

A PLEA FOR ANNAM.

May 3, 1913 PHILIP HINKEY. p. 74 A.W.

Annam's helpless millions have hitherto been like children crying in the night, and with no language but a cry. But the God who heard and responded to the cries of the ancient Israelites in Egypt, heard the cry of these helpless Annamese, and has "come down" to help. He who sent Moses to emancipate the Israelites has sent His pioneer emancipators to preach the gospel of liberty to the sin-bound multitudes of needy Annam. They are Mr. and Mrs. Bonnet of the B. & F. Bible Society and Mr. and Mrs. Hosler and Mr. Soderberg of our Alliance Mission. Through our dear workers in this newest and neediest of our Alliance Mission fields comes a strong plea for reinforcements. That long crying in the night of Annam's lost millions irresistibly drew them to that dark land, and from the midst of its spiritual darkness and woe they are calling loudly to us on behalf of benighted Annamese souls—"COME OVER AND HELP US."

Twenty years ago God very definitely called the Alliance to evangelize the unoccupied province of Kwong-Si. At that time Mr. Simpson wrote from the field: "After much careful and prayerful inquiry, we believe the Master would have our Alliance endeavor to occupy the neglected province of Kwong-Si, with its eight millions of people. This is surely 'the regions beyond' of South China. With one exception (Hunan) it is the most unoccupied and destitute field in the Empire. To reach it is an ambition worthy of the bravest heart. To claim its eight millions for Christ would be to our minds an inspiring hope if we ourselves were free to go. But let no one think that this can be done by inexperienced enthusiasm. No field so much needs the best men as this. Any degree of talent, capacity and holy energy will find ample scope in this great arena. Why, these mission fields are imperial realms, and the men and women that are now taking them for God will be the princes and crowned ones of the coming kingdom. May God open the eyes of some of his loved ones who are wasting their lives at home, or only getting God's better instead of God's best, for the solemn precious life that each of us can only live but once."

No fitter words, it seems to me, could be framed to describe the situation in Annam today:

"Volunteers are wanted, soldiers brave and true,
In the ranks my brother there is room for you," etc.

In a recent letter to a friend, Mrs. Hosler writes: "Here I am in far away Annam. I am realizing more and more each day that this is just where the Lord wants me. If anyone ever needed the gospel these poor people surely do. The opportunities are so great and we are so few. We need several workers right now. Pray that the Lord will stir the hearts of some of the Nyack students to come. If they could only see the need of this dark, dark field I am sure some of them would come."

A few years ago Brother Hughes, while itinerating on the border of Annam, wrote the following: "While selling books and preaching in a shop at Lo Ui, a rather tall person, with a dress that distinguished him from the rest of the crowd, came

and bought gospels and tracts. For a while he listened attentively. Then he spoke in a language unintelligible to me. Upon asking the Chinese around what he said, they explained that he was an Annamese, and that he asked me to explain the gospel to him. I soon became interested, and made several attempts to make him understand, but to no purpose. We could not understand each other. Then we went away. Later in the day I saw him several times, following me as I went in and out of the stores. I can see him now, with a mute appeal for

help in his black, contemplative eyes. He made an indelible impression on my heart, for it was not so much this single man I saw, but the 22,000,000 of his fellow-countrymen, who, like himself, are ignorant of the true God."

After this Brother Hughes definitely yielded h'mself to God for the evangelization of Annam, and great was his joy when at last the way was opened for him to go. Within a short time of his departure for this new field, he passed away in the city of Hong Kong, and Brother Hosler was left to go on alone.

Who will fill up the ranks? Who will respond, not only to the mute appeal for help from the black contemplative eyes of that representative Annamese, but also the further mute appeal from that silent grave beneath the Oriental sky, the grave of one of whose all consuming purpose was to preach the gospel in needy neglected Annam.

Some equipped and called men and women ought to go to the field this Fall to join our lonely pioneer trio in this field of wondrous opportunity to which God is calling our Alliance, we believe, as definitely as he called us to Kwong-Si twenty years ago.

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then said I, 'Here am I, send me.' He said, 'Go and tell.'"