

prefer them to English, even if he could read English as well as you can.

THE COMMENCEMENT OF ST. JOHN'S GOSPEL.

聖若翰傳福音之書

第一章

當始一節已有言而其言偕神。又其言爲神。此者當始偕神也。  
 萬物三以之而得作。又允受作者無不以之而作焉。生命在  
 于其內而其生命乃人類之光。五矣。光輝耀于暗而暗弗認  
 之矣。六有神所使之人名若翰者。其來特爲証以証指光。俾  
 衆以之得信。八其非彼光。惟來以証指彼光也。九彼爲真光照

One reason of their fondness for their own way of writing is, that they all *see* the same meaning in their written words, and thus can read alike to themselves; although, in certain parts of the Empire, they speak as differently from each other as Irish, Welch, or Gaelic differs from English. This is so, because the signs are pictures to them, although not to us; and such *striking* pictures too, that they draw the man who first invented their way of writing with *four* eyes. (You shall see a likeness of him soon). The Chinese used to think that *white* men could never learn their language, because it has so many words and so much meaning, and is so wise and fine. But our Missionaries have shewn them, that *two-eyed* Englishmen and Scotchmen can read whatever their *four-eyed*, or wonderfully clever, sage wrote. Even their proud Emperor confessed this, when he saw how well Dr. Morrison understood Chinese. Dr. Morrison and Dr. Milne translated the Bible into this language, and some of our living Missionaries can preach in it. They had, however, to labour hard for years, before they could do so. And no wonder; for although a clever man can soon *speak* as the Chinese do, he can neither read nor write well in their language until he knows at a glance 20,000 of its picture-words. Indeed, Dr. Morrison knew far more than that vast number.

Well then, think of the Chinese Bible as quite readable to all Chinamen, however differently many of them speak; and now think of their immense numbers. The population of China amounts to 360,000,000! Why a young boy

would become an old man before he had counted them one by one, were he to do nothing else all day, but

Count, count, count,

whether by peas or peppercorns! Yes, it is easy to *say* a million; but it would be long and hard work to count but a million of anything.

Now the Chinese have been the greatest of the nations, as to number, for many ages. They will be the very greatest at the day of judgment; no people will take up so much *room* at the judgment-seat! This is a very solemn, yea awful, thought. Oh that they were all saying the Lord's Prayer now, from the heart! Do you wish this? Well, always think of CHINA, when you say, "Thy Kingdom come." We have at present great encouragement to pray for it, for Missionaries can now visit some of its chief cities. But we must do more than pray; we must find money to send out to support more Missionaries. I say, we *must*; for if we do not, the POPE will send out his priests. He is sending priests to China already. But more of this next month.

CHINAASTER.

---

"THE LAND OF SINIM,"

so the Prophet Isaiah called the Country of China more than two thousand five hundred years ago. See Isaiah, ch. 49, ver. 12.

TO  
THE FIRST NUMBER  
OF  
THE JUVENILE MISSIONARY MAGAZINE.

Go, little messenger of love,  
And tell the youthful band,  
Of heathens led to realms above,  
Brought home from every land.

Go, little messenger of peace,  
The youthful heart constrain,  
The Saviour's kingdom to increase,  
And wide proclaim his reign.

Go, little messenger of light,  
Diffuse some heavenly rays;  
Fill youthful bosoms with delight,  
And youthful lips with praise.

Go, little messenger of grace,  
And bid the young begin  
To seek at once the Saviour's face,  
And turn from every sin.

Then, yielding all they are to Him,  
They'll love His service too;  
And often look with prayer, and say,  
"What wilt Thou have *me* do?"

Spirit of love, and peace, and light,  
This lowly effort crown!  
Amid our weakness, be our might,  
Show'r copious blessings down!