

# The Missionary.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE frontispiece is from a photograph kindly furnished by Dr. Edgar Woods. It shows a Chinese chiropodist, or corn doctor, at work. He is from the province of Kiangsu—probably a Shanghai man. The patient in the chair is a Cantonese, from the province of Kwangtung. The difference in the cast of their countenances is marked. The “doctor” wears the typical Chinese spectacles, the glasses of which are as large as silver dollars.

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### Thrilling story from Africa.

WHEN this number of THE MISSIONARY was nearly ready for the press, the foreign mail brought letters from Mr. Sheppard, Mrs. Snyder, and Dr. Snyder, and from the latter an installment of his diary of such thrilling interest that we have felt much other matter already in hand should be deferred in order to give place to this stirring story. We are sure no apology is due our readers for printing it entire. We have never received from any mission field a narrative of such thrilling character. It verifies the proverb that truth is stranger than fiction. No African romance can equal Dr. Snyder's simple, unvarnished story. And, in perusing it, the reader will be impressed by four facts—first, that in view of much said to the contrary, the day of missionary hardships and perils has not yet passed;

second, that the heroism and devotion of the days of Judson are still found; third, that God answers prayer as marvelously as he did in the days of the apostles; and, fourth, that the comforting doctrine of a special Providence is here strikingly verified.

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### Latest news from Africa.

ACCOMPANYING Dr. Snyder's diary were letters from him as late as October twenty-first. “The Sepoy Rebellion” of the midsummer, referred to in his diary, had not been wholly suppressed. The State had sent an expedition against the Bakalulua, but had been defeated, and the European officers in command had been most cruelly put to death by being impaled on sharpened sticks. But the rainy season was just coming on, and Dr. Snyder trusted that this would put an end to hostilities for a time, although they did not feel that they were out of danger. Their mails have been very irregular. They expressed profound gratitude for many comforting letters from friends in the home land, but were longing pathetically for missionary reinforcement. Two years have now passed since Mrs. Snyder has seen a white face (that is, since the death of Mrs. Adamson), and both she and Dr. Snyder are much worn by repeated attacks of fever, and more so still by the long strain which has been upon them.



No missionaries of our Church have ever needed relief and rest more sorely. Dr. Snyder mentions that the Zap-o-Zaps, first referred to by Mr. Lapsley as a neighboring cannibal tribe, had affirmed their purpose to return to their cannibal habits, from which they have been restrained latterly by the State, whose authority has been well-nigh lost in the recent revolt. These days of trial have tested the native Christians. Some of them have gone back to the world; but the larger portion of them have proven their faith by their works. Their liberality has been worthy of all praise, since they give, on an average, one-tenth of their earnings towards the work of the mission. Recently, four more have come out from their heathenism and joined the Church, as an offset to those who have backslidden. Dr. Snyder mentions in his last letter that the Bakete had given him a new name: "Dixi-ni-di-bula" (x to be pronounced as *sh*), which means: "The One who Remains at Home," because, of all who have been on the station, he is the only one who has not at some time or other been absent. We must postpone until a subsequent issue this interesting letter from Dr. Snyder.

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**Postponed.** IN order to give place to this diary we have been obliged to omit much that would otherwise have appeared in the Monthly Concert and in Woman's Work; also, several interesting letters. Among these omitted articles are some from beloved workers in China and Brazil (among them contributions from Misses French and Davidson, and Dr. DuBose, and long and interesting articles from Mr. Gammon, Miss Kemper, and Mrs. Wardlaw), interesting matter from Japan, including letters addressed

by Mr. and Mrs. Hope to the friends in South Carolina who support their work; and papers read before various ladies societies at home, kindly furnished for this magazine, accounts of brief meetings in various churches, centennial missionary meetings, and other articles. We hope to give these place in due time.

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**Date on labels.** It is necessary to call the attention of subscribers again to dates on their labels. If payment has been made, and if, from any cause, the corresponding change in date of the yellow label has not been made, subscribers will confer a favor on the mission office by promptly reporting the mistake. On the other hand, if on seeing this note the reader turns to his label and finds that his subscription is overdue, he will also confer a favor by either renewing promptly, or, if unable to do so at once, notifying the office that it is his desire to do this as soon as possible, and that he wishes the magazine continued to his address. A large number are in arrears for a year or more. It will be remembered that it is now the rule of the office to erase names from the mailing list after the date of subscription expires. But since many who desire to continue taking the magazine simply overlook the time of renewal, this erasure of names is usually postponed two or three months. Will not all who wish to discontinue promptly notify the office of this fact? At the present low rate of subscription (considerably below the actual cost of publication), it is exceedingly important that all subscriptions be promptly paid, and that those who do not wish the magazine longer should promptly give notice of the fact.