

A PIONEER MISSIONARY IN CHINA. The Rev. JOSIAH COX.

NTIL 1842, the only port in China which was open for commercial intercourse At Canton the interwas Canton. course was strictly limited to commerce; there was to be no religious propaganda carried on. In 1721, at the close of the long and glorious reign of the Emperor Kang-hi, his successor had issued edicts suppressing the Catholic Missions which had been making great headway for more than a hundred years. That edict had not been allowed to lapse in 1807 when Robert Morrison tried to land in China as a missionary. He had first of all to stop at Macao, a small island some 70 or 80 miles from the city of Canton, which belonged to Portugal, and was then, as it still is, a Roman Catholic stronghold, a place made sacred by the possession of the grave of Rome's greatest missionary-Francis Xavier.

Between 1807 and 1842 sundry efforts were made by three or four societies to co-operate with Dr. Morrison in mission work amongst the Chinese. But such work was confined to Chinese who had emigrated to the Straits Settlements. The treaty of 1842 ceded Hong Kong to Great Britain, and opened five ports, not only for commercial but also for missionary enterprise. The following decade was, therefore, a period of considerable advance in the number of missionary workers and of missionary societies that undertook mission work in China.

The supporters of the W.M.M.S. were eager to take their share in this new field of expansion, but the secretaries and the majority of the members of the committee had reasons to oppose the desire for advance. The work in Canada, largely among British colonists, was increasing by leaps and bounds. In 1835 we had 72 missionaries at work in Canada; in 1841 there were 98; in 1851 there were 173. In Australia the numbers had advanced from 20 in 1841 to 37 in 1851; in New Zealand from 14 to 20. Although the work in the Colonies was largely self-supporting, the figures for the Home Income were much more ominous than those which so recently caused us considerable distress. In 1841 the income from England stood at $\pounds_{.70,788}$ 3s. 3d.; ten years later—when the full force of the '49 movement was felt—the figures had fallen to $\pounds_{.60,663}$ 9s. 10d. The debt stood at $\pounds_{.30,000}$ in 1841, but was reduced to $\pounds_{.10,000}$ in 1851.

It was with such figures as these that the Committee had to consider what could be done with sundry sums of money which were sent to it from time to time, for special advance work in China. The earliest of such sums appears in the report for 1835; the largest was for $\pounds_{1,000}$ from its General Treasurer, Mr. Farmer of Gunnersbury; the most interesting was a comparatively small sum of class money sent home by about a dozen soldiers from Hong Kong, who had met regularly under the leadership of Sergeant Ross of the 59th Regiment.

In 1850, Mr. Geo. Piercy advised by a keen eyed superintendent who foresaw difficulties to any candidate, however orthodox he might be personally, who offered himself from such a heterodox centre as Pickering had shown itself in 1849, was advised to set forth to China as a local preacher, commissioned, however, with letters from the general secretary of the Society to Sergeant Ross.

Meanwhile one of the students at Richmond was led to make an offer that proved irresistible to the most cautious of committees, and the most wary of secretaries. Would the committee allow him and a companion (supposing a companion could be found), to start missionary work in China, by means of the special funds available, and without trenching on the general funds of the Society. In the event of the special fund growing, the number of workers might be increased ; in the event of its decrease, the student offered for himself and his companion to manage on less than the modest sum ordinarily paid to the regular missionary; in the event of its extinction, then the two pioneers would make a final charge by purchasing return passages to England. The offer was accepted.

The student who made this generous offer —characteristic offer, as all who knew him then or later could well call it—was Josiah Cox. He wrote at once to a fellow student whom the Conference of 1851 had sent from Richmond to the work in Paris. This companion responded to the call, as gladly as his friend had expected he would; and so William Beach was transferred from Europe to Asia.

Mr. Piercy continued to correspond with the committee. It soon became apparent

that self-supporting missionary work was out of the question. None of the firms would consent to engage a young man who frankly told them that he wanted work and pay as a half timer, and wished to devote the other half to missioning the Chinese. Armed with a Grindrod's compendium,

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Mr. Piercy wrote out answers to the questions which he found were required to be asked of candidates by the chairman of a Synod (or "district committee" as they were called in those days). This unique method of examination was much more efficacious than probably any other living minister than Mr. Piercy has found the common humdrum style, to which all the rest of us have been subject. The conference of 1852 not only accepted Mr. Piercy, it graded him as level with Mr. Beach as "having travelled one year," the literal truthfulness of the statement altogether overwhelming the conventional meaning attached to that phrase. So it came that the minutes of 1852 contained a new station with three names attached. "China: William Beach and George Piercy who have travelled one year; Josiah Cox, now received on trial."

Josiah Cox, the "junior" in ministerial standing, though certainly not the least influential in starting the new work, has preceded his two seniors in hearing the reward to good and faithful servants from the lips of the LORD. William Beach, who for fifty years has been an Anglican Clergyman, still lingers on in retirement near Reading; George Piercy alone continues in active work, for though for many years his name has appeared on the minutes of Conference as a "supernumerary," he still journeys day by day from his home at Leytonstone to minister to such Chinese as he finds willing to hear the Gospel in their own tongue, whilst staying for longer or shorter periods in the port of London.

Mr. Cox was emphatically a pioneer. Within three or four years of his reaching Canton, he and his five companions (for the Special Fund, fed by the "China Breakfast," had increased sufficiently to double the number of the staff), were driven out of

Canton by the second "Opium" War. It was while the missionaries took refuge in Macao that they baptised their first fruitsfromamongst the Chinesesome of their servants who had shared the advantages and disadvantages of the flight. While there, too, Mr. Beach accepted an

The DECEMBER FOREIGN FIELD Begins a series of Articles ON "Our Opportunity Abroad," BY Rev. W. H. FINDLAY.

Anglican Chaplaincy in one of the so-called "Colonial" churches.

Mr. Cox could not, however, be cooped up in such a small parish as Macao, and set off on a journey to Singapore, Penang and other parts of the Straits Settlements, doing such work as his command of Cantonese and a store of Chinese Gospels and Tracts would enable him to do amongst Chinese emigrants to those parts.

The Indian Mutiny caused the war with China to drag on, so that it was not until 1860 that China realised fully, that right or wrong in the matter of opium, England had might on her side. The Treaty of 1860, legalised the traffic in opium (which between 1842 and 1860 had continued to be in law a contraband traffic). It also opened up several ports additional to the first five. In December, 1861, Mr. Cox started off from Canton in search of new fields for Wesleyan Missionary enterprise.

In the "Missionary Notices" for 1862, may be found letters from Mr. Cox, which certainly were never read by those who used to speak of those excellent little papers as "dry." The description of Mr. Cox's visit to the Rebel Court at Nanking, in January, 1862, gives a vivid first-hand picture of a most interesting episode in Chinese History—forgotten by numbers now, who will still remember that General Gordon used to be known as "Chinese" Gordon—he won the epithet by crushing out the formidable rebellion which at one time bid fair to overturn the Manchu Dynasty.

The following month found Mr. Cox at Hankow, where he was welcomed by Griffith John, who had reached that city on June 21st, 1861. Mr. Cox for some few weeks shared the rooms which had been rented by Dr. John and his colleague, Mr. Wilson. It was Dr. John who persuaded Mr. Cox to go no further in search of a suitable centre for fresh work. Taking him up to the little hill between Hanyang and Hankow, he showed him the mighty river, the Yangtse, with its mighty tributary, the Han; bearing tens of thousands of large and small boats, and with the intersected banks built on by the crowded houses of three great cities. Dr. John confidently asked the question he still believes unanswered : "Where else in China even, can you find a situation to compare to this ?"

As soon as convenient, Mr. Cox rented a house a mile or so away from the premises rented by the London Missionary Society, and started the work on the site still occupied by our Mission in Hankow. It was soon after that, that Mr. Cox took his first furlough and did perhaps his greatest day's work for China. He found out that amongst the new men for the —— District (perhaps the particular field had better be unnamed), was David Hill. He pleaded, urged and succeeded in gaining the transfer of the name from that district to the new mission in Central China.

In Central China, Mr. Cox was as restless as he had been in Southern China. He had no intention of remaining in Hankow, or even in the three cities of which Hankow was the chief.

In 1865, he started work in Kiukiang, in spite of the lack of permission from England; in thirteen months we find him reluctantly obeying the plain and repeated commands from Bishopsgate Street, which told him the Society could not and would not undertake additional expenditure. The removal from Kiukiang was hurried by the severe illness of his dearly loved friend whom he had won for China. Mr. Hill had broken down completely and had been obliged to leave for Japan. Mr. Cox hurried after him by the next steamer, and reached Yokohama in time to nurse the patient back to a state of health which happily disappointed the fears of the able and godly doctor who was attending him. Almost in tears he had begged his young patient not to throw away a life, which even short acquaintance had rightly shown was so valuable, by an attempt to return to China, but to go straight home to England.

In 1871, after seeing the establishment of the Mission in each of the three cities, and preparation for further expansion in different directions by means of carefully superintended colportage journeys, Mr. Cox took a further furlough. It was then that he married the excellent lady who survives him. On April 21st, 1872, Mr. and Mrs. Cox reached Wuchang, and took up their residence in the city for the few remaining years of work in China. The memory of their work is still retained by some of the older members, and even by some who have never joined the Christian Church.

In 1875, Mr. Cox's health broke down, so that he had to return to England; nor was he ever after able to induce a doctor to say that he was fit to go back to the work he so loved. For three years he was unable to take up work in an English Circuit. Then he was appointed to Tenby in 1878, and Peterborough in 1881, whence he was compelled to remove in twelve months to the mountain air at Ulverston, but he was only able to give two years' work there, and in 1884 he retired to Jersey. For the next twenty years he lived at St. Brelades, known to all who were stationed or even visited the Jersey Circuits, and honoured by all who knew him.

In 1904, he came to live in the neighbourhood of London, and on September 27th, he passed away while on a visit to a relative who lived near him.

His work was well done; his life was spared to see a wonderful development in both the districts in which he had had such a remarkable part in founding. All who worked with him, and all who met him in later years, reckon themselves the better for his friendship. There is a definite sense of being poorer through his removal; but for himself we can but rejoice. He had tarried long, and was glad when the call to his reward reached him.

General Mission Fund.

REMITTANCES AND STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, TO NOVEMBER 1211, 1905.

Remittances from District and Circuit Treasurers to the Wesleyan Missionary Society received by the General Treasurers since the last announcement and Total Receipts on account of 1906.

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GENERAL MISSION FUND.

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GENERAL MISSION FUND.

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Bury Radcliffe				16	0	0	Do., Ellesmere Rd.	10	0
Blackburn	14			24	10	11	Do., Park Do., Burngreave		
Darwen	14	4	8	24 17	18 0	11	Road .	19	3
Haslingden	79	13	11	159	13		Do., Brunswick . Do., Mission	53 71	07
Accrington							Do., Mission Do., Thorncliffe .		-
Rawtenstall.	20	0	0	20	0	0	Chesterfield Hathersage .	26	0
Colne				2	2	0	Bakewell Rotherham	6	5
Nelson Clitheroe	30	0	0	51	0	0	Wath-'on-Dearne	25	0
Leigh	10	13	10	35	3	10	Doncaster, Priory Place		
Wigan Chorley				26 64	62	07	Do., Oxford Place		
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Do., Wesley Do., Rhodes St. Do., King Cross	19	7	9	47	4	10	NOTTINGHAM &	DE	RBY
Brighouse .							Nottingham Miss. Halifax Place		
Huddersfield, Queen St.							Do., do., Albert Hall		
Do., Buxton Rd. Do., Gledholt	-44	18	7	96	6	6	Do., Tennyson St.	30	0
Holmfirth				30 48	4	6 10	Do., Arkwright St. Do., Wesley	5 31	17 1
Sowerby Bridge .	8	12	0	11	9	10	Ilkeston	79	17 1
Todmorden .	34	16	7	34	16	7	Mansfield Southwell	59	15
Hebden Bridge .				32	6	9	Newark	54	12
Denby Dale Bradfd, Kirkgate	10	0	0	53	0	0	Grantham Bingham	58 112	06
Do., Low Moor . Do., Manningham				15 22	78	4	Leicester, Bishop		Ĭ
Do. Eastbrook				- 60	0	4	Do., King		
Do., Otley Rd.	1						Do., King Richard's Road	37	4
Do., Green Hill	47	1	6	47	1	6	Do., Humberstone Road	32	1
Do., Gt. Horton . Do., Shipley	55	7	8	55 15	70	80	Melton Mowbray	154 11	6
Do., Shipley Do., Wind Hill	20	0	0	33	19	6	Oakham Stamford	50	
Keighley Haworth and	178	3	6	217	15	0	Peterborough .	30	6
Oakworth			0		10		Crowland Loughborough .	76	11
Bingley Cullingworth	54	6	9	-70	10	п	Castle Donington Derby, King St	25	0 18
Skipton	33	4	10	33	4	10	Do., Green Hill .	40	0
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Total on account.

Oct. 13 to Nov. 12.

**. Contributions for insertion in the "Bulletin" must be received at the Mission House by the 12th of each month.

The following sums have been received by the General Treasurers since our last announcement, some of which are included in the District and Circuit Remittances.

REMITTANCES ON ACCOUNT 1906.

		MISSION HOUSE (ORDINARY).			
	"A2 . fs s. d.	fs s. d. 1	£	5. 0	
	"Adoration" 5 0 0 A.E., per Rev W H Findlay M A J J 0	F. C. C	5	0	
	A. E., per Rev. W. H. Findlay, M.A. I I O	F. J	5	5	
		From Readers of "The Christian" Roberts, Rev. Richard	2		0
		per Messrs. Morgan and Scott, Roberts, Mr. R. Nevill	. 1	I	
	and ikonering (anonymolis).	for Foreign Work 10 0 Selby, Mrs. 1. G., for China	I	I	0
	A thorn W. H. Findlay, M.A. 20 0 0	Do do for General Work 8 T C Stock Exchange Christian Associa-			
	-ualikottering (special) Edin-	tion	I	I	0
		Den M Hantlen			
	Mr Edwin P	Rev. M. Hartley 4 0 0 per Rev J. W. Butcher		10	
	Liverpool 105 0 0	Lewis, Mrs. E. B 25 0 0 Smail sums	I	15	0
	MI	SSION HOUSE (FOR THE DEBT).			
E	Armour Ma Marine David			-	_
	Armour, Mr. William, Redland			0	0
ţ.		Circuit, Sheffield	2	2	0
	Bain, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Harro-	Hoyle, Mr. Isaac, Bournemouth, Circuit, Leeds.			~
L	Beaver M. I. II. Kainhar IO IO O	towards the Treasurer's Salter, Mrs.H., Horsforth Circuit,	13	15	~
k.		Courses a set Trada	TO	10	0
î.	Circuit, Halifax	Jenkins, Mr. James, Edgbaston, Scholes, Mr. Thomas, Wood-	10	10	~
L		per Mr. John Barnsley 25 0 0 house Moor Circuit, Leeds	5	0	0
Ŀ		L.R.W 10 0 0 Shrubsall, Mr. George, Tulse	2	-	Ĭ
1		Middlebrook, Mr. W., Morley Hill	00	0	0
		Circuit, Leeds 105 0 0 Spencer, Rev. W. M., Hudders-			1
	Proceed by Rey R Mottat	Parkinson, Miss, Keighley Cir- field, Buxton Road Circuit,			
		cuit, Halifax I O O Halifax	2	2	0
1		Pearson, Mr. John, Hebden Stocks, Mr. B., Brunswick Cir-	020	1	27
	Sicy Vr Richard V Marhot	The St Committee I and Tanda	25	0	0
	Dravion	I. Dawson	5		-
	Drayton 5 0 0 Flitch, Mr. J. R., Chapel Allerton Circuit, Leeds	P A DI CI I ID CITI I I	25	0	0
	Circuit J. R., Chapel Allerton	Keighley- Vickers, Mr. and Mrs. B. T.,	17		
	Circuit, Leeds	Clegg, Mr. A 5 0 0 Brunswick Circuit, Leeds	5	5	0
		Crump, Rev. J. and Mrs 5 5 o Wilcox, Mr. C. E., Otley Circuit,	-		
	Circuit	Mallinson, Mr. Eli 20 0 0 Leeds	2	2	0
	Heap, Mr. Charles, Rochdale 50 0 0	Nicholson, Mrs I I C Small sums	0	15	0
	Rus	LEGACIES.			
	Butt, Mr. A. W. (the late), Chester,	Denney, Miss Mary (the late), Geake, Mr. William (the late),			
1	Per Mr. T. M. Dutton,	Lancaster, per Mr. Edward St. Columb, per executors, duty			
1	executor data free	free	500	0	0
	executor, duty free 100 0 0	Cardwell, executor, duty free 390 13 9 Johns, Mr. E. L. (the late),			
	Denney Miss Agnes (the late)		10	0	0
	Denney, Miss Agnes (the late), Lancaster and Ma Edward	Scarth Miss S K M Stanghow			
		late), Lancaster, per Mr. Edward in Cleveland, Yorks., per			
1	Cardwell, executor, duty free 303 14 6	Cardwell, executor, duty free 22 10 0 Executor, Mr. R. W. Scarth	51	II	8
1		OPPOINT CONTRIBUTIONS	-		
	"Ad-	SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.			
	"Adoration," for Medical Missions 5 o c	Hamptonne, Miss M., Jersey, for Mr. W. A. Dell's Y. W. Bible			
1	"A Friend in South Africa," for Fatshan Hospital	work at Madurantakam 20 0 0 Class, Fulham, for support of			
	Fatshan Hospital I o c	Hamptonne, Miss M., Jersey, for Biblewoman "Jessie," in			
	Anon., Oidham, for Rev. A. H. Bestall's Mission to Lepers	Two Orphans at Madurantakam 10 0 0 Negapatam	2	o	0
	Bestall's Mission to Lepers I I co	Mr. I. H. Farmer's Class		229	-
	Austin, Mr. H. J., Chorleywood, for support of "Samuel" at	Headingley Circuit, for Rev. J. K. Bootle, for Rev. C. W. Pos-			
		Hill, China	I	0	0
	- 1010 C. Di	Hellier, Dr. J. B., Woodhouse Morley Circuit, Leeds, for Medical			
		Moor Circuit, Leeds, for Missions	7	7	0
		Medical Missions 12 12 0 Per Mr. J. R. Hill, J.P., York, for			
		Higgs, Mr. George, Streatham Central China Lay Mission	37	17	6
	Cashell, Mrs., for support of "Fanny Joseph." at Jaffna I 6 c	Hill, for Mysore City Hospital 10 0 o Per Mrs. M. S. Wills, Llandaff,	1	Cart.	
	Word as I'd the junction in a o'd	Huet, Mrs. M., Dublin, for for Rev. E. C. Cooper's Dis-			
		Medical Missions	I	0	0
	Allerton Circuit, Leeds, for Medical Missions 5 5 C Dulwich Vale Bible Class, for	I E for Medical Missions Sackett, Mr. E., Hythe, for Rev.			
5	Wich Transformer 3 5 0	Lewisham Branch, for "Our Own	3	3	0
		Tomil Agent" at Ikkedu ner Seiby, Mis. 1. G., In memory			
	Ruchang District Work,	Pay I Martun Lobb & Mr. A			
		Hamidra or o Tor Mcuda	2	2	0
-		Lister Hill Mission Hell Have Scholes, Mr. Thomas, Woodhouse			
	Fraimoga work,	Call Ward for II-al DU's Anothe Oneur, Locus, 101			
1	The second secon	School Contrar	1		
	f. success and and and	Turnan High Street Cont	5		
	for Jabalpur Hospital	School for support of Out	5	0	0
		Boy in Korur			
		Boy in Karur I 4 5 Leeds, for Medical Missions	25	0	0
	Nº Wiedical Mission at T				
	Nº Wiedical Mission at T	McKenzie, Colonel Stewart, Sea- Stocks, Mr. J. S., Chapel Allerton			
	Nagar Guest	McKenzie, Colonel Stewart, Sea- forth, Brahan Castle, N.B., Stocks, Mr. J. S., Chapel Allerton Circuit, Leeds, for Medical			-
	Nagar Mission at Karim	McKenzie, Colonel Stewart, Sea- forth, Brahan Castle, N.B., per Mrs. Hill, for Wesley Col- Stocks, Mr. J. S., Chapel Allerton Circuit, Leeds, for Medical Missions	25 3		

REMITTANCES ON ACCOUNT.

0 56

0 5

FOR THE WEST INDIAN (SPECIAL) FUND.

CIRCUIT COLLECTIONS.

Ampthill Circuit	£3	s. 9	d. 3	Haltwhistle Circuit	L.5	s. 13	<i>d</i> . 0	Todmorden Circuit	to 3	2
Banbury Circuit Boroughbridge Circuit	12	6 17	10	Leith Circuit	2	2	0	Walworth Chapel (Mostyn Road Circuit)	5	1
Colchester Circuit	9	0	0	Circuit	24	13	5	Smali sums	0	-

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

Adcock, Mr. R. O., Derby	I	I	0	Green, Mrs. Walford, Blackheath				Gutteridge, Mr. M., Naples		0
Bowerman, Mr. George, St.				Grimshaw, Rev. and Mrs. John,	I	010	0	Harris, Mr. J. T., Sittingbourne, per Rev. J. M. Brown		IO
Leonards	5	0	0	Cheetham Hill		5 0	0	Small sums	2	II

SOUTH INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

Small sum

JUVENILE ASSOCIATIONS.

Matthias Road	IO	s Church Road	6 16	5 10	Barry Road	4	10 10
Cassland Road	9 19	4 Brentford		0	Deptford	19	12 1

Note-November "BULLETIN." page 7. The froo from Ilkley Circuit, for the Debt, was given by Mr. "Thomas Firth," Ilkley, and the first from Keighley Circuit, for Medical Missions, was given by Mr. Robert Clough of Keighley,

TOTAL NET RECEIPTS of Contributions and Remittances announced in the "BULLETIN of this month amount to £19,883 2s. 70

All Letters and Communications on the business of the Society are to be addressed to the General Secretaries, Weslow Missionary Society, 17, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C. All Drafts, Cheques, and Post Office Orders remit to the Missionary Society are to be CROSSED TO THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND BANK, and made payable to the Rev. Marsia Hartley.