

Learn from Every Friend and Every Foe.

An English journal discoursing on "The Heathen Chinese," sets out with the sage proposition that it is unjust to suppose a man is an idiot because of a yellow skin. It reports an interview between a representative of the Daily Chronicle and the Chinese minister to England, Sir Lo Feng Lub, wherein the Earl is reported among other things to have said:

"The Boxer movement is really a fusion of many secret societies incited to common action by the excesses of missionary zeal. The Chinese are not savages. They are possessed of a philosophy which inspired Comte, and which is Positivism. Men of culture are not sent to China as missionaries, but pastors whose zeal outstrips their judgement.

"The converts are recruited from the lowest strata of the Chinese millions. They are subsidized to the extent of three dollars a month, and their avarice is fostered by the missionaries interfering in the contemptible squabbles between the convert and the non-convert, and encouraging law-suits, which generally do not result unfavorably for the convert, thanks to the influence of the missionary."

The Earl said the national pride was outraged by the sending of girls of nineteen to teach religious dogmas to men and women of advanced years. "And you offer premiums by sending them to places far from the coast where foreigners are unknown."

But this did not conclude all of Minister Lo Feng Lub's grievances:

"Take the Chinese translation of the Bible: Every nation prides itself upon its sacred literature. Please note, literature, whatever lesson it teaches, it is a work of art. The educated Chinese are of an enquiring turn of mind. They turn to your Bible to realize Western manners and modes of thought. They are shocked by its graceless composition and inelegant phraseology."

This shows that the objections made to the Bible by independent thinkers have a foundation in fact. If the book was for the first time placed in the hands of cultured Americans it would be pronounced obscene, and be hid away from youth or burned to prevent their corruption. But it was thrust on the world in a corrupt age, as an inspired production. It is rarely read, save familiar chapters, and is unknown save by youth who become familiar with its wickedness, and call the attention of their associates to it.

The Chinese minister has made a point which Western people should think about. Time and again the Progressive Thinker has insisted that public morals are

lowered by familiarity with that book. The Chinese minister confirms that view. Separated from the corruption there are many good things in the Bible; but woe to the youth who seeks them obscured by and mingled with so much that is really vile.

We hope too, missionary societies will give careful consideration to all the points made by the Chinese minister. It has been repeated very often that it was the lowest class of the people of the countries visited by missionaries, who were converted to Christianity, and that the converts became such because of the pecuniary reward they receive, and that their fidelity to the new faith is contingent on prompt payments; that in the absence of rewards there are no converts. If this statement is true it is hypocrites the missionaries are making, persons who adopt a new religion merely because it pays to be a Christian. There are enough of that class among us without going abroad to multiply the species, and their production should be discouraged.—[Progressive Thinker.

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sufficient to employ all the inhabitants. What she could do on land she does in more wonderful ways at sea, for there this city must be not only self-contained and self-supporting, but must, in addition, propel itself across 500 miles of ocean waste every day, in storm or calm. To do this—to rise superior to all stress of wind or weather or ordinary misfortune—requires not only vast power, but a vast reserve power.—[Earl Mayo, in McClure's for May.

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