



THE NEGLECTED TRIBES OF ANAM



The interesting and valuable paper on the following pages is written by a dear brother who is himself a candidate for missionary work in Anam. No man can write or speak with full effect on the subject of missions until he himself is prepared to go. As will be seen by this valuable compilation of

facts and figures the kingdom of Anam constitutes one of the largest sections of the unevangelized portion of Asia. It has long been the objective point of some of our most earnest and aggressive missionaries in Southern China, and the recent visit of Mr. Jaffray, to Hanoi and other portions of Anam and Tonquin has greatly encouraged the hearts of those who have been praying long for an open door in this neglected field. Mr. Jaffray found that the work of Protestant evangelizing had already in a sense begun through the labors of the Protestant chaplains in connection with the French colony who are already now on the field. While the spirit of the Romish hierarchy is strongly opposed to Protestant missions, and the colonial government of France usually lends itself to this influence, still the fact that a Protestant chaplaincy have been already established is a valuable precedent that will make it difficult to close the door

against Protestant missions. As our beloved brethren found in Southern China, so doubtless it will prove in Anam, that when the workers are ready and the real advance of faith begins, the walls of Jericho will fall and the way will be found prepared for the testimony of Christ to these long-neglected millions. We trust meanwhile that much prayer will continue to ascend for this field and that all on whose hearts God has laid the evangelization of Anam will continue the work of preparation. We have already begun to receive from various quarters small donations for this particular object, and we

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hear of a few who are, like our dear brother, saying, "Lord, here am I, send me." We would suggest as elements of special preparation for mission work in Anam a knowledge of French, a good constitution, some experience in dealing with Roman Catholic communities, and, above all a Spirit-wrought faith respecting your personal call to this work that will not stagger at any difficulties you may afterwards meet.

The parting message of our Lord for the evangelisation of the world very distinctly emphasizes the principle of recognizing the nations, tribes and tongues of mankind as the special object of our consideration. We are sent as the ambassadors of a great King to whom all authority has been given both in heaven and in earth, and we are to go to the kings and peoples of this world with His sovereign message calling upon them to submit to Him and prepare to receive Him as King of kings and Lord of lords. In this connection the reach-

ing of unevangelised races becomes extremely important. The one lost sheep outweighs the ninety and nine so long as he is lost, and one unevangelised race looms into an importance out of all proportion to its intrinsic value if it is the one link yet lacking in the chain of worldwide evangelism.

GOD SO LOVED ANAM.

JOHN H. EARL JR.

Lying south of China on the east side of the eastern peninsula of Asia and just off the beaten track of travel and commerce, is the land of Anam whose millions have not yet received the "witness." That we may better understand its needs, etc., let us study it for a few moments.

I. Geography. As one approaches Anam from the South China Sea the view which the country presents is that of a varied landscape composed of bold headlands, picturesque valleys, well-cultivated slopes, low plains and extensive downs with a background of rather lofty mountains in the distance. The coast is considerably indented, affording many safe and commodious harbors, while along it are numerous groups of islands.

It is composed of three distinct parts, Tonquin, or Tong King in the north, Cochin-China proper in the east, and the territory of the Laos tribes in the west. French Cochin-China and Cambodia in the southwest should also be considered as a part of this new mission field.

Tonquin is mountainous on the north, but nearly level in the east. It is generally fertile, yielding good crops of rice, cotton, fruits, ginger and spices. The principle river is the Song-ka, whose periodical overflowings fertilise the rice fields within reach of its waters. Its climate resembles that of Bengal, but participates in the oppressive heat and very disagreeable cold of China. Hanoi, the capital, stands on the Song-ka and is said to contain a population of about 80,000.

Cochin-China proper is bounded on the west by a range of lofty mountains. The country for ten miles inland is generally sterile but contains many fertile spots. In the more favored districts grain and leguminous plants are produced in great abundance, and among the vegetable products are sugarcane and cinnamon, the latter of a superior quality. On its frontiers live the independent tribes of the Mois, or Stiengs—wretched tribes of savages, about whom little is known save that they are pagans of a low type.

Under Anam must also be included the tributary states of Laos lying in the valley of the Mekong or Cambodia river. In the northern part of Siam it appears that some of these people have been reached by the Gospel, but here they are wholly untouched.

French Cochin-China, occupying the delta of the Mekong river, and Cambodia just to the northwest are small countries but containing many precious souls. The climate of the north differs much from that of the south. In the former during the months of December and January the thermometer falls to forty-three degrees Fahrenheit. The Summer lasts from the end of April to the month of August, during which period it is excessively hot. But as a rule Tonquin is healthy though the same cannot be said of Cochin-China proper, and especially of the French colony, the climate of which is extremely pestilent to Europeans. The country is composed of low alluvial flats and the shores are fringed with mangrove swamps, one of the most certain signs of the feverish malaria lurking in and beyond them.

Hue, the capital, lies near the coast of Cochin-China and is said to contain from 50,000 to 100,000 inhabitants.

II. History. Tonquin was at one time an extensive kingdom nominally dependent on China, but early in the fifteenth century made itself completely independent of that country. It was not brought under the dominion of Anam until 1802.

About the year 1787 France obtained a footing on the peninsula of Turane and the Isle of Pulo-Condor. In 1862 1867 and 1874 treaties were forced upon the Anamese, each new one giving the French more territory and greater power until finally, in 1884, it was declared a "French Protectorate." Hue was occupied by a French garrison, while the Emperor is controlled by a French Resident General and other officials, under whom the native officials carry on the government.

England made several attempts to establish friendly relations with them, but her envoys met with little or no success.

III. The People. The majority of the inhabitants are Anamese, who are said to be the worst formed and ugliest of the Mongoloid races of the eastern peninsula. Both sexes have nearly the same dress. They are short with flattened nose, dirty yellow complexion, thick waist and rounded shoulders, which in some measure account for the fact

that the duration of life is short. Old men are rare and a man of fifty is already broken down by age. Their huts are low, the roof coming down to within a few feet of the ground, which renders them dark, but affords an agreeable coolness in periods of the greatest heat. Their chief article of food is rice, their favorite drink warm water poured over tea or aromatic leaves. Capital punishment, being the penalty of higher offences, is afflicted for robbery, adultery and sometimes corruption. Possibly French influence has worked a change in the past

few years in this respect. Marriage is a matter of traffic. All brides are sold. Usually a man marries as soon as he can afford to buy a wife. The rich purchase as many as they choose. The price paid to the bride's parents, among the more indigent classes, is seldom more than twenty kwams, which is about the price of a buffalo or a very good pony. Before the marriage the young woman is allowed the most perfect license. Abortion is frequent, but infanticide is scarcely known. Once married the liberty of the female sex is at an end; the wife is absolutely the slave of her husband and any frailty on her part is punishable with death. They are the mere drudges of the men, performing all kinds of household and outdoor work. It is, indeed, often said that the labor of the women supports the men.

They are remarkable for the respect shown the dead. They have no caste. Chinese foot-binding is unknown, but opium smoking is very prevalent. "Bambooning" is the common form of punishment. Provided he does not kill her outright, the

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John Earl

gave a commencement address in May of 1900

Is in this volume,

p. 341. Title:

Events of Today and Missions of Tomorrow

It doesn't pertain to Vietnam.

Aug. 1900, C. I. M. A.

P. 77, a poem/hymn

Annam by John Earl

husband may inflict the severest corporal punishment upon his wife. A boatman told an American trader that "wives require a great deal of caning—that nothing but the bamboo could keep them in proper discipline."

Some French officers in the confidence of one of the kings often ventured to recommend to him the encouragement of industry. His constant reply was, "I do not want rich subjects as poor ones are more obedient." This illustrates their indolence and want of enterprise.

In general it may be said that the Anamese have many things in common with the natives of southern China, with whom they are closely allied by race. Their customs, their language, their religions, are in many respects similar to those which prevail in China.

IV. Population. The population has been variously estimated, some saying that there are 30,000,000 of people in all Anam. But a very conservative and careful estimate places it at about 22,000,000, of which Tonquin, whose area is about 64,000 square miles has 15,000,000, or about 235 to the square mile, and Cochinchina and Laos, with an area of about 106,000 square miles, 7,000,000, or about 66 to the square mile. The population appears to be diffused over the country in many small towns and innumerable villages, rather than to be concentrated in great cities. Do you comprehend the number of the people in this land, every one of whom has an immortal soul of infinite value for which Christ died as much as He did for your soul? Counting them at the rate of one hundred per minute, night and day without stop, it would occupy over five months of your time to enumerate them all; placing them side by side they would make a line more than 8,333 miles long which would reach nearly three times across the United States; allowing seventy persons to each car it would require 314,285 cars to carry them, or 62,857 trains of five cars each.

"Carest thou not?"

V. Religion. Apparently there is no real devotion, no enthusiasm, no deep-rooted dogma to which the people are

wedded. The mass of the people are Buddhists though the higher classes profess the doctrines of Confucius. The Buddhism of Anam is distinguished from that of other parts of the peninsula by the small number of temples and priests to be found.

Catholicism was introduced about the year 1624 by the Portuguese priests from Macao. Although it has about half a million followers they are represented as among the poorest and most abject part of the population.

VI. Relation to Missions. It has been assumed by some that the fact that the people give but little attention to religion and religious worship, and do not have much respect for

their priests, who are few in number weak and poor, and of the meanest orders, is favorable to the inculcation of Christianity. But this is at least doubtful. It may be easier, where strong devotional feelings, though idolatrous, exist, to turn them in the right direction, than to create such feelings where they have never existed at all. However, it may be our missionaries will solve the problem. They certainly will have no fanatical misbelief to uproot. God knows how to open their hearts, our business is to send them the Gospel. It hardly seems possible that this land which has been known so long has never had a single missionary, yet such is the case and I believe that God is looking to us to send them the Bread of Life. Rev. Robert Jaffray, of South China, wrote recently: "I believe that God's time to enter Anam is now if God's people are ready to move forward in faith," Speaking of the work of Mr. Richmond among the French Protestants at Hanoi he adds: "He encouraged me much to strongly press the claims of Anam upon our Alliance." Surely the finger of God is pointing too plainly toward Anam's whitened fields for us who say we love Him to do otherwise than go forward.

It is expected that Tonquin will be entered first and the work carried on in connection with our South Chi-

na mission. The province of Kwong Sai, in which we have a number of stations, borders it on the north-east, and the west branch of the Canton river has some of its headwaters in Tonquin. On this river and within twelve miles of the border is a large Chinese city, Lung Chow by name. When we are able to establish a station at this important place we will be in a position to enter conveniently and directly into Anam.

Young men and young women, heartily respond to the mute appeal from this dark land to God's "who

will go?" and say, "Here am I, send me!" Dear brother and sister, O, pray! Church of God, sacrifice. The 50,000,000 which is annually expended in the United States for tea and coffee alone would give Anam one missionary to less than 250 persons, and it could be evangelised in six months.

"How much owest thou?" How much lovest thou?