# THE BULLETIN OF THE W.M.M.S. 

## A PIONEER MISSIONARY IN CHINA.

The Rev. JOSIAH COX.

UNTIL 1842, the only port in China which was open for commercial intercourse was Canton. At Canton the intercourse 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 missionàry. 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 ênterprise. 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 184I there were 98 ; in 1851 there were 173 . In Australia the numbers liad 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 $£ 70,788$ 3s. 3 d.; ten years later-when the full force of the ' 49 movement was felt - the figures had fallen to $£ 66,663$ 9s. rod. The debt stood at $£ 30,000$ in 1841, but was reduced to $£ 10,000$ 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 $£_{1,000}$ 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 59 th 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 185 I 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, 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 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 frorn Mr. Cox, whicb
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 2 rst, r86r. 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 188r, 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 27 th, 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.

## Genetal Кinission Juno.

Remittances and Statement of Receipts for the current year, to November i2yit, igos. Remillances from District and Circuit Treasurers to the Wesleyan Missionary Society received by the General Treasurers sinus the last announcement and Total Receipts on account of 1906.




* Contributions for insertion in the "Bulletin" must be received at the mishion House by the izth 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. <br> MISSION HOUSE (ORDINARY).



Butt, Mr, A. W.(the late), Chester, per Mr. T. M. Dutton, executor, duty free

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Denney, Miss Agnes (the late),
Lancaster, per Mr. Edward Cardwell, executor, duty free..

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## LEGACIES. <br> Mary (the late)

Jenkins, Mr. James, Edgbaston, per Mr. John Barnsley
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Middlebrook, Mr. W., Morley
Parkinson, Miss, Keighley Circuit, Halifax ......................
Pearson, Mr. John, Hebdens Bridge, per Mr. Councillor
Per Mr. Robert Clough, J.P.,. Keighley-
Crump, Rev. J. and Mrs.
Mallinson, Mr. E

Denney, Miss Mary (the late), Lancaster, per Mr. Edward Cardwell, executor, duty free... $39013 \quad 9$
Denney, Misses M. and A. (the late), Lancaster, per Mr. Edward Cardwell, executor, duty free..

Raper, Mr. J. R.
Quickfall, Mr, Jev. C. B.. D.D.
Salter, Mrs.H., Horsforth Circuit, Leeds
Scholes, Mr. Thomas, WoodShrubsall, Mr. George, Tuise Hill .................................... Spencer, Rev. W. M., Hudders-
field, Buxton Road Crreuit, Halifax
Stocks, Mr. B., Brunswick Circuit, Leeds

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## SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

"Adoration," for Medical Missions "A Friend in South Africa," for Fatshan Hospital
Ben, Oidham, for Rev, A. H.
A Bestall's Mission to Lepers
for supr. H. J., Chorleywood,
Kor support of "Samuel," at
$\mathrm{B}_{\text {ariow }} \mathrm{Karim}_{\text {Nag }}$ Nar..
Medical Mir Thomas, M.D., for Brunsical Missions
Cashell, Mircuit, Leeds, for do.
" Fanny Mrs., for support of
Crawfony Joseph," at Jaffna
Allorton, Mr. G. F., Chapel Merton Circuit, Leeds, for Dulwich Missions
Rev. G. A Bible Class, for E Wuchang A. Clayton's Work, Elthamang District ..................
A Park Church, for Rev. Shimoga Nightingale's work, Per Readers of "The Christian," $\mathrm{G}_{\mathrm{for}} \mathrm{J}$ Jabssrs. Morgan and Scott, Garnett, Mrs Hospital
for Medical M., Warrington, G Nagar ........... Mission at Karim
Guest,
for do.

Hamptonne, Miss M., Jersey, for work at Madurantakam ..........
Hamptonne, Miss M., Jersey, for Two Orphans at Madurantakam yo 0
Headingley Circuit, for Rev. J. K.
Hellier, Dr. J. B., Woodhouse Moor Circuit, Leeds. for

Higgs, Mr. George, Streatham Hill, for Mysore City Hospital Huet, Mrs. M., Dublin, for
J. E, for Medical Missions.........
Lewisham Branch, for "Our Own Tamil Agent" at Ikkadu, per Rev. J. Martyn Lobb \& Mr. A.

Lister Hill Mission Hall, Horsforth, York, for Hankow Blind

Lurgan, High Street Sunday School, for support of Orphan

McKenzie, Colonel Stewart, Seaforth, Brahan Castle, N.B., per Mrs. Hill, for Wesley Col-
lege, Colombo ........................

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Geake, Mr. William (the late), St. Columb, per executors, duty free .................................... Johns, Mr. E. L. (the late), Crantock, Cornzvall, duty free Scarth, Miss S. K. M., Stanghow, in cleveland, Yorks., per Executor, Mr. R. W. Scarth ...

Mr. W. A. Dell's Y. W. Bible Class, Fulham, for support of Biblewoman "Jessie," in Mr. j. H. Farmer's Class, Bootie, for Rev. C. W. Posnett's work, Medak
Morley Circuit, Leeds, for Medical Missions
Per Mr. J. R. Hill, J.P., York, for Central China Lay Mission .. Per Mrs. M. S. Wills, Llandaf, for Rev. E. C. Cooper's Dispensary work, Hunan ............ Sackett, Mr. E., Hythe, for Rev. F. C. Sackett, Karim Nagar .. Selby, Mrs. T. G., "In memory of her Father and Mother," for Medak
2 I 0 Scholes,Mr. Thomas, Woodhouse Moor Circuit, Leeds, for Medical Missions (Central China) ...................................... Do., do. (Canton) ..........
Stocks, Mr. B., Brunswick Circuit, Leeds, for Medical Missions ..
Stocks, Mr. J. S., Chapel Allerton Circuit, Leeds, for Medical Missions

## FOR THE WEST INDIAN (SPECIAL) FUND.

CIRCUIT COLLECTIONS.


## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.



## SOUTH INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

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## JUVENILE ASSOCIATIONS.



Note-November "Bulletin," page 7. The $£ \mathrm{roo}$ from Ilkley Circuit, for the Debt, was given by Mr. Thomas Firth, ${ }^{d}$ Ilkley, and the $£ 110$ 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 $£ 19,8832 \mathrm{~s}$. 7d.

