

**EAST OF THE BARRIER:
OR, SIDE LIGHTS ON THE
MANCHURIA MISSION**

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East of the barrier: or, side lights on the Manchuria mission by J. Miller Graham

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J. MILLER GRAHAM

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BY THE

REV. J. MILLER GRAHAM

MISSIONARY OF THE UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
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CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. MANCHURIA IN MINIATURE	9
II. PEEPS AT THE PEOPLE	27
III. LEARNING THE LANGUAGE	39
IV. IN THE STREET CHAPPL.	49
V. IN THE CONFSSIONAL	59
VI. THE MAKING OF PASTORS	79
VII. ON CIRCUIT	93
VIII. THE PRISONER OF HOPE	123
IX. WOMEN'S WORK AND WITNESS	135
X. THE GREAT AWAKENING	145
XI. "THE FIERY TRIAL"	159
XII. THE "BOXER" CRISIS	189
XIII. AFTER THE PERSECUTION	219
INDEX	233
BIBLIOGRAPHY	237

CHAPTER I

MANCHURIA IN MINIATURE

The chief geographical features in Manchuria are its excellent waterways, its splendid forests, and its fertile soil. Those colonists who have settled in its southern provinces fully realise its value, and have turned out a hard-working and, in addition, a hardy and progressive race. —CLIVE BIGHAM, C.M.G.

CHAPTER I

MANCHURIA IN MINIATURE

THE name Manchuria is unknown to the Chinese. They describe the country vaguely as the "three Eastern provinces"; or when referring more particularly to the southern province, they speak simply of "East of the Barrier"—a name derived from the Great Wall which stretches for twelve hundred and fifty miles, from the seaboard on the east to the plains of Mongolia on the west, and divides the country from the eighteen provinces, or what is known as China proper. Manchuria is, however, an integral part of the Chinese Empire. The inhabitants speak the same language, have the same customs, and are governed by the same laws, as the people all over the Empire. As the cradle of the Manchu dynasty there are naturally more of that race in Manchuria (especially in the north) than elsewhere, but not so many as is popularly supposed. A recent authority¹ says, "of the 17,000,000 inhabitants of the three provinces

¹ *Manchuria*. Alex. Hosie, M.A., F.R.G.S.

of Manchuria probably not more than ten per cent. are Manchus." The bulk of the population is made up partly of the "descendants of Chinese who had already settled in Southern Manchuria during the Ming dynasty," but more especially of immigrants that pass yearly into the country in a constant stream from the overflow population of the more crowded south. As soon as the port opens in early spring, thousands of immigrants cover the roads. Most of them are men in middle life. But it is no uncommon sight to witness whole families, carrying bag and baggage on their Shantung barrows, pushing on to the north and east, where they cut down the virgin forest, and obtain small land-holdings from the Government, rent-free for the first four years. The great majority build for themselves homes, and settle down in the country of their adoption either as farmers or merchants, and never return permanently to their ancestral haunts. On the whole, the dwellers in these northern provinces are less conservative and less anti-foreign than their brethren in the south, due probably to the fact that they have left their old moorings and entered upon a freer life. They are consequently more progressive, more hardy, and more susceptible to western influences.

Each of the three provinces is administered by a Governor-General or Viceroy, who must be a Manchu, assisted by a large staff of

officials of varying rank, both Manchu and Chinese. The names of the three provinces are: (1) *Feng Tien* or *Hsing-Ching* in the south; (2) *Kirin* in the centre; and (3) *Hei-lung-chiang* in the north. The country covers a geographical area of some 300,000 square miles. The most northerly province is much the largest, but the most sparsely populated; while the southern province is not only the most populous, but the best cultivated. It is for the most part flat, except towards the east, and extremely fertile. The country produces millet, wheat, rice, beans, opium, tobacco, vegetables, and fruits of all kinds. It is rich in undeveloped mineral wealth. Gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, coal, asbestos, soda, are to be found in greater or less abundance. Among the principal exports are immense quantities of bean-cake and bean-oil, with gold, silver, silks, furs, skins, and pigs' bristles. The total export trade for 1899 was valued at £3,783,914 sterling.

The climate is good. During the months of July and August the heat is intense,—from 90° to 100° in the shade,—and is particularly trying, owing to the heavy rains which fall at this season of the year. The winter is long and severe—the barometer falling sometimes to 34° below zero. But as the atmosphere is dry, and the sun warm, the winter cold is not so disagreeable as the lowness of the temperature