

A RETROSPECT.

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WHEN a traveller who has passed through a country comes to a mountain top, after the passing of which the landscape will be hid from his sight, he most naturally turns round and takes a survey of the region over which he has journeyed. It has been my privilege to be engaged in Missionary work in China for forty years. On the 22nd day of October 1884, was the 40th anniversary of my arrival in this land. I am now in the expectation of soon leaving it on furlough for the recovery of impaired health: I am therefore led to take some retrospect of the events of these forty years.

The only mode of coming to China in 1844, and for some years after, was by sailing vessel around the Cape. The passage of the good ship "Cahota," Capt. Hepburn, in which I came, was made in 120 days. This was about an average passage in sailing vessels. For though the voyage was sometimes made, in the favorable monsoon, in 100 days, yet often 140 and sometimes 160 days were occupied in making the passage by sea.

By the stipulations of the English Treaty made at Nanking in 1842 the five ports of Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo and Shanghai were opened to trade. Hongkong had been ceded in 1841 to England. But things were, in 1844, in a very formative condition. Hongkong had but comparatively a few houses. At the different ports merchants and Missionaries were trying to effect a location. The Missionaries resident at Hongkong, were Rev. Messrs Drs. Bridgman and Ball and Mr. J. G. Bridgman of the American Board; Rev. Mr. Gützlaff unconnected, Rev. Dr. Legge and Mr. Gillespie and Dr. Hobson of the London Mission; Messrs Dean, Shuck and Roberts of the Baptist Board; and Rev. S. R. Brown, of the Morrison Education Society School; At Macao there were Rev. W. M. Lowrie and Mr. R. Cole, printer, of the American Presbyterian Board. Dr. S. W. Williams was just leaving for U.S.A. Neither the English Treaty of Nanking, nor the American Treaty, made at Wanghia, a village near Macao in 1843, nor the French Treaty made at Whampoo in 1843, contained any provision in reference to the residence of Missionaries. But after the promulgation of the English Treaty granting the right of residence at five ports to Europeans, the Missionaries to the Chinese in Singapore, Java, Malacca, Siam, and Borneo removed to China and sought a residence at one or other of the ports. There were at Amoy the Rev. Messrs Stronach and Young of the London Mission,

The Rev. Messrs Abeel, Pohlman and Doty, of the American Board, the late Bishop, the Rev. W. J. Boone of the American Episcopal Board, Dr. Cumming, unconnected, and Dr. J. C. Hepburn of the American Presbyterian Board. All of these had studied the Fukien dialect in the straits or in Java or Borneo except Dr. Cumming. They found great difficulty in finding any kind of accommodations. They were cooped up in very narrow quarters, which were very unsuitable for either comfort or health.

There were no Missionaries at Foochow. There were resident at Ningpo, Rev. W. C. Milne, London Mission, Rev. R. Q. Way, and Dr. D. B. McCartee, of the American Presbyterian Mission, Rev. G. Smith, of the C.M.S. Dr. J. Macgowan, Baptist Society, and Miss Aldersey self-supported. At Shanghai there were Rev. Dr. W. H. Medhurst and Dr. W. Lockhart, of the London Mission, and Rev. T. McClatchie, of the C.M.S.

There was a Missionary Hospital at Canton under the care of Dr. Parker, one at Hongkong in charge of Dr. Hobson, one at Amoy under the care of Drs. Hepburn and Cumming, one at Ningpo and one at Shanghai. There were a few native preachers in Hongkong. Of these Leung Afah, trained by Rev. Drs. Morrison and Milne, and Rev. Hó Tsin Shin who came from Malacca with Dr. Legge where he had been educated. There were a few converts in Hongkong.

On the 28th of December, 1844, in reply to a memorial to the throne from the Chinese Minister Kiyng, made at the request of the French Minister M. Lagrené, the Emperor granted toleration to the Roman Catholic Religion. But this memorial and the American Treaty only obtained permission to rent Churches and hospitals and open schools at the open ports. No permission was granted to go away from these places to teach Christianity. This was the day of small things. Of these thirty-one who were thus located at the time of my arrival there is not one remaining in China as a Missionary. There are ten of them still living in an honored old age, viz., Rev. Dr. Legge, Rev. J. Stronach; Rev. W. Young, and Dr. W. Lockhart, of the London Mission, Rev. Canon McClatchie of the C.M.S., Rev. W. Dean, D.D., of the Baptist Mission who recently left Siam after 50 years of Missionary life, and Dr. J. C. Hepburn still laboring in Japan, and Drs. Parker, Cumming and Macgowan. Of those who arrived in 1844, 45 and 46, there are none in China but myself.

Canton city was occupied in 1845, and Foochow in 1846. It was only after meeting with great opposition and encountering great difficulties that we effected locations in Canton. Drs. Ball and Bridgman, who attempted to rent premises according to the stipulation of the American Treaty, failed in getting possession of any houses. The