong sent to me to lay before me a proposition from the Chief Justice with reference to this Wong Shing. His lordship wanted to obtain a competent, trustworthy interpreter for the Supreme Court; and, knowing the ability and integrity of our friend, he wished him to have the office. The Registrar called upon me, and said that so sensible was the Chief Justice of the necessity of such an officer, and of the fitness of Wong Shing to fill it, that if he would only take it he was empowered to offer him 120 dollars a month. He added, "If ten dollars more will make the scale go down in favour of the Government, I am prepared to offer that amount; and let me remark," he added, "that Wong Shing is a young man with a large family, and has no right to refuse to occupy such an important and honourable situation." I called upon Wong Shing, and laid the offer before him. I said we should be very sorry to lose his services at our printing-office, but he was at liberty to accept the proposition of the Government if he pleased. "As to what Mr. Masson says," I observed, "about your not having a right to decline the offer, that depends upon your views of life. If your object be to accumulate money, and to get dollars, you will accept the proposal made; but if you think there are higher ends in life, both as respects yourself and as respects your children, you can best secure them by continuing in your present employment." He was not a minute in making up his mind. "I hope," he said, "that the Government will get a good interpreter, but I don't mean to leave my present situation." Now, when we can speak of men of such high Christian principle as that manifested by Wong Shing, as belonging

to the membership of our Christian Church, shall we be told that, if we say we are making sincere converts, we are either the subjects of a delusion or guilty of 'a fraud?' I will bandy railing accusations and recriminations with no man; I will content myself with the remark, that those who make such representations, in the first place, ignore the declaration of our Lord, that "the kingdom of God cometh not with observation;" and, in the second place, with regard to the special subject of which they speak, they understand neither what they say, nor what they affirm. I assert that the results of our Protestant Missions in China are highly encouraging. I know, indeed, that there are those difficulties connected with it to which Lord Shaftesbury alluded in his address; I know that the arrogance and self-conceit of the Chinese are formidable barriers to the introduction and progress of Divine truth among them; I know that their nature is earthly and sensual, and that they are, as a people, eminently unspiritual; but I know also that they are less possessed, as it were, by their own religious superstitions than the inhabitants of other pagan nations, and that they can be more easily brought to a renunciation of native superstitions than many other races. Time will not allow me to refer, by way of illustration, to the introduction of Buddhism in China, and to the rapid overspreading of China by that foreign religion; nor will it permit me to allude to the conversions effected, and the progress made among the Chinese people during ten centuries, by the Christian Missionaries of the Nestorian Church, or to the success which at one period attended the labours of Roman Catholic Missionaries among them. But I say that the results of our own Protestant Missions are of a most cheering character. The field is wide, so wide, that it is impossible for us fully to realise it; and it is not wider than it is auspicious. Let the London Missionary Society, and other kindred institutions, advance into it, therefore, with confidence; let them send forth many labourers, and they will all reap abundantly; let them seek to train souls for Christ, and He will give them their wages. Let me now give expression to a feeling which has weighed again and again on my own mind during the last two years with reference to the terrible calamities which have befallen us in India, and the solemn responsibilities which are laid upon us by the recent treaty with China. I cannot but give expression to the feeling which possesses my own mind, that never was the responsibility of this country in regard to Christ, and in regard to the family of mankind, of so solemn and so awful a nature as it is now. That empire of India is given to us both to be governed and to be evangelised; those vast multitudes of the Chinese are sitting at our feet waiting to be instructed in the things of God. And we are acting upon them by our Government. It might have been very much better in India than it has been. We are acting upon them by our commerce. Oh, what a foul blot and stain there is upon our commerce with China. We are acting upon them by our soldiers and our sailors; we are acting upon them grievously through the influence of our countrymen; and if we were putting forth no other action than that which we are doing by our government, by our commerce, and by the manners of the mass of our countrymen, God would, I believe, soon drive us with infamy and disgrace from the position which we occupy in that part of the world. But we are also acting upon those distant nations by our Missionary Societies; we are acting with our Christian principles; we are acting—acting, I hope, for their good and for God's glory—through the example of Christians living amongst them. But if we are to do our duty to them and to our country, we must rise to a vaster and more earnest demonstration of Christian zeal in connection with missions than we have ever yet done. Oh, reflect that there are in China alone between three and four hundred millions of the human race to be won for Christ! Never, indeed, will He appear manifestly as the Saviour in whom "all the families of the earth are to be blessed," until the standard of the Cross be planted through the length and breadth of China, and his banner of love floats over the whole world. I feel that Christianity itself is put, as it were, anew on its probation as the universal religion, by the opening which is now made for us in China. I do not doubt what the result will be. I know that Christ shall conquer; that he shall sway His sceptre from sea to sea, and from the rivers to the ends of the earth.

THOMAS CHAMBERS, Esq., Common Serjeant of the City, moved the following resolution:—

"That this Meeting most cordially approves the measures adopted by the Directors of the London Missionary Society, to improve the facilities secured by the recent treaties with the Chinese Government for extending their Christian labours in that empire; and earnestly commends to the generous support of the friends of Missions the appeal for augmented funds, by which the Directors may be enabled to double at the least the present number of their Chinese Missionaries."

The devout recognition of God's Providence is best proved by the diligent discharge of the duties it imposes and involves. London is asked to-day, in the mansion of its chief magistrate, to declare whether it does devoutly recognise God's Providence in opening China to commerce, to science, and to religion. Does London believe that China is opened for the spread of the Christian religion? Do we believe the resolution we have passed unanimously? Are we prepared to say that the London Missionary Society not only has done right in this matter, but could not have acted otherwise than make to the Christian Church the proposal which it has made and is now making for the sending forth of additional Missionaries to China, and for the diffusion of Christianity in that land? If so, then our corresponding obligation is plain, then it is our duty to take care that they are not fettered in their work for want of the earnest co-operation of the Christian Church; but that both men and money are forthcoming, in order that we may, as a Christian people, do what we undoubtedly shall do as a commercial people, in order that we may avail ourselves of the opening in China for the diffusion of religious truth as well as for the increase of our commercial enterprises. Much has been said about the spread of religion in this country within the last fifty years. Sir, I do firmly believe that the standard of Christian obligation has been gradually rising during that period; that we are, as a people, more faithfully performing our duty in regard to the world at large than we were at the commencement of the present century, and that we are now "seeking," in a greater degree than we ever did before, "the kingdom of God and His righteousness." And, let me ask, has not God "added all other things unto us?" Did commerce, or science, or art, ever develope itself in anything like the same degree that it has during the last fifty years? God has honoured us as a commercial people with a success and a wealth beyond all precedent in either ancient or modern times. God has honoured us as a scientific people to an extent to which no other nation has ever been honoured, and this just at the time when we have been attempting to honour Him by some better recognition of Christian obligations than former centuries have witnessed. And then, just as we had been strengthened in our consciousness of Christian obligation, just as the nerves of Christian feeling had become more sensitive, and the muscles of Christian philanthropy had become more firmly knit, God has given us a greater work to do; He has given us a door of entrance to the myriads from whom we have hitherto been shut out, or upon whom whatever influence we have exercised has been, as Dr. Legge pointed out, chiefly of a disastrous kind; and now there is a peremptory call made upon the Christian Church by God's providence as well as by God's grace, that with the results of other men's labours to aid them, the labours of those who have now entered into their rest, they shall send forth the message of mercy to the inhabitants of China, that they may learn the way of salvation by Jesus Christ.

The Rev. John Kennedy seconded the resolution. Sir C. E. Eardley moved the next resolution—

"That the best thanks of the Meeting are hereby presented to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, for the use of the Egyptian Hall on this occasion, and also for his kindness, under much personal indisposition, in opening the proceedings of the day. Also to Benjamin Scott, Esq. Chamberlain, for his valuable services in presiding on the occasion of the Lord Mayor's retirement from the Chair."

J. East, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Directors, seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman having acknowledged the resolution, the doxology was sung, the benediction pronounced, and this large and influential meeting separated.

THE FRIENDS OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE GRATIFIED TO LEARN THAT THE DIRECTORS HAVE SECURED THE SERVICES OF SEVERAL WELL QUALIFIED MISSIONARIES FOR CHINA, SIX OF WHOM, AT THE LEAST, WILL LEAVE ENGLAND FOR THAT IMPORTANT FIELD OF LABOUR DURING THE SUMMER.

CONTRIBUTIONS

TOWARDS

NEW AND EXTENDED MISSIONS IN CHINA.

PAYABLE, AT THE OPTION OF THE DONORS, WITHIN THE PRESENT OR THE YEAR ENSUING, 1860.

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ARTHUR TIDMAN, EBENEZER PROUT, Secretaries.