

# WORLD DOMINION

The World Dominion Movement advocates Informed Continuous Co-ordinated Evangelism to reach everyone at home and abroad. Its basis is belief in the Deity and Atoning Death of the Lord Jesus Christ, the World's Only Saviour, and in the Final Authority of Holy Scripture.

Editor: THOMAS COCHRANE.

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## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

THE REV. SIR MONTAGU BEAUCHAMP, Bart., was one of the 'Cambridge Seven' and a missionary of the China Inland Mission. He has recently returned to England after travelling extensively throughout China.

DR. THOMAS GILLISON has had fifty-five years' experience as a medical missionary with the London Missionary Society in China and has made most valuable contributions to medical education in that country.

THE REV. ANDREW MACBEATH, M.A., B.D., has worked in the Belgian Congo since 1925 with the Baptist Missionary Society.

DR. FARRANT RUSSEL is a medical missionary in Burma, where he is working with the Bible Churchmen's Missionary Society.

PROFESSOR CAMARGO is Secretary for Christian Education in Mexico; Secretary of the National Council of Evangelical Churches; Manager of the Latin American Publishing House, and a recognized writer in his country on political, social and religious questions.

SR. SANTIAGO CANCLINI is a Baptist Minister in Argentina.

MR. JAMES HALDANE writes from long experience of work among Moslems. He has worked in North Africa with the Southern Morocco Mission since 1912.

REV. M. LEENHARDT, who is now pastor of an evangelical church in Paris, was for many years a missionary in New Caledonia.

REV. F. DEAVILLE WALKER is the Editor of *The Kingdom Overseas*.

MR. LESLIE SINGLETON, B.Sc., has worked as an evangelist in Formosa since 1921 with the English Presbyterian Mission.

REV. J. DOUGLAS ADAM, D.D., who has occupied the Chair of the Philosophy of Religion in an American University, writes from long experience as a Minister of the Church of Scotland.

REV. ALEXANDER MCLEISH, the Survey Editor of the World Dominion Press, worked for many years in charge of the Ajmer station of the (now) Church of Scotland.

REV. R. M'CHEYNE PATERSON, O.B.E., B.D., has worked since 1885 in the Panjab as a missionary of the Church of Scotland.

# Half-a-Century's Changes in China

MONTAGU BEAUCHAMP

IT seems to me that a great struggle must soon begin between China, Japan and Russia. Japan is fully alive and prepared for that struggle. The United States of America are bound to be implicated, and how can the British and other nations remain uninfluenced?

There are many able writers on the subject of the Far East, and this makes one rather dubious about venturing any opinion on such a vast question. For over fifty years my interest in China has never flagged. Having recently travelled over some twelve of the eighteen provinces, the progress strikes one with great force, for progress has undoubtedly been made in almost every direction, and this in the face of difficulties constantly found in China—difficulties which, in most other countries, would have spelt ruin.

Ten thousand miles of travel in that land during ten months proves the wonderful improvement in transport. I doubt if I could have accomplished so much in ten years under the conditions I found when I first went out fifty-one years ago. Then, native boats were used; now, well-equipped steamers and motor-launches run to schedule time. There are railways instead of carts, motor-buses or private cars instead of mules, ponies and sedan chairs. Aeroplanes, of course, make the fastest mode of travel, and these are increasing everywhere. I travelled by air in comfort for two hours, instead of struggling on foot through mud for ten or twelve days. The trains on the main lines are all that could be desired, but the roads leave much room for improvement. In some local areas these are splendid, but very often, though there is excellent material for making first-class roads, work has been scamped and the money has found its way into wrong pockets. In the more wealthy parts all this is improving.

Trade is going forward by leaps and bounds, mostly in the hands of capable Chinese. Foreigners are finding

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themselves ousted, having been accustomed to a life of pleasure and sociability while their Chinese compradors ran the business. Nowadays the foreman often becomes the manager. Our own products from Manchester, Bradford and Birmingham, are no longer indispensable to China.

Postal arrangements are good. Letters are delivered even in almost inaccessible places. Newspapers abound. Most towns have their 'Dailies,' and, more than that, any news of importance is posted up on prominent street corners for the benefit of the general public who would not care to purchase a whole newspaper.

The fact remains that all such progress would never have occurred but for the coming of the missionary and the light shed by the Gospel. Pioneers will always be followed by bad people, often more quickly than by good people. So it is up to us, as disciples of our beloved Lord, to be alive to the present opportunities, which are so great and yet may be lost.

There is in China to-day, especially at the strategic centres, a hunger for knowledge and truth; old traditions and customs have largely been scrapped. Scholars and young people abound amongst our regular enquirers and there are many interested in divine things who do not register as 'enquirers.' Like Nicodemus they come secretly, sometimes not betraying their hunger—that would be humiliating. They find it easier to come to the missionaries in batches. Hence Bible schools for longer or shorter courses are popular, and are doing good work. Quite a number of scholars from the Government schools and universities, where no religion is taught, are amongst the attendants at Sunday service. The vacuum caused by the entrance of the Republic with no national religion must be filled. I noticed a decided tendency among the scholars and gentry to revert to the normal Chinese dress. No doubt they were disgusted with the mongrel mixture of costumes adopted by the 'modernists.'

Most of us in the West know but little about the military situation in China. During my early days a soldier was

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rarely seen, but since the Republic came in they have probably been the greatest curse. They are hated by the people and preach hatred amongst themselves and between the many war-lords. But I noticed a difference during my last visit, especially in Szechuan, owing to the action of the good Generalissimo, Chiang Kai-shek. Soldiers are scarcely to be seen, except in Chengtu, and here they are kept under discipline. With but one exception they gave me no trouble and were even helpful. Amongst the soldiers there are some real Christians. Their equipment was amusing, all neatly packed on their backs : bedding, umbrella, face towel, and tooth brush ! Some, after disbandment, join the roving bandits and communists who make it impossible to travel in certain areas.

The boats, especially in Pao-ning, where they used to abound, have all been commandeered by soldiers and fugitives who fled down river. To-day there is no river trade and it is difficult even to find a ferry boat. Consequently the most exorbitant charges are made for being ferried across stream. If I had been young and able to start regular work in Szechuan I could have found amongst the soldiers a fine field of work and a responsible body of men.

Some first-rate model farms, forestry and fruit-growing included, are to be found, at most of which there are students in residence. One of the best of those which I visited owes its origin and maintenance to Madame Chiang, the wife of the Generalissimo Chiang kai-shek, and it is run on Christian principles. Places of this kind—and there are many similar ones—do not publish statistics or record how many converts and communicants they have. Can we deny them a place among our missionary agencies ? Missionary statistics, and missionary news generally, seem lamentably disheartening, while so much that I have seen this time of work outside the recognized Church, just fills one with thanksgiving.

Another, and somewhat parallel case, is that of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. I have seen them, not by hundreds, but by thousands at a time, in Kaifeng (Honan), Chengtu

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(Szechuan) and in Hangchow (Chekiang), and have photographs to record this fact. Should we not praise God that many hundreds of thousands of China's young people are disciplined, physically fit, and often doing useful work for the general public?

There are drastic measures for the entire suppression of opium. I have never heard of such methods being used in the West for the suppression of drunkenness! After the Republic came into being, opium was planted and its use greatly increased, if not encouraged, in some places, but the local authorities in several places are determined to fight it to the death. I saw opium-smokers rounded up by the police, hunted out of opium dens, or private houses, and marched through the city, a dunce's tall cap on each one's head and a placard on his back, stating his crime, amount of opium consumed, etc. For all these changes we are thankful.

I should like now to touch on the religious situation. There are Chinese bishops, clergy and evangelists of outstanding power and originality of method. There are mission preachers and revivalists in various denominations, but I am sure that a dangerous mistake has been made in rushing into print with many such statements as 'The Christian General,' which has had a bad effect. Would it not be wiser to mention such cases without giving any names, and emphasize the need of more prayer as they become a mark for devilish attacks?

All that I have said hitherto applies chiefly to towns and cities. In country places one sees little change. The old characteristics of the average Chinese are still visible. It must not be thought, however, that the country people are entirely untouched. There is good work always going on in many smaller centres and it tends to be of a more exclusively spiritual nature. Here, too, there is more of the old-time bigotry and persecution. In a country station, worked by two elderly lady missionaries, I found an old friend of mine, well over eighty years old, steadfastly refusing to take part in idolatry, and, as a result, cruelly beaten with considerable loss of blood. Other younger

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Christians gave way, but he stood firm. A glorious result followed; even amongst the persecutors some have given in their names as willing to receive Christian instruction.

One thing occurred to me forcibly. Is the time coming when we shall no longer call for more missionaries to be sent to China? The Chinese Church leaders do not always want them. They complain of some whose actions and attitude are disliked; they send their objections to headquarters, and the desired change is made. Any who are led to go out now must be of the very best, and, above all, they must be humble and willing to learn before they can teach others. How utterly dependent we are upon one another as workers! Now is the time for concentrating upon Church work. We are glad to see that this responsibility is rapidly being assumed by the Chinese. In most places they still need advice and unostentatious guidance from the foreigners, who must, however, keep in the background.

The need of a clean Church, with backsliders reclaimed (otherwise these backsliders do much harm) is urgent. It is the lives of consistent Christians which tell most now—‘living epistles, known and read of all men.’ Scriptures are being read all over China, and in unexpected places. The demand for Scripture portions, and even whole Bibles, is such that the three Bible Societies can scarcely produce sufficient numbers. We must remember to pray more for the hundreds of colporteurs working all over China.

Women are being more and more used of God. One sees many elderly women at work, Bible in hand. The younger women often make good leaders, some of them of remarkable talent and spiritual power. I know of some who lost all their possessions in comfortable homes at the hand of the brigands, but they rejoice in such sacrifice and still go out into the camps of the enemy. Tent missions are being conducted on a big scale. I have seen large tents thronged and was told that in the same place interest was maintained for weeks consecutively.

A week such as I spent in Changsha at the I Fang Collegiate Schools can never be forgotten. I remembered that this was the centre of the last province to open her doors

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to missionaries. Only thirty or forty years ago Hunan was the centre from which blasphemy and hateful literature, with vile illustrations, emanated. To-day this Christian work is independent of any foreign missionary society.

### Medical Progress in China And the Function of Mission Hospitals

THOMAS GILLISON

IT has been my privilege for over fifty years to watch with growing interest and satisfaction the steady advance made by China in the introduction of many modern amenities.

Among the many educational and scientific advances that have been made, modern medicine has not lagged behind.\* Fifty years ago the medical treatment of this vast population was almost wholly in the hands of men who had no scientific training, no knowledge of anatomy, or of the circulation of the blood, so that surgery was out of the question, and superstition and age-long prejudice, especially among the ignorant portion of the population, were (and still are) hindrances to be dealt with.

What, however, is the state of things to-day? The Government in Nanking has an active and efficient Ministry of Public Health, with branches under modern-trained men in the provincial capitals. It is their duty to promote hygienic measures in their several districts, such as the annual vaccination in schools, colleges and other institutions against smallpox; anti-cholera inoculations; improved water supply and drainage in large cities. Emphasis is laid on physical drill for boys and girls; literature is prepared giving information as to how dysentery, malaria, trachoma, etc., are spread, and in school text-books simple health maxims are included, all of which have an enlightening effect.

The number of modern-trained Chinese physicians and

\* In our next number we hope to publish an article, by Dr. Bernard Read, on 'Chinese Medical Literature.'