

Religious Intelligence.

CHINA.

The Rev. J. A. James has addressed a forcible appeal to the Protestants of Great Britain, entitled,—"SOMETHING MUST BE DONE, AND DONE IMMEDIATELY FOR CHINA.—WHAT?" From it we make the following extracts:—

We live in an age of wonders, but the greatest of them all is this movement in China. It is, indeed, "the wonder of wonders." "The Chinese revolution," says the *Times* newspaper, "is, in all respects, the greatest revolution the world has yet seen." Such a testimony, by such a witness, in addition to all that has been said by others still more competent to give evidence, deserves and demands our profoundest attention, for it is as true as it is important. God is evidently coming forth from His place to do one of His greatest works in the earth, and, with a voice loud and awful as thunder, is summoning the Christian Church to do something worthy of Him, of itself, and of the events that have occurred. We must be stone deaf not to hear, and insensible, even to death itself, not to feel the calls of God upon our devoted attention.

And now what is the duty of the church? What can we do? What ought we do? What in the name and by the help of the Lord shall we do to help on this great work? What does our Divine Lord expect from us? What will he approve and bless if we do it?

Is there nothing to be done at this juncture by the union and co-operation of all at home and all abroad, for the conversion of China to the pure faith of the Gospel of Christ. For it is evident that, though the new faith of this body comprehends the elements of Christianity, it is, for want of the New Testament, an imperfect and corrupted form. What they want is, the *Christian Scriptures*. They know more of the Old Testament than the New. Protestants, now give your serious attention to what follows.

I have lately received a letter from that active and devoted friend of Christian enterprise, Thomas Thompson, Esq., of Poundsford-park, containing the noble proposal to raise a fund immediately for printing and circulating in China a million copies of the CHINESE NEW TESTAMENT, and earnestly soliciting me to lay the subject before the public, through the medium of the Press, and to call out the Sunday-school teachers and scholars to do the work. The project of circulating a million copies of the New Testament is itself a vast idea. Is it practicable? Easily. It is worth the effort, the pains, and the cost? Transcending all we can calculate. Shall it be done? Will not voices as numerous, though far more intelligent, as those which, in the eleventh century, under the wild enthusiasm of Peter the Hermit, shook the plains of Clermont, and raised the thundering shout "God wills it," again say "God wills it." What might not a million copies of the New Testament, poured into China at such a time as this, accomplish for the cause of Christianity, in correcting the false notions of the insurgent readers, of the nature of our holy religion, and in circulating a pure Christianity among their followers? Unhappily, Christianity is now presented mixed up with fables, and associated with fanaticism, war and massacre. It is infinitely important that we should lose no time in presenting it pure and uncorrupted in its own inspired records.

It will be seen, by calculation, that, as a Chinese New Testament can be now printed and sold for four-pence—*mirabile dictu!*—the million copies will require, all expenses included, about 17,000*l.* Such a sum, for one object, seems large; ah, but what an object! Was such a sum ever yet expended upon the Bible, with such a prospect of immense results? Were the friends of the Bible ever yet invited to such an effort?

The insurrection is essentially a Protestant and not a Popish movement. The Jesuits have had nothing to do with it, and they will stand aghast with amazement and mortification. But at the same time they will lose not a moment in endeavouring in some way to influence, direct, and pervert it. All the machinations of the Vatican, stirred up and inspired by all the art and cunning of the Father of Lies, will be employed to turn it to the purpose of the Church of Rome. I have not the

shadow of a doubt that emissaries from the camp of the Papists are on the way to Nanking, if they are not there already, to gain the ear of the chiefs of the insurgents. There is, however, this hope, that they will not succeed. The Chinese converts are such determined and relentless iconoclasts, that they will not receive the images of Rome nor tolerate their worship. Yes, but Rome, to gain her ends, will conceal for a while every sign and symptom of her idolatry. Trust not to this; like her master she can transform herself, to accomplish her purposes, into an angel of light. Be up and doing, in the way of arming the Chinese population against Popery with the sword of the Spirit. Circulate the New Testament at once, and the whole Bible in due time. Be beforehand with Rome. The revolution has commenced in connexion with portions of the Scriptures; keep up that connexion. Already, the Chinese of the revolution consider our Sacred Book as theirs—as the bond of friendship and the symbol of a common faith. Let us lose not a moment in bestowing, as a great national gift, the volume of our common faith. Rome would barter much of her territory and her power, in other parts of the world, for China. For a long succession of ages, this empire has been the object of her ambition, her efforts, and her hopes. Let us disappoint her expectations; and what is so legitimate and so probable a way to do so as a wide circulation of the New Testament? Let this be one of the operations and triumphs of the jubilee year of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Christian men and Protestants of all denominations! in the name of our holy religion—the spread of which is now so likely to take place over so vast a portion of the earth—in the name of the great empire of China, now by the mysterious providence of God opening for the reception of the Gospel of Christ, and especially in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose kingdom seems likely to be established upon the ruins of the idolatry of half the Pagan population of the globe—I call upon you and conjure you to give the subject of this paper your serious and prayerful consideration!

Mr. James writes to the *British Banner* as follows:

Offers of assistance are coming in fast. One gentleman writes, "I shall subscribe 500 copies at least." Another says, "I shall subscribe for 1,000 copies for myself, and another 1,000 copies for my wife." A third wealthy and profusely generous, will enter, I know, largely into the scheme. By much prayer, much faith, much labour, and much union, a pure Christianity, by God's grace, may now be introduced into China. Let us up and be doing!

I have received the following communication, which will show that the scheme is attracting notice in high and influential quarters:—

"Dear Mr. James,—I see from the papers that there is a subscription for sending Bibles to China. As I am going, dear Sir, immediately abroad, I am anxious to send you my contribution to the excellent scheme, and, therefore, have the pleasure to enclose you a cheque for twenty pounds.—I remain, dear Mr. James, sincerely yours,

GAINSBOROUGH.

"9, Cavendish-square, Sept. 15, 1853."

The Bible Society have taken this project in hand, and all the measures necessary will be adopted with as little delay as possible, to put in circulation ONE MILLION copies of the Chinese New Testament.

The Rev. Mr. Burns who has been labouring in Amoy, says, in relation to the religious prospects of Christianity there:

We enjoyed (says Mr. Burns) the fullest liberty, both within and without the city, of preaching to large and very much engaged audiences. I do not think that I have enjoyed so fine an opportunity of preaching the Word of Life since I came to China. The people were everywhere urgent in requesting that a place might be opened for the regular preaching of the gospel among them. The American Mission have already sent two members of the native church, to open an out-station. Since our return, three individuals have come hither, at their own expense, to inquire further into the nature of the gospel.

Mr. Burns states that he has completed the translation of the "Pilgrim's Progress," which will be printed at 4*d.* per copy.

ARREST OF A SCOTTISH LADY IN TUSCANY FOR TRACT DISTRIBUTION.

Miss M. Cunningham, of Thornton, Kilmar-nock, has, with her mother and sister, been staying at the baths of Lucca, en route to Rome and Naples. While there she distributed Protestant tracts in the neighboring village of Lugliano. Some of the inhabitants, it is said, warned her of the impropriety of her proceeding, and protected her from the exasperated feelings of others of the peasants, who were preparing to pelt her with stones and seriously injure her. She regained the baths in safety, but on the following day repeated the experiment at another village, called Benabbio. The priest, on discovering what had occurred, descended into the baths, and informed the delegate of police of the behaviour of Miss Cunningham. On the following day (the 14th) Mrs. Cunningham and her other daughter went to the office of the delegate to have their passports vided. On their arrival, he demanded the reason of the absence of Miss Margaret Cunningham, and on being informed that she was unwell and confined to her bed, declared that come she must, as he had a communication of importance to deliver. When Miss Margaret Cunningham reached the police-office, she was formally charged with the offence in question, was informed that witnesses were already summoned to Lucca to prove the crime, and that, in obedience to higher orders, she must be removed, under an escort of gendarmes, to Lucca, there to await the further measures which the Government might take. She received this announcement with the most unaffected composure.

Sir William Millar, of Barskimming, one of the friends, went directly to the Grand Duke, who is now staying at the Baths of Lucca. His Royal Highness would not accord him an interview. Sir W. Millar, and his friend the Rev. Mr. Gordon, after accompanying Miss Cunningham to Lucca, and again attempting to mollify the local authorities, who, however, declared that they were but instruments of a higher will, proceeded directly to Florence, and laid all the circumstances of the case before the Hon. Mr. Scarlett, now acting as Charge d'Affairs, in the temporary absence of Sir Henry Bulwer.

Mr. Scarlett lost no time in communicating with the Grand Duke and his Ministers. In reply to the urgent request of Mr. Scarlett to have the matter quashed, the Grand Duke has declared that justice must take its course. The Grand Duchess expresses regret for the situation of Miss Cunningham, but refuses to interfere. The individual dispositions of the members of the Ministry are more favourable. M. Lami, the Minister of Justice, will hurry on the trial as fast as possible, and then obtain an immediate exercise of the Grand-Ducal clemency.

Miss Cunningham is to be tried on the charge of having infringed the 137th article of the new criminal code, which declares that "whoever shall circulate works hostile to the Roman Catholic faith, with the view of seducing any member from that communion, shall be condemned to the house of correction, and subjected to hard labour, for a period not less than five, or greater than ten years." Miss Cunningham is charged with having given to some peasants an Italian Bible, and an Italian translation of the "Pilgrim's Progress," and both these books fall under the criminal category. The American Charge d'Affairs vigorously seconded Mr. Scarlett in the representations made to the Grand Duke, and in the interviews with the individual members of the Ministry, and the Archbishop of Lucca.

The persecution rages with unabated fury in Florence, against the Tuscans (writes the correspondent of the *Christian Times*, from whom we have chiefly borrowed the above narrative). On Sunday fortnight the gendarmes broke into the house of Natale Lippi, a baker, in the Palazzuolo, and there arrested him, and Piero Cieri, also a baker, and Alessandro Barli, a tailor, on the charge of meeting and reading the Scriptures in the version of Diodati. The house was searched, and the Bible found in a press. All three were then committed to prison. Barli and Cieri have since been released. But Natale Lippi will either have to stand his trial for offences against the religion of the State, or, more probably, be condemned without trial, by the Council of Prefecture, to such a term of imprisonment as they may choose to award. Meanwhile, upwards of fifty Italians have