

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32

A RETROSPECT

BY

J. HUDSON TAYLOR

*Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy
God led thee.*

THIRD EDITION

TORONTO
CHINA INLAND MISSION
507 CHURCH STREET

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. THE POWER OF PRAYER	1
II. THE CALL TO SERVICE	7
III. PREPARATION FOR SERVICE	13
IV. FURTHER ANSWERS TO PRAYER	19
V. LIFE IN LONDON	24
VI. STRENGTHENED BY FAITH	30
VII. MIGHTY TO SAVE	35
VIII. VOYAGE TO CHINA	39
IX. EARLY MISSIONARY EXPERIENCES	45
X. FIRST EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS	49
XI. WITH THE REV. W. C. BURNS	57
XII. THE CALL TO SWATOW	70
“The Missionary Call”; Words and Music	75
XIII. MAN PROPOSES, GOD DISPOSES	77

33	XIV. PROVIDENTIAL GUIDANCE	92
34	XV. SETTLEMENT IN NINGPO	98
35	XVI. TIMELY SUPPLIES	105
36	XVII. GOD A REFUGE FOR US	110
37	XVIII. A NEW AGENCY NEEDED	116
38	XIX. FORMATION OF THE C. I. M.	121
39	XX. THE MISSION IN 1894	126
40	THE MISSION IN 1902	128
41	STATIONS OF THE C. I. M.	131

42

43 * * * * *

44

45 MAP OF CHINA

46

47 SHOWING THE STATIONS OF THE CHINA
 48 INLAND MISSION: CORRECTED TO JUNE 1900
 49 _To face page_ 131

50

51

52

53

54 ILLUSTRATIONS

55

56

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 57 | 1. Portrait of J. Hudson Taylor | _Frontispiece_ |
| 58 | 2. The “Lammermuir” party | _Facing “Contents”_ |
| 59 | PAGE | |
| 60 | 3. Honorary banner presented to a missionary | 1 |
| 61 | 4. A heavy road in North China | 7 |
| 62 | 5. Salt junk on the Yang-tsi | 13 |
| 63 | 6. Travelling by mule cart on “the great plain” | 19 |

- 64 7. Ch'ung-k'ing, the Yang-tsi, and mountains beyond
65 24
66 8. Water gate and Custom house, Soo-chow 29
67 9. View on the Kwang-sin River 30
68 10. Temple and memorial portal 34
69 11. "Compassionate heart, benevolent methods" 35
70 12. Outside the wall of Gan-k'ing 38
71 13. The new girls school at Chefoo 39
72 14. Entrance to the Po-yang lake 44
73 15. A fair wind, at sunset, on the lake 45
74 16. A view on the grand canal 49
75 17. Down the Yang-tsi on a cargo boat 57
76 18. East gate and sentry box, Bham, Burmah 69
77 19. Farmhouse, with buffalo shed attached 70
78 20. A fishing village on the lake near Ynnan Fu 77
79 21. Teng-yueh, the westernmost walled city in China
80 91
81 22. A small temple near Wun-chau 92
82 23. Group of Christians at Lan-k'i, Cheh-kiang 97
83 24. A boat on the Red River, Tonquin 98
84 25. Students' quarters, Gan-k'ing Training Home 104
85 26. A Mandarin's sedan chair 105
86 27. A presentation banner (a mark of high respect) 110
87 28. View on the Po-yang lake 116
88 29. A village on the rand canal 121
89 30. The battlements of Peking 126
90 31. Native woodcut of a landscape 131
91 32. Elder Liu and wife, Kwei-k'i 136
92
93 The hearty thanks of the Mission for the use of
94 photographs and sketches are hereby tendered to Rev.
95 George Hayes for Nos. 4 and 6; Dr. G. Whitfield

96 Guinness for Nos. 8, 12, 16, 25, and 28; Miss Davies
97 for No. 23; Mr. Thomas Selkirk for Nos. 18 and 21;
98 Mr. J. T. Reid for Nos. 14, 15, and 27; Mr. J. S. Rough
99 for No. 30; Mr. Grainger for No. 19; Mr. E. Murray for
100 No. 13, and also to other friends unknown by name.

101

102

103

104

105 [Illustration]

106

107

108

109

110

111 CHAPTER I

112

113 THE POWER OF PRAYER

114

115

116 THE following account of some of the experiences
117 which eventually led to the formation of the CHINA
118 INLAND MISSION, and to its taking the form in
119 which it has been developed, first appeared in the pages
120 of China's Millions. Many of those who read it there
121 asked that it might appear in separate form. Miss
122 Guinness incorporated it in the Story of the China
123 Inland Mission, a record which contained the account
124 of GOD'S goodness to the beginning of 1894. But
125 friends still asking for it in pamphlet form, for wider
126 distribution, this edition is brought out.

127

128 Much of the material was taken from notes of
129 addresses given in China during a conference of our
130 missionaries; this will account for the direct and
131 narrative form of the papers, which it has not been
132 thought necessary to change.

133

134 It is always helpful to us to fix our attention on the
135 GOD-ward aspect of Christian work; to realise that the
136 work of GOD does not mean so much man's work for
137 GOD, as GOD'S own work through man. Furthermore,
138 in our privileged position of fellow-workers with Him,
139 while fully recognising all the benefits and blessings to
140 be bestowed on a sin-stricken world through the
141 proclamation of the Gospel and spread of the Truth, we
142 should never lose sight of the higher aspect of our
143 work—that of obedience to GOD, of bringing glory to
144 His Name, of gladdening the heart of our GOD and
145 FATHER by living and serving as His beloved
146 children.

147

148 Many circumstances connected with my own early life
149 and service presented this aspect of work vividly to me;
150 and as I think of some of them, I am reminded of how
151 much the cause of missions is indebted to many who
152 are never themselves permitted to see the mission
153 field—many, it may be, who are unable to give largely
154 of their substance, and who will be not a little surprised
155 in the Great Day to see how much the work has been
156 advanced by their love, their sympathy, and their
157 prayers.

158

159 For myself, and for the work that I have been permitted
160 to do for GOD, I owe an unspeakable debt of gratitude
161 to my beloved and honoured parents, who have passed
162 away and entered into rest, but the influence of whose
163 lives will never pass away.

164

165 Many years ago, probably about 1830, the heart of my
166 dear father, then himself an earnest and successful
167 evangelist at home, was deeply stirred as to the
168 spiritual state of China by reading several books, and
169 especially an account of the travels of Captain Basil
170 Hall. His circumstances were such as to preclude the
171 hope of his ever going to China for personal service,
172 but he was led to pray that if GOD should give him a
173 son, he might be called and privileged to labour in the
174 vast needy empire which was then apparently so sealed
175 against the truth. I was not aware of this desire or
176 prayer myself until my return to England, more than
177 seven years after I had sailed for China; but it was very
178 interesting then to know how prayer offered before my
179 birth had been answered in this matter.

180

181 All thought of my becoming a missionary was
182 abandoned for many years by my dear parents on
183 account of the feebleness of my health. When the time
184 came, however, GOD gave increased health, and my
185 life has been spared, and strength has been given for
186 not a little toilsome service both in the mission field
187 and at home, while many stronger men and women
188 have succumbed.

189

190 I had many opportunities in early years of learning the
191 value of prayer and of the Word of GOD; for it was the
192 delight of my dear parents to point out that if there
193 were any such Being as GOD, to trust Him, to obey
194 Him, and to be fully given up to His service, must of
195 necessity be the best and wisest course both for myself
196 and others. But in spite of these helpful examples and
197 precepts my heart was unchanged. Often I had tried to
198 make myself a Christian; and failing of course in such
199 efforts, I began at last to think that for some reason or
200 other I could not be saved, and that the best I could do
201 was to take my fill of this world, as there was no hope
202 for me beyond the grave.

203

204 While in this state of mind I came in contact with
205 persons holding sceptical and infidel views, and
206 accepted their teaching, only too thankful for some
207 hope of escape from the doom which, if my parents
208 were right and the Bible true, awaited the impenitent. It
209 may seem strange to say it, but I have often felt
210 thankful for the experience of this time of scepticism.
211 The inconsistencies of Christian people, who while
212 professing to believe their Bibles were yet content to
213 live just as they would if there were no such book, had
214 been one of the strongest arguments of my sceptical
215 companions; and I frequently felt at that time, and said,
216 that if I pretended to believe the Bible I would at any
217 rate attempt to live by it, putting it fairly to the test, and
218 if it failed to prove true and reliable, would throw it
219 overboard altogether. These views I retained when the
220 LORD was pleased to bring me to Himself; and I think
221 I may say that since then I _have_ put GOD'S Word to

222 the test. Certainly it has never failed me. I have never
223 had reason to regret the confidence I have placed in its
224 promises, or to deplore following the guidance I have
225 found in its directions.

226

227 Let me tell you how GOD answered the prayers of my
228 dear mother and of my beloved sister, now Mrs.
229 Broomhall, for my conversion. On a day which I shall
230 never forget, when I was about fifteen years of age, my
231 dear mother being absent from home, I had a holiday,
232 and in the afternoon looked through my father's library
233 to find some book with which to while away the
234 unoccupied hours. Nothing attracting me, I turned over
235 a little basket of pamphlets, and selected from amongst
236 them a Gospel tract which looked interesting, saying to
237 myself, "There will be a story at the commencement,
238 and a sermon or moral at the close: I will take the
239 former and leave the latter for those who like it."

240

241 I sat down to read the little book in an utterly
242 unconcerned state of mind, believing indeed at the time
243 that if there were any salvation it was not for me, and
244 with a distinct intention to put away the tract as soon as
245 it should seem prosy. I may say that it was not
246 uncommon in those days to call conversion "becoming
247 serious"; and judging by the faces of some of its
248 professors, it appeared to be a very serious matter
249 indeed. Would it not be well if the people of GOD had
250 always tell-tale faces, evincing the blessings and
251 gladness of salvation so clearly that unconverted
252 people might have to call conversion "becoming
253 joyful" instead of "becoming serious"?

254

255 Little did I know at the time what was going on in the
256 heart of my dear mother, seventy or eighty miles away.
257 She rose from the dinner-table that afternoon with an
258 intense yearning for the conversion of her boy, and
259 feeling that—absent from home, and having more
260 leisure than she could otherwise secure—a special
261 opportunity was afforded her of pleading with GOD on
262 my behalf. She went to her room and turned the key in
263 the door, resolved not to leave that spot until her
264 prayers were answered. Hour after hour did that dear
265 mother plead for me, until at length she could pray no
266 longer, but was constrained to praise GOD for that
267 which His SPIRIT taught her had already been
268 accomplished—the conversion of her only son.

269

270 I in the meantime had been led in the way I have
271 mentioned to take up this little tract, and while reading
272 it was struck with the sentence, “The finished work of
273 CHRIST.” The thought passed through my mind,
274 “Why does the author use this expression? why not say
275 the atoning or propitiatory work of CHRIST?”
276 Immediately the words “It is finished” suggested
277 themselves to my mind. What was finished? And I at
278 once replied, “A full and perfect atonement and
279 satisfaction for sin: the debt was paid by the Substitute;
280 CHRIST died for our sins, and not for ours only, but
281 also for the sins of the whole world.” Then came the
282 thought, “If the whole work was finished and the whole
283 debt paid, what is there left for me to do?” And with
284 this dawned the joyful conviction, as light was flashed
285 into my soul by the HOLY SPIRIT, that there was

286 nothing in the world to be done but to fall down on
287 one's knees, and accepting this SAVIOUR and His
288 salvation, to praise Him for evermore. Thus while my
289 dear mother was praising GOD on her knees in her
290 chamber, I was praising Him in the old warehouse to
291 which I had gone alone to read at my leisure this little
292 book.

293

294 Several days elapsed ere I ventured to make my
295 beloved sister the confidante of my joy, and then only
296 after she had promised not to tell any one of my soul
297 secret. When our dear mother came home a fortnight
298 later, I was the first to meet her at the door, and to tell
299 her I had such glad news to give. I can almost feel that
300 dear mother's arms around my neck, as she pressed me
301 to her bosom and said, "I know, my boy; I have been
302 rejoicing for a fortnight in the glad tidings you have to
303 tell me." "Why," I asked in surprise, "has Amelia
304 broken her promise? She said she would tell no one."
305 My dear mother assured me that it was not from any
306 human source that she had learned the tidings, and
307 went on to tell the little incident mentioned above. You
308 will agree with me that it would be strange indeed if I
309 were not a believer in the power of prayer.

310

311 Nor was this all. Some little time after, I picked up a
312 pocket-book exactly like one of my own, and thinking
313 that it was mine, opened it. The lines that caught my
314 eye were an entry in the little diary, which belonged to
315 my sister, to the effect that she would give herself daily
316 to prayer until GOD should answer in the conversion of

317 her brother. Exactly one month later the LORD was
318 pleased to turn me from darkness to light.

319

320 Brought up in such a circle and saved under such
321 circumstances, it was perhaps natural that from the
322 commencement of my Christian life I was led to feel
323 that the promises were very real, and that prayer was in
324 sober matter of fact transacting business with GOD,
325 whether on one's own behalf or on behalf of those for
326 whom one sought His blessing.

327

328 [Illustration]

329

330

331

332

333 CHAPTER II

334

335 THE CALL TO SERVICE

336

337

338 THE first joys of conversion passed away after a time,
339 and were succeeded by a period of painful deadness of
340 soul, with much conflict. But this also came to an end,
341 leaving a deepened sense of personal weakness and
342 dependence on the LORD as the only KEEPER as well
343 as SAVIOUR of His people. How sweet to the soul,
344 wearied and disappointed in its struggles with sin, is
345 the calm repose of trust in the SHEPHERD of Israel.

346

347 Not many months after my conversion, having a leisure
348 afternoon, I retired to my own chamber to spend it

349 largely in communion with GOD. Well do I remember
350 that occasion. How in the gladness of my heart I
351 poured out my soul before GOD; and again and again
352 confessing my grateful love to Him who had done
353 everything for me—who had saved me when I had
354 given up all hope and even desire for salvation—I
355 besought Him to give me some work to do for Him, as
356 an outlet for love and gratitude; some self-denying
357 service, no matter what it might be, however trying or
358 however trivial; something with which He would be
359 pleased, and that I might do for Him who had done so
360 much for me. Well do I remember, as in unreserved
361 consecration I put myself, my life, my friends, my all,
362 upon the altar, the deep solemnity that came over my
363 soul with the assurance that my offering was accepted.
364 The presence of GOD became unutterably real and
365 blessed; and though but a child under sixteen, I
366 remember stretching myself on the ground, and lying
367 there silent before Him with unspeakable awe and
368 unspeakable joy.

369

370 For what service I was accepted I knew not; but a deep
371 consciousness that I was no longer my own took
372 possession of me, which has never since been effaced.
373 It has been a very practical consciousness. Two or three
374 years later propositions of an unusually favourable
375 nature were made to me with regard to medical study,
376 on the condition of my becoming apprenticed to the
377 medical man who was my friend and teacher. But I felt
378 I dared not accept any binding engagement such as was
379 suggested. I was not my own to give myself away; for I
380 knew not when or how He whose alone I was, and for

381 whose disposal I felt I must ever keep myself free,
382 might call for service.

383

384 Within a few months of this time of consecration the
385 impression was wrought into my soul that it was in
386 China the LORD wanted me. It seemed to me highly
387 probable that the work to which I was thus called might
388 cost my life; for China was not then open as it is now.
389 But few missionary societies had at that time workers
390 in China, and but few books on the subject of China
391 missions were accessible to me. I learned, however,
392 that the Congregational minister of my native town
393 possessed a copy of Medhurst's China, and I called
394 upon him to ask a loan of the book. This he kindly
395 granted, asking me why I wished to read it. I told him
396 that GOD had called me to spend my life in missionary
397 service in that land. "And how do you propose to go
398 there?" he inquired. I answered that I did not at all
399 know; that it seemed to me probable that I should need
400 to do as the Twelve and the Seventy had done in
401 Juda—go without purse or scrip, relying on Him who
402 had called me to supply all my need. Kindly placing his
403 hand upon my shoulder, the minister replied, "Ah, my
404 boy, as you grow older you will get wiser than that.
405 Such an idea would do very well in the days when
406 CHRIST Himself was on earth, but not now."

407

408 I have grown older since then, but not wiser. I am more
409 than ever convinced that if we were to take the
410 directions of our MASTER and the assurances He gave
411 to His first disciples more fully as our guide, we should

412 find them to be just as suited to our times as to those in
413 which they were originally given.

414

415 Medhurst's book on China emphasised the value of
416 medical missions there, and this directed my attention
417 to medical studies as a valuable mode of preparation.

418

419 My beloved parents neither discouraged nor
420 encouraged my desire to engage in missionary work.

421 They advised me, with such convictions, to use all the
422 means in my power to develop the resources of body,
423 mind, heart, and soul, and to wait prayerfully upon
424 GOD, quite willing, should He show me that I was
425 mistaken, to follow His guidance, or to go forward if in
426 due time He should open the way to missionary
427 service. The importance of this advice I have often
428 since had occasion to prove. I began to take more
429 exercise in the open air to strengthen my physique. My
430 feather bed I had taken away, and sought to dispense
431 with as many other home comforts as I could, in order
432 to prepare myself for rougher lines of life. I began also
433 to do what Christian work was in my power, in the way
434 of tract distribution, Sunday-school teaching, and
435 visiting the poor and sick, as opportunity afforded.

436

437 After a time of preparatory study at home, I went to
438 Hull for medical and surgical training. There I became
439 assistant to a doctor who was connected with the Hull
440 school of medicine, and was surgeon also to a number
441 of factories, which brought many accident cases to our
442 dispensary, and gave me the opportunity of seeing and
443 practising the minor operations of surgery.

444

445 And here an event took place that I must not omit to
446 mention. Before leaving home my attention was drawn
447 to the subject of setting apart the firstfruits of all one's
448 increase and a proportionate part of one's possessions
449 to the LORD'S service. I thought it well to study the
450 question with my Bible in hand before I went away
451 from home, and was placed in circumstances which
452 might bias my conclusions by the pressure of
453 surrounding wants and cares. I was thus led to the
454 determination to set apart not less than one-tenth of
455 whatever moneys I might earn or become possessed of
456 for the LORD'S service. The salary I received as
457 medical assistant in Hull at the time now referred to
458 would have allowed me with ease to do this. But owing
459 to changes in the family of my kind friend and
460 employer, it was necessary for me to reside out of
461 doors. Comfortable quarters were secured with a
462 relative, and in addition to the sum determined on as
463 remuneration for my services I received the exact
464 amount I had to pay for board and lodging.

465

466 Now arose in my mind the question, Ought not this
467 sum also to be tithed? It was surely a part of my
468 income, and I felt that if it had been a question of
469 Government income tax it certainly would not have
470 been excluded. On the other hand, to take a tithe from
471 the whole would not leave me sufficient for other
472 purposes; and for some little time I was much
473 embarrassed to know what to do. After much thought
474 and prayer I was led to leave the comfortable quarters
475 and happy circle in which I was now residing, and to

476 engage a little lodging in the suburbs—a sitting-room
477 and bedroom in one—undertaking to board myself. In
478 this way I was able without difficulty to tithes the whole
479 of my income; and while I felt the change a good deal,
480 it was attended with no small blessing.

481

482 More time was given in my solitude to the study of the
483 Word of GOD, to visiting the poor, and to evangelistic
484 work on summer evenings than would otherwise have
485 been the case. Brought into contact in this way with
486 many who were in distress, I soon saw the privilege of
487 still further economising, and found it not difficult to
488 give away much more than the proportion of my
489 income I had at first intended.

490

491 About this time a friend drew my attention to the
492 question of the personal and pre-millennial coming of
493 our LORD JESUS CHRIST, and gave me a list of
494 passages bearing upon it, without note or comment,
495 advising me to ponder the subject. For a while I gave
496 much time to studying the Scriptures about it, with the
497 result that I was led to see that this same JESUS who
498 left our earth in His resurrection body was so to come
499 again, that His feet were to stand on the Mount of
500 Olives, and that He was to take possession of the
501 temporal throne of His father David which was
502 promised before His birth. I saw, further, that all
503 through the New Testament the coming of the LORD
504 was the great hope of His people, and was always
505 appealed to as the strongest motive for consecration
506 and service, and as the greatest comfort in trial and
507 affliction. I learned, too, that the period of His return

508 for His people was not revealed, and that it was their
509 privilege, from day to day and from hour to hour, to
510 live as men who wait for the LORD; that thus living it
511 was immaterial, so to speak, whether He should or
512 should not come at any particular hour, the important
513 thing being to be so ready for Him as to be able,
514 whenever He might appear, to give an account of one's
515 stewardship with joy, and not with grief.

516

517 The effect of this blessed hope was a thoroughly
518 practical one. It led me to look carefully through my
519 little library to see if there were any books there that
520 were not needed or likely to be of further service, and
521 to examine my small wardrobe, to be quite sure that it
522 contained nothing that I should be sorry to give an
523 account of should the MASTER come at once. The
524 result was that the library was considerably diminished,
525 to the benefit of some poor neighbours, and to the far
526 greater benefit of my own and that I found I had
527 articles of clothing also which might be put to better
528 advantage in other directions.

529

530 It has been very helpful to me from time to time
531 through life, as occasion has served, to act again in a
532 similar way; and I have never gone through my house,
533 from basement to attic, with this object in view,
534 without receiving a great accession of spiritual joy and
535 blessing. I believe we are all in danger of
536 accumulating—it may be from thoughtlessness, or
537 from pressure of occupation—things which would be
538 useful to others, while not needed by ourselves, and the
539 retention of which entails loss of blessing. If the whole

540 resources of the Church of GOD were well utilised,
541 how much more might be accomplished! How many
542 poor might be fed and naked clothed, and to how many
543 of those as yet unreached the Gospel might be carried!
544 Let me advise this line of things as a constant habit of
545 mind, and a profitable course to be practically adopted
546 whenever circumstances permit.

547

548 [Illustration]

549

550

551

552

553 CHAPTER III

554

555 PREPARATION FOR SERVICE

556

557

558 HAVING now the twofold object in view of
559 accustoming myself to endure hardness, and of
560 economising in order to be able more largely to assist
561 those amongst whom I spent a good deal of time
562 labouring in the Gospel, I soon found that I could live
563 upon very much less than I had previously thought
564 possible. Butter, milk, and other such luxuries I soon
565 ceased to use; and I found that by living mainly on
566 oatmeal and rice, with occasional variations, a very
567 small sum was sufficient for my needs. In this way I
568 had more than two-thirds of my income available for
569 other purposes; and my experience was that the less I
570 spent on myself and the more I gave away, the fuller of
571 happiness and blessing did my soul become.

572 Unspeakable joy all the day long, and every day, was
573 my happy experience. GOD, even my GOD, was a
574 living, bright Reality; and all I had to do was joyful
575 service.

576

577 It was to me a very grave matter, however, to
578 contemplate going out to China, far away from all
579 human aid, there to depend upon the living GOD alone
580 for protection, supplies, and help of every kind. I felt
581 that one's spiritual muscles required strengthening for
582 such an undertaking. There was no doubt that if faith
583 did not fail, GOD would not fail; but, then, what if
584 one's faith should prove insufficient? I had not at that
585 time learned that even "if we believe not, He abideth
586 faithful, He cannot deny Himself"; and it was
587 consequently a very serious question to my mind, not
588 whether He was faithful, but whether I had strong
589 enough faith to warrant my embarking in the enterprise
590 set before me.

591

592 I thought to myself, "When I get out to China, I shall
593 have no claim on any one for anything; my only claim
594 will be on GOD. How important, therefore, to learn
595 before leaving England to move man, through GOD, by
596 prayer alone."

597

598 At Hull my kind employer, always busily occupied,
599 wished me to remind him whenever my salary became
600 due. This I determined not to do directly, but to ask that
601 GOD would bring the fact to his recollection, and thus
602 encourage me by answering prayer. At one time, as the
603 day drew near for the payment of a quarter's salary, I

604 was as usual much in prayer about it. The time arrived,
605 but my kind friend made no allusion to the matter. I
606 continued praying, and days passed on, but he did not
607 remember, until at length, on settling up my weekly
608 accounts one Saturday night, I found myself possessed
609 of only a single coin—one half-crown piece. Still I had
610 hitherto had no lack, and I continued in prayer.

611

612 That Sunday was a very happy one. As usual my heart
613 was full and brimming over with blessing. After
614 attending Divine service in the morning, my afternoons
615 and evenings were filled with Gospel work, in the
616 various lodging-houses I was accustomed to visit in the
617 lowest part of the town. At such times it almost seemed
618 to me as if heaven were begun below, and that all that
619 could be looked for was an enlargement of one's
620 capacity for joy, not a truer filling than I possessed.
621 After concluding my last service about ten o'clock that
622 night, a poor man asked me to go and pray with his
623 wife, saying that she was dying. I readily agreed, and
624 on the way to his house asked him why he had not sent
625 for the priest, as his accent told me he was an Irishman.
626 He had done so, he said, but the priest refused to come
627 without a payment of eighteenpence, which the man
628 did not possess, as the family was starving.
629 Immediately it occurred to my mind that all the money
630 I had in the world was the solitary half-crown, and that
631 it was in one coin; moreover, that while the basin of
632 water gruel I usually took for supper was awaiting me,
633 and there was sufficient in the house for breakfast in
634 the morning, I certainly had nothing for dinner on the
635 coming day.

636

637 Somehow or other there was at once a stoppage in the
638 flow of joy in my heart; but instead of reproving myself
639 I began to reprove the poor man, telling him that it was
640 very wrong to have allowed matters to get into such a
641 state as he described, and that he ought to have applied
642 to the relieving officer. His answer was that he had
643 done so, and was told to come at eleven o'clock the
644 next morning, but that he feared that his wife might not
645 live through the night. "Ah," thought I, "if only I had
646 two shillings and a sixpence instead of this half-crown,
647 how gladly would I give these poor people one shilling
648 of it!" But to part with the half-crown was far from my
649 thoughts. I little dreamed that the real truth of the
650 matter simply was that I could trust in GOD plus one-
651 and-sixpence, but was not yet prepared to trust Him
652 only, without any money at all in my pocket.

653

654 My conductor led me into a court, down which I
655 followed him with some degree of nervousness. I had
656 found myself there before, and at my last visit had been
657 very roughly handled, while my tracts were torn to
658 pieces, and I received such a warning not to come
659 again that I felt more than a little concerned. Still, it
660 was the path of duty, and I followed on. Up a miserable
661 flight of stairs, into a wretched room, he led me; and oh
662 what a sight there presented itself to our eyes! Four or
663 five poor children stood about, their sunken cheeks and
664 temples all telling unmistakably the story of slow
665 starvation; and lying on a wretched pallet was a poor
666 exhausted mother, with a tiny infant thirty-six hours
667 old, moaning rather than crying at her side, for it too

668 seemed spent and failing. “Ah!” thought I, “if I had two
669 shillings and a sixpence instead of half-a-crown, how
670 gladly should they have one-and-sixpence of it!” But
671 still a wretched unbelief prevented me from obeying
672 the impulse to relieve their distress at the cost of all I
673 possessed.

674

675 It will scarcely seem strange that I was unable to say
676 much to comfort these poor people. I needed comfort
677 myself. I began to tell them, however, that they must
678 not be cast down, that though their circumstances were
679 very distressing, there was a kind and loving FATHER
680 in heaven; but something within me said, “You
681 hypocrite! telling these unconverted people about a
682 kind and loving FATHER in heaven, and not prepared
683 yourself to trust Him without half-a-crown!” I was
684 nearly choked. How gladly would I have compromised
685 with conscience if I had had a florin and a sixpence! I
686 would have given the florin thankfully and kept the
687 rest; but I was not yet prepared to trust in GOD alone,
688 without the sixpence.

689

690 To talk was impossible under these circumstances; yet,
691 strange to say, I thought I should have no difficulty in
692 praying. Prayer was a delightful occupation to me in
693 those days; time thus spent never seemed wearisome,
694 and I knew nothing of lack of words. I seemed to think
695 that all I should have to do would be to kneel down and
696 engage in prayer, and that relief would come to them
697 and to myself together. “You asked me to come and
698 pray with your wife,” I said to the man, “let us pray.”
699 And I knelt down. But scarcely had I opened my lips

700 with “Our FATHER who art in heaven” than
701 conscience said within, “Dare you mock GOD? Dare
702 you kneel down and call Him FATHER with that half-
703 crown in your pocket?” Such a time of conflict came
704 upon me then as I have never experienced before or
705 since. How I got through that form of prayer I know
706 not, and whether the words uttered were connected or
707 disconnected I cannot tell; but I arose from my knees in
708 great distress of mind.

709

710 The poor father turned to me and said, “You see what a
711 terrible state we are in, sir; if you can help us, for
712 GOD’S sake do!” Just then the word flashed into my
713 mind, “Give to him that asketh of thee,” and in the
714 word of a KING there is power. I put my hand into my
715 pocket, and slowly drawing forth the half-crown, gave
716 it to the man, telling him that it might seem a small
717 matter for me to relieve them, seeing that I was
718 comparatively well off, but that in parting with that
719 coin I was giving him my all; what I had been trying to
720 tell him was indeed true—GOD really was a FATHER,
721 and might be trusted. The joy all came back in full
722 flood-tide to my heart; I could say anything and feel it
723 then, and the hindrance to blessing was gone—gone, I
724 trust, for ever.

725

726 Not only was the poor woman’s life saved, but I
727 realised that my life was saved too! It might have been
728 a wreck—would have been a wreck probably, as a
729 Christian life—had not grace at that time conquered,
730 and the striving of GOD’S SPIRIT been obeyed. I well
731 remember how that night, as I went home to my

732 lodgings, my heart was as light as my pocket. The
733 lonely, deserted streets resounded with a hymn of
734 praise which I could not restrain. When I took my basin
735 of gruel before retiring, I would not have exchanged it
736 for a prince's feast. I reminded the LORD as I knelt at
737 my bedside of His own Word, that he who giveth to the
738 poor lendeth to the LORD: I asked Him not to let my
739 loan be a long one, or I should have no dinner next day;
740 and with peace within and peace without, I spent a
741 happy, restful night.

742

743 Next morning for breakfast my plate of porridge
744 remained, and before it was consumed the postman's
745 knock was heard at the door. I was not in the habit of
746 receiving letters on Monday, as my parents and most of
747 my friends refrained from posting on Saturday; so that
748 I was somewhat surprised when the landlady came in
749 holding a letter or packet in her wet hand covered by
750 her apron. I looked at the letter, but could not make out
751 the handwriting. It was either a strange hand or a
752 feigned one, and the postmark was blurred. Where it
753 came from I could not tell. On opening the envelope I
754 found nothing written within; but inside a sheet of
755 blank paper was folded a pair of kid gloves, from
756 which, as I opened them in astonishment, half-a-
757 sovereign fell to the ground. "Praise the LORD!" I
758 exclaimed; "400 per cent for twelve hours investment;
759 that is good interest. How glad the merchants of Hull
760 would be if they could lend their money at such a rate!"
761 I then and there determined that a bank which could not
762 break should have my savings or earnings as the case

763 might be—a determination I have not yet learned to
764 regret.

765

766 I cannot tell you how often my mind has recurred to
767 this incident, or all the help it has been to me in
768 circumstances of difficulty in after-life. If we are
769 faithful to GOD in little things, we shall gain
770 experience and strength that will be helpful to us in the
771 more serious trials of life.

772

773 [Illustration]

774

775

776

777

778 CHAPTER IV

779

780 FURTHER ANSWERS TO PRAYER

781

782

783 THE remarkable and gracious deliverance I have
784 spoken of, was a great joy to me, as well as a strong
785 confirmation of faith; but of course ten shillings,
786 however economically used, will not go very far, and it
787 was none the less necessary to continue in prayer,
788 asking that the larger supply which was still due might
789 be remembered and paid. All my petitions, however,
790 appeared to remain unanswered; and before a fortnight
791 had elapsed I found myself pretty much in the same
792 position that I had occupied on the Sunday night
793 already made so memorable. Meanwhile, I continued
794 pleading with GOD, more and more earnestly, that He

795 would graciously remind my employer that my salary
796 was overdue. Of course it was not the want of the
797 money that distressed me—that could have been had at
798 any time for the asking—but the question uppermost in
799 my mind was this: “Can I go to China? or will my want
800 of faith and power with GOD prove to be so serious an
801 obstacle as to preclude my entering upon this much-
802 prized service?”

803

804 As the week drew to a close I felt exceedingly
805 embarrassed. There was not only myself to consider;
806 on Saturday night a payment would be due to my
807 Christian landlady which I knew she could not well
808 dispense with. Ought I not, for her sake, to speak about
809 the matter of the salary? Yet to do so would be, to
810 myself at any rate, the admission that I was not fitted to
811 undertake a missionary enterprise. I gave nearly the
812 whole of Thursday and Friday—all the time not
813 occupied in my necessary employment—to earnest
814 wrestling with GOD in prayer. But still on Saturday
815 morning I was in the same position as before. And now
816 my earnest cry was for guidance as to whether it was
817 my duty to break silence and speak to my employer, or
818 whether I should still continue to wait the FATHER’s
819 time. As far as I could judge, I received the assurance
820 that to wait His time was best; and that GOD in some
821 way or other would interpose on my behalf. So I
822 waited, my heart being now at rest and the burden
823 gone.

824

825 About five o’clock that Saturday afternoon, when the
826 doctor had finished writing his prescriptions, his last

827 circuit for the day being taken, he threw himself back
828 in his arm-chair, as he was wont, and began to speak of
829 the things of GOD. He was a truly Christian man, and
830 many seasons of very happy spiritual fellowship we
831 had together. I was busily watching, at the time, a pan
832 in which a decoction was boiling that required a good
833 deal of attention. It was indeed fortunate for me that it
834 was so, for without any obvious connection with what
835 had been going on, all at once he said, "By-the-bye,
836 Taylor, is not your salary due again?" My emotion may
837 be imagined! I had to swallow two or three times
838 before I could answer. With my eye fixed on the pan
839 and my back to the doctor, I told him as quietly as I
840 could that it was overdue some little time. How
841 thankful I felt at that moment! GOD surely had heard
842 my prayer, and caused him, in this time of my great
843 need, to remember the salary without any word or
844 suggestion from me. He replied, "Oh, I am so sorry you
845 did not remind me! You know how busy I am; I wish I
846 had thought of it a little sooner, for only this afternoon
847 I sent all the money I had to the bank, otherwise I
848 would pay you at once." It is impossible to describe the
849 revulsion of feeling caused by this unexpected
850 statement. I knew not what to do. Fortunately for me
851 my pan boiled up, and I had a good reason for rushing
852 with it from the room. Glad indeed I was to get away,
853 and keep out of sight until after the doctor had returned
854 to his house, and most thankful that he had not
855 perceived my emotion.

856

857 As soon as he was gone I had to seek my little sanctum,
858 and pour out my heart before the LORD for some time,

859 before calmness—and more than calmness—
860 thankfulness, and joy were restored to me. I felt that
861 GOD had His own way, and was not going to fail me. I
862 had sought to know His will early in the day, and as far
863 as I could judge had received guidance to wait
864 patiently; and now GOD was going to work for me in
865 some other way.

866

867 That evening was spent, as my Saturday evenings
868 usually were, in reading the Word and preparing the
869 subjects on which I expected to speak in the various
870 lodging-houses on the morrow. I waited, perhaps, a
871 little longer than usual. At last, about ten o'clock, there
872 being no interruption of any kind, I put on my overcoat,
873 and was preparing to leave for home, rather thankful to
874 know that by that time I should have to let myself in
875 with the latch-key, as my landlady retired early to rest.
876 There was certainly no help for that night; but perhaps
877 GOD would interpose for me by Monday, and I might
878 be able to pay my landlady early in the week the
879 money I would have given her before, had it been
880 possible.

881

882 Just as I was preparing to turn down the gas, I heard the
883 doctor's step in the garden which lay between the
884 dwelling-house and surgery. He was laughing to
885 himself very heartily, as though greatly amused by
886 something. Entering the surgery, he asked for the
887 ledger, and told me that, strange to say, one of his
888 richest patients had just come to pay his doctor's bill—
889 was it not an odd thing to do? It never struck me that it
890 might have any bearing on my own particular case, or I

891 might have felt embarrassed; but looking at it simply
892 from the position of an uninterested spectator, I also
893 was highly amused that a man who was rolling in
894 wealth should come after ten o'clock at night to pay a
895 doctor's bill, which he could any day have met by a
896 cheque with the greatest ease. It appeared that
897 somehow or other he could not rest with this on his
898 mind, and had been constrained to come at that unusual
899 hour to discharge his liability.

900

901 The account was duly receipted in the ledger, and the
902 doctor was about to leave, when suddenly he turned,
903 and handing me some of the bank notes just received,
904 said, to my surprise and thankfulness, "By the way,
905 Taylor, you might as well take these notes; I have not
906 any change, but can give you the balance next week."
907 Again I was left—my feelings undiscovered—to go
908 back to my own little closet and praise the LORD with
909 a joyful heart that after all I might go to China.

910

911 To me this incident was not a trivial one; and to recall
912 it sometimes, in circumstances of great difficulty, in
913 China or elsewhere, has proved no small comfort and
914 strength.

915

916 By-and-by the time drew near when it was thought
917 desirable that I should leave Hull to attend the medical
918 course of the London Hospital. A little while spent
919 there, and then I had every reason to believe that my
920 life-work in China would commence. But much as I
921 had rejoiced at the willingness of GOD to hear and
922 answer prayer and to help His half-trusting, half-timid

923 child, I felt that I could not go to China without having
924 still further developed and tested my power to rest
925 upon His faithfulness; and a marked opportunity for
926 doing so was providentially afforded me.

927

928 My dear father had offered to bear all the expense of
929 my stay in London. I knew, however, that, owing to
930 recent losses, it would mean a considerable sacrifice for
931 him to undertake this just when it seemed necessary for
932 me to go forward. I had recently become acquainted
933 with the Committee of the Chinese Evangelisation
934 Society, in connection with which I ultimately left for
935 China, and especially with its secretary, my esteemed
936 and much-loved friend Mr. George Pearse, then of the
937 Stock Exchange, but now^[1] and for many years
938 himself a missionary. Not knowing of my father's
939 proposition, the Committee also kindly offered to bear
940 my expenses while in London. When these proposals
941 were first made to me, I was not quite clear as to what I
942 ought to do, and in writing to my father and the
943 secretaries, told them that I would take a few days to
944 pray about the matter before deciding any course of
945 action. I mentioned to my father that I had had this
946 offer from the Society, and told the secretaries also of
947 his proffered aid.

948

949 Subsequently, while waiting upon GOD in prayer for
950 guidance, it became clear to my mind that I could
951 without difficulty decline both offers. The secretaries of
952 the Society would not know that I had cast myself
953 wholly on GOD for supplies, and my father would
954 conclude that I had accepted the other offer. I therefore

955 wrote declining both propositions, and felt that without
956 any one having either care or anxiety on my account I
957 was simply in the hands of GOD, and that He, who
958 knew my heart, if He wished to encourage me to go to
959 China, would bless my effort to depend upon Him
960 alone at home.

961

962 [Illustration]

963

964 FOOTNOTE:

965

966 [1] Since the above was written Mr. George Pearse has
967 died.

968

969

970

971

972 CHAPTER V

973

974 LIFE IN LONDON

975

976

977 I MUST not now attempt to detail the ways in which
978 the LORD was pleased—often to my surprise, as well
979 as to my delight—to help me from time to time. I soon
980 found that it was not possible to live quite as
981 economically in London as in Hull. To lessen expenses
982 I shared a room with a cousin, four miles from the
983 hospital, providing myself with board; and after various
984 experiments I found that the most economical way was
985 to live almost exclusively on brown bread and water.
986 Thus I was able to make the means that GOD gave me

987 last as long as possible. Some of my expenses I could
988 not diminish, but my board was largely within my own
989 control. A large twopenny loaf of brown bread,
990 purchased daily on my long walk from the hospital,
991 furnished me with supper and breakfast; and on that
992 diet, with a few apples for lunch, I managed to walk
993 eight or nine miles a day, besides being a good deal on
994 foot while attending the practice of the hospital and the
995 medical school.

996

997 One incident that occurred just about this time I must
998 refer to. The husband of my former landlady in Hull
999 was chief officer of a ship that sailed from London, and
1000 by receiving his half-pay monthly and remitting it to
1001 her I was able to save her the cost of a commission.
1002 This I had been doing for several months, when she
1003 wrote requesting that I would obtain the next payment
1004 as early as possible, as her rent was almost due, and she
1005 depended upon that sum to meet it. The request came at
1006 an inconvenient time. I was working hard for an
1007 examination in the hope of obtaining a scholarship
1008 which would be of service to me, and felt that I could
1009 ill afford the time to go during the busiest part of the
1010 day to the city and procure the money. I had, however,
1011 sufficient of my own in hand to enable me to send the
1012 required sum. I made the remittance therefore,
1013 purposing, as soon as the examination was over, to go
1014 and draw the regular allowance with which to refund
1015 myself.

1016

1017 Before the time of examination the medical school was
1018 closed for a day, on account of the funeral of the Duke

1019 of Wellington, and I had an opportunity of going at
1020 once to the office, which was situated in a street on
1021 Cheapside, and applying for the due amount. To my
1022 surprise and dismay the cleric told me that he could not
1023 pay it, as the officer in question had run away from his
1024 ship and gone to the gold diggings. "Well," I remarked,
1025 "that is very inconvenient for me, as I have already
1026 advanced the money, and I know his wife will have no
1027 means of repaying it." The clerk said he was sorry, but
1028 could of course only act according to orders; so there
1029 was no help for me in that direction. A little more time
1030 and thought, however, brought the comforting
1031 conclusion to my mind, that as I was depending on the
1032 LORD for everything, and His means were not limited,
1033 it was a small matter to be brought a little sooner or
1034 later into the position of needing fresh supplies from
1035 Him; and so the joy and the peace were not long
1036 interfered with.

1037
1038 Very soon after this, possibly the same evening, while
1039 sewing together some sheets of paper on which to take
1040 notes of the lectures, I accidentally pricked the first
1041 finger of my right hand, and in a few moments forgot
1042 all about it. The next day at the hospital I continued
1043 dissecting as before. The body was that of a person
1044 who had died of fever, and was more than usually
1045 disagreeable and dangerous. I need scarcely say that
1046 those of us who were at work upon it dissected with
1047 special care, knowing that the slightest scratch might
1048 cost us our lives. Before the morning was far advanced
1049 I began to feel very weary, and while going through the
1050 surgical wards at noon was obliged to run out, being

1051 suddenly very sick—a most unusual circumstance with
1052 me, as I took but little food and nothing that could
1053 disagree with me. After feeling faint for some time, a
1054 draught of cold water revived me, and I was able to
1055 rejoin the students. I became more and more unwell,
1056 however, and ere the afternoon lecture on surgery was
1057 over found it impossible to hold the pencil and
1058 continue taking notes. By the time the next lecture was
1059 through, my whole arm and right side were full of
1060 severe pain, and I was both looking and feeling very ill.

1061

1062 Finding that I could not resume work, I went into the
1063 dissecting-room to bind up the portion I was engaged
1064 upon and put away my apparatus, and said to the
1065 demonstrator, who was a very skilful surgeon, “I
1066 cannot think what has come over me,” describing the
1067 symptoms. “Why,” said he, “what has happened is
1068 clear enough: you must have cut yourself in dissecting,
1069 and you know that this is a case of malignant fever.” I
1070 assured him that I had been most careful, and was quite
1071 certain that I had no cut or scratch. “Well,” he replied,
1072 “you certainly must have had one;” and he very closely
1073 scrutinised my hand to find it, but in vain. All at once it
1074 occurred to me that I had pricked my finger the night
1075 before, and I asked him if it were possible that a prick
1076 from a needle, at that time, could have been still
1077 unclosed. His opinion was that this was probably the
1078 cause of the trouble, and he advised me to get a
1079 hansom, drive home as fast as I could, and arrange my
1080 affairs forthwith. “For,” he said, “you are a dead man.”

1081

1082 My first thought was one of sorrow that I could not go
1083 to China; but very soon came the feeling, “Unless I am
1084 greatly mistaken, I have work to do in China, and shall
1085 not die.” I was glad, however, to take the opportunity
1086 of speaking to my medical friend, who was a confirmed
1087 sceptic as to things spiritual, of the joy that the prospect
1088 of perhaps soon being with my MASTER gave me;
1089 telling him at the same time that I did not think I should
1090 die, as, unless I were much mistaken, I had work to do
1091 in China; and if so, however severe the struggle, I must
1092 be brought through. “That is all very well,” he
1093 answered, “but you get a hansom and drive home as
1094 fast as you can. You have no time to lose, for you will
1095 soon be incapable of winding up your affairs.”

1096
1097 I smiled a little at the idea of my driving home in a
1098 hansom, for by this time my means were too exhausted
1099 to allow of such a proceeding, and I set out to walk the
1100 distance if possible. Before long, however, my strength
1101 gave way, and I felt it was no use to attempt to reach
1102 home by walking. Availing myself of an omnibus from
1103 Whitechapel Church to Farringdon Street, and another
1104 from Farringdon Street onwards, I reached, in great
1105 suffering, the neighbourhood of Soho Square, behind
1106 which I lived. On going into the house I got some hot
1107 water from the servant, and charging her very
1108 earnestly—literally as a dying man—to accept eternal
1109 life as the gift of GOD through JESUS CHRIST, I
1110 bathed my head and lanced the finger, hoping to let out
1111 some of the poisoned blood. The pain was very severe;
1112 I fainted away, and was for some time unconscious, so

1113 long that when I came to myself I found that I had been
1114 carried to bed.

1115

1116 An uncle of mine who lived near at hand had come in,
1117 and sent for his own medical man, an assistant surgeon
1118 at the Westminster Hospital. I assured my uncle that
1119 medical help would be of no service to me, and that I
1120 did not wish to go to the expense involved. He,
1121 however, quieted me on this score, saying that he had
1122 sent for his own doctor, and that the bill would be
1123 charged to himself. When the surgeon came and
1124 learned all the particulars, he said, "Well, if you have
1125 been living moderately, you may pull through; but if
1126 you have been going in for beer and that sort of thing,
1127 there is no manner of chance for you." I thought that if
1128 sober living was to do anything, few could have a
1129 better chance, as little but bread and water had been my
1130 diet for a good while past. I told him I had lived
1131 abstemiously, and found that it helped me in study.
1132 "But now," he said, "you must keep up your strength,
1133 for it will be a pretty hard struggle." And he ordered
1134 me a bottle of port wine every day, and as many chops
1135 as I could consume. Again I smiled inwardly, having
1136 no means for the purchase of such luxuries. This
1137 difficulty, however, was also met by my kind uncle,
1138 who sent me at once all that was needed.

1139

1140 I was much concerned, notwithstanding the agony I
1141 suffered, that my dear parents should not be made
1142 acquainted with my state. Thought and prayer had
1143 satisfied me that I was not going to die, but that there
1144 was indeed a work for me to do in China. If my dear

1145 parents should come up and find me in that condition, I
1146 must lose the opportunity of seeing how GOD was
1147 going to work for me, now that my money had almost
1148 come to an end. So, after prayer for guidance, I
1149 obtained a promise from my uncle and cousin not to
1150 write to my parents, but to leave me to communicate
1151 with them myself. I felt it was a very distinct answer to
1152 prayer when they gave me this promise, and I took care
1153 to defer all communication with them myself until the
1154 crisis was past and the worst of the attack over. At
1155 home they knew that I was working hard for an
1156 examination, and did not wonder at my silence.

1157

1158 Days and nights of suffering passed slowly by; but at
1159 length, after several weeks, I was sufficiently restored
1160 to leave my room; and then I learned that two men,
1161 though not from the London Hospital, who had had
1162 dissection wounds at the same time as myself, had both
1163 succumbed, while I was spared in answer to prayer to
1164 work for GOD in China.

1165

1166 [Illustration]

1167

1168 [Illustration]

1169

1170

1171

1172

1173 CHAPTER VI

1174

1175 STRENGTHENED BY FAITH

1176

1177

1178 ONE day the doctor coming in found me on the sofa,
1179 and was surprised to learn that with assistance I had
1180 walked downstairs. “Now,” he said, “the best thing you
1181 can go is to get off to the country as soon as you feel
1182 equal to the journey. You must rusticate until you have
1183 recovered a fair amount of health and strength, for if
1184 you begin your work too soon the consequences may
1185 still be serious.” When he had left, as I lay very
1186 exhausted on the sofa, I just told the LORD all about it,
1187 and that I was refraining from making my
1188 circumstances known to those who would delight to
1189 meet my need, in order that my faith might be
1190 strengthened by receiving help from Himself in answer
1191 to prayer alone. What was I to do? And I waited for His
1192 answer.

1193

1194 It seemed to me as if He were directing my mind to the
1195 conclusion to go again to the shipping office, and
1196 inquire about the wages I had been unable to draw. I
1197 reminded the LORD that I could not afford to take a
1198 conveyance, and that it did not seem at all likely that I
1199 should succeed in getting the money, and asked
1200 whether this impulse was not a mere clutching at a
1201 straw, some mental process of my own, rather than His
1202 guidance and teaching. After prayer, however, and
1203 renewed waiting upon GOD, I was confirmed in my
1204 belief that He Himself was teaching me to go to the
1205 office.

1206

1207 The next question was, “How am I to go?” I had had to
1208 seek help in coming downstairs, and the place was at

1209 least two miles away. The assurance was brought
1210 vividly home to me that whatever I asked of GOD
1211 in the name of CHRIST would be done, that the FATHER
1212 might be glorified in the SON; that what I had to do
1213 was to seek strength for the long walk, to receive it by
1214 faith, and to set out upon it. Unhesitatingly I told the
1215 LORD that I was quite willing to take the walk if He
1216 would give me the strength. I asked in the name of
1217 CHRIST that the strength might be immediately given;
1218 and sending the servant up to my room for my hat and
1219 stick, I set out, not to attempt to walk, but TO
1220 WALK to Cheapside.

1221

1222 Although undoubtedly strengthened by faith, I never
1223 took so much interest in shop windows as I did upon
1224 that journey. At every second or third step I was glad to
1225 lean a little against the plate glass, and take time to
1226 examine the contents of the windows before passing
1227 on. It needed a special effort of faith when I got to the
1228 bottom of Farringdon Street to attempt the toilsome
1229 ascent of Snow Hill: there was no Holborn Viaduct in
1230 those days, and it had to be done. GOD did
1231 wonderfully help me, and in due time I reached
1232 Cheapside, turned into the by-street in which the office
1233 was found, and sat down much exhausted on the steps
1234 leading to the first floor, which was my destination. I
1235 felt my position to be a little peculiar—sitting there on
1236 the steps, so evidently spent—and the gentlemen who
1237 rushed up and downstairs looked at me with an
1238 inquiring gaze. After a little rest, however, and a
1239 further season of prayer, I succeeded in climbing the
1240 staircase, and to my comfort found in the office the

1241 clerk with whom I had hitherto dealt in the matter.
1242 Seeing me looking pale and exhausted, he kindly
1243 inquired as to my health, and I told him that I had had a
1244 serious illness, and was ordered to the country, but
1245 thought it well to call first, and make further inquiry,
1246 lest there should have been any mistake about the mate
1247 having run off to the gold diggings. "Oh," he said, "I
1248 am so glad you have come, for it turns out that it was
1249 an able seaman of the same name that ran away. The
1250 mate is still on board; the ship has just reached
1251 Gravesend, and will be up very soon. I shall be glad to
1252 give you the half-pay up to date, for doubtless it will
1253 reach his wife more safely through you. We all know
1254 what temptations beset the men when they arrive at
1255 home after a voyage."

1256

1257 Before, however, giving me the sum of money, he
1258 insisted upon my coming inside and sharing his lunch. I
1259 felt it was the LORD indeed who was providing for
1260 me, and accepted his offer with thankfulness. When I
1261 was refreshed and rested, he gave me a sheet of paper
1262 to write a few lines to the wife, telling her of the
1263 circumstances. On my way back I procured in
1264 Cheapside a money order for the balance due to her,
1265 and posted it; and returning home again, felt myself
1266 now quite justified in taking an omnibus as far as it
1267 would serve me.

1268

1269 Very much better the next morning, after seeing to
1270 some little matters that I had to settle, I made my way
1271 to the surgery of the doctor who had attended me,
1272 feeling that, although my uncle was prepared to pay the

1273 bill, it was right for me, now that I had some money in
1274 hand, to ask for the account myself. The kind surgeon
1275 refused to allow me, as a medical student, to pay
1276 anything for his attendance: but he had supplied me
1277 with quinine, which he allowed me to pay for to the
1278 extent of eight shillings. When that was settled, I saw
1279 that the sum left was just sufficient to take me home;
1280 and to my mind the whole thing seemed a wonderful
1281 interposition of GOD on my behalf.

1282

1283 I knew that the surgeon was sceptical, and told him that
1284 I should very much like to speak to him freely, if I
1285 might do so without offence; that I felt that under GOD
1286 I owed my life to his kind care, and wished very
1287 earnestly that he himself might become a partaker of
1288 the same precious faith that I possessed. So I told him
1289 my reason for being in London, and about my
1290 circumstances, and why I had declined the help of both
1291 my father and the officers of the Society in connection
1292 with which it was probable that I should go to China. I
1293 told him of the recent providential dealings of GOD
1294 with me, and how apparently hopeless my position had
1295 been the day before, when he had ordered me to go to
1296 the country, unless I would reveal my need, which I
1297 had determined not to do. I described to him the mental
1298 exercises I had gone through; but when I added that I
1299 had actually got up from the sofa and walked to
1300 Cheapside, he looked at me incredulously, and
1301 “Impossible! Why, I left you lying there more like a
1302 ghost than a man.” And I had to assure him again and
1303 again that, strengthened by faith, the walk had really
1304 been taken. I told him also what money was left to me,

1305 and what payments there had been to make, and
1306 showed him that just sufficient remained to take me
1307 home to Yorkshire, providing for needful refreshment
1308 by the way and the omnibus journey at the end.

1309

1310 My kind friend was completely broken down, and said
1311 with tears in his eyes, “I would give all the world for a
1312 faith like yours.” I, on the other hand, had the joy of
1313 telling him that it was to be obtained without money
1314 and without price. We never met again. When I came
1315 back to town, restored to health and strength, I found
1316 that he had had a stroke, and left for the country; and I
1317 subsequently learned that he never rallied. I was able to
1318 gain no information as to his state of mind when taken
1319 away; but I have always felt very thankful that I had
1320 the opportunity, and embraced it, of bearing that
1321 testimony for GOD. I cannot but entertain the hope that
1322 the MASTER Himself was speaking to him through
1323 His dealings with me, and that I shall meet him again in
1324 the Better Land. It would be no small joy to be
1325 welcomed by him, when my own service is over.

1326

1327 The next day found me in my dear parents’ home. My
1328 joy in the LORD’s help and deliverance was so great
1329 that I was unable to keep it to myself, and before my
1330 return to London my dear mother knew the secret of
1331 my life for some time past. I need scarcely say that
1332 when I went up again to town I was not allowed to
1333 live—as, indeed, I was not fit to live—on the same
1334 economical lines as before my illness. I needed more
1335 now, and the LORD did provide.

1336

1337 [Illustration]

1338

1339 [Illustration]

1340

1341

1342

1343

1344 CHAPTER VII

1345

1346 MIGHTY TO SAVE

1347

1348

1349 RETURNING to London when sufficiently recovered
1350 to resume my studies, the busy life of hospital and
1351 lecture-hall was resumed; often relieved by happy
1352 Sundays of fellowship with Christian friends,
1353 especially in London or Tottenham. Opportunities for
1354 service are to be found in every sphere, and mine was
1355 no exception. I shall only mention one case now that
1356 gave me great encouragement in seeking conversion
1357 even when it seemed apparently hopeless.

1358

1359 GOD had given me the joy of winning souls before, but
1360 not in surroundings of such special difficulty. With
1361 GOD all things are possible, and no conversion ever
1362 takes place save by the almighty power of the HOLY
1363 GHOST. The great need, therefore, of every Christian
1364 worker is to know GOD. Indeed, this is the purpose
1365 for which He has given us eternal life, as our
1366 SAVIOUR Himself says, in the oft misquoted verse,
1367 John xvii. 3: "This is [the object of] life eternal, [not
1368 to know but] that they might know Thee the only

1369 true GOD, and JESUS CHRIST, whom Thou hast
1370 sent.” I was now to prove the willingness of GOD to
1371 answer prayer for spiritual blessing under most
1372 unpromising circumstances, and thus to gain an
1373 increased acquaintance with the prayer-answering
1374 GOD as One “mighty to save.”

1375

1376 A short time before leaving for China, it became my
1377 duty daily to dress the foot of a patient suffering from
1378 senile gangrene. The disease commenced, as usual,
1379 insidiously, and the patient had little idea that he was a
1380 doomed man, and probably had not long to live. I was
1381 not the first to attend to him, but when the case was
1382 transferred to me, I naturally became very anxious
1383 about his soul. The family with whom he lived were
1384 Christians, and from them I learned that he was an
1385 avowed atheist, and very antagonistic to anything
1386 religious. They had, without asking his consent, invited
1387 a Scripture reader to visit him, but in great passion he
1388 had ordered him from the room. The vicar of the
1389 district had also called, hoping to help him; but he had
1390 spit in his face, and refused to allow him to speak to
1391 him. His passionate temper was described to me as
1392 very violent, and altogether the case seemed to be as
1393 hopeless as could well be imagined.

1394

1395 Upon first commencing to attend him I prayed much
1396 about it; but for two or three days said nothing to him
1397 of a religious nature. By special care in dressing his
1398 diseased limb I was able considerably to lessen his
1399 sufferings, and he soon began to manifest grateful
1400 appreciation of my services. One day, with a trembling

1401 heart, I took advantage of his warm acknowledgments
1402 to tell him what was the spring of my action, and to
1403 speak of his own solemn position and need of GOD's
1404 mercy through CHRIST. It was evidently only by a
1405 powerful effort of self-restraint that he kept his lips
1406 closed. He turned over in bed with his back to me, and
1407 uttered no word.

1408

1409 I could not get the poor man out of my mind, and very
1410 often through each day I pleaded with GOD, by His
1411 SPIRIT, to save him ere He took him hence. After
1412 dressing the wound and relieving his pain, I never
1413 failed to say a few words to him, which I hoped the
1414 LORD would bless. He always turned his back to me,
1415 looking annoyed, but never spoke a word in reply.

1416

1417 After continuing this for some time, my heart sank. It
1418 seemed to me that I was not only doing no good, but
1419 perhaps really hardening him and increasing his guilt.
1420 One day, after dressing his limb and washing my
1421 hands, instead of returning to the bedside to speak to
1422 him, I went to the door, and stood hesitating for a few
1423 moments with the thought in my mind, "Ephraim is
1424 joined to his idols; let him alone." I looked at the man
1425 and saw his surprise, as it was the first time since
1426 speaking to him that I had attempted to leave without
1427 going up to his bedside to say a few words for my
1428 MASTER. I could bear it no longer. Bursting into tears,
1429 I crossed the room and said, "My friend, whether you
1430 will hear or whether you will forbear, I _must_ deliver
1431 _my_ soul," and went on to speak very earnestly to
1432 him, telling him with many tears how much I wished

1433 that he would let me pray with him. To my
1434 unspeakable joy he did not turn away, but replied, “If it
1435 will be a relief to you, do.” I need scarcely say that I
1436 fell on my knees and poured out my whole soul to
1437 GOD on his behalf. I believe the LORD then and there
1438 wrought a change in his soul.

1439

1440 He was never afterwards unwilling to be spoken to and
1441 prayed with, and within a few days he definitely
1442 accepted CHRIST as his SAVIOUR. Oh the joy it was
1443 to me to see that dear man rejoicing in hope of the
1444 glory of GOD! He told me that for forty years he had
1445 never darkened the door of church or chapel, and that
1446 then—forty years ago—he had only entered a place of
1447 worship to be married, and could not be persuaded to
1448 go inside when his wife was buried. Now, thank GOD,
1449 his sin-stained soul, I had every reason to believe, was
1450 washed, was sanctified, was justified, in the Name of
1451 the LORD JESUS CHRIST and in the SPIRIT of our
1452 GOD. Oftentimes, when in my early work in China
1453 circumstances rendered me almost hopeless of success,
1454 I have thought of this man’s conversion, and have been
1455 encouraged to persevere in speaking the Word, whether
1456 men would hear or whether they would forbear.

1457

1458 The now happy sufferer lived for some time after this
1459 change, and was never tired of bearing testimony to the
1460 grace of GOD. Though his condition was most
1461 distressing, the alteration in his character and behaviour
1462 made the previously painful duty of attending him one
1463 of real pleasure. I have often thought since, in
1464 connection with this case and the work of GOD

1465 generally, of the words, “He that goeth forth
1466 _weeping_, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless
1467 come again rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”
1468 Perhaps if there were more of that intense distress for
1469 souls that leads to tears, we should more frequently see
1470 the results we desire. Sometimes it may be that while
1471 we are complaining of the hardness of the hearts of
1472 those we are seeking to benefit, the hardness of our
1473 own hearts, and our own feeble apprehension of the
1474 solemn reality of eternal things, may be the true cause
1475 of our want of success.

1476

1477 [Illustration]

1478

1479 [Illustration]

1480

1481

1482

1483

1484 CHAPTER VIII

1485

1486 VOYAGE TO CHINA

1487

1488

1489 SOON after this the time so long looked forward to
1490 arrived—the time that I was to leave England for
1491 China. After being set apart with many prayers for the
1492 ministry of GOD’s Word among the heathen Chinese I
1493 left London for Liverpool; and on the 19th of
1494 September 1853 a little service was held in the stern
1495 cabin of the _Dumfries_, which had been secured for

1496 me by the Committee of the Chinese Evangelisation
1497 Society, under whose auspices I was going to China.

1498

1499 My beloved, now sainted, mother had come to see me
1500 off from Liverpool. Never shall I forget that day, nor
1501 how she went with me into the little cabin that was to
1502 be my home for nearly six long months. With a
1503 mother's loving hand she smoothed the little bed. She
1504 sat by my side, and joined me in the last hymn that we
1505 should sing together before the long parting. We knelt
1506 down, and she prayed—the last mother's prayer I was
1507 to hear before starting for China. Then notice was
1508 given that we must separate, and we had to say good-
1509 bye, never expecting to meet on earth again.

1510

1511 For my sake she restrained her feelings as much as
1512 possible. We parted; and she went on shore, giving me
1513 her blessing; I stood alone on deck, and she followed
1514 the ship as we moved towards the dock gates. As we
1515 passed through the gates, and the separation really
1516 commenced, I shall never forget the cry of anguish
1517 wrung from that mother's heart. It went through me
1518 like a knife. I never knew so fully, until then, what
1519 GOD so loved the world meant. And I am quite sure
1520 that my precious mother learned more of the love of
1521 GOD to the perishing in that hour than in all her life
1522 before.

1523

1524 Oh, how it must grieve the heart of GOD when He sees
1525 His children indifferent to the needs of that wide world
1526 for which His beloved, His only begotten SON died!

1527

1528 Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine
1529 ear; Forget also thine own people, and thy father's
1530 house; So shall the KING desire thy beauty:
1531 For He is thy LORD; and worship thou Him.

1532

1533 Praise GOD, the number is increasing who are finding
1534 out the exceeding joys, the wondrous revelations of His
1535 mercies, vouchsafed to those who follow Him, and
1536 emptying themselves, leave all in obedience to His
1537 great commission.

1538

1539 It was on 19th September 1853 that the Dumfries
1540 sailed for China; and not until 1st March, in the spring
1541 of the following year, did I arrive in Shanghai.

1542

1543 Our voyage had a rough beginning, but many had
1544 promised to remember us in constant prayer. No small
1545 comfort was this; for we had scarcely left the Mersey
1546 when a violent equinoctial gale caught us, and for
1547 twelve days we were beating backwards and forwards
1548 in the Irish Channel, unable to get out to sea. The gale
1549 steadily increased, and after almost a week we lay to
1550 for a time; but drifting on a lee coast, we were
1551 compelled again to make sail, and endeavoured to beat
1552 on to windward. The utmost efforts of the captain and
1553 crew, however, were unavailing; and Sunday night,
1554 25th September, found us drifting into Carnarvon Bay,
1555 each tack becoming shorter, until at last we were within
1556 a stone's-throw of the rocks. About this time, as the
1557 ship, which had refused to stay, was put round in the
1558 other direction, the Christian captain said to me, "We
1559 cannot live half an hour now: what of your call to

1560 labour for the LORD in China?" I had previously
1561 passed through a time of much conflict, but that was
1562 over, and it was a great joy to feel and to tell him that I
1563 would not for any consideration be in any other
1564 position; that I strongly expected to reach China; but
1565 that, if otherwise, at any rate the Master would say it
1566 was well that I was found seeking to obey His
1567 command.

1568

1569 Within a few minutes after wearing ship the captain
1570 walked, up to the compass, and said to me, "The wind
1571 has freed two points; we shall be able to beat out of the
1572 bay." And so we did. The bowsprit was sprung and the
1573 vessel seriously strained; but in a few days we got out
1574 to sea, and the necessary repairs were so thoroughly
1575 effected on board that our journey to China was in due
1576 time satisfactorily accomplished.

1577

1578 One thing was a great trouble to me that night. I was a
1579 very young believer, and had not sufficient faith in
1580 GOD to see Him in and through the use of means. I had
1581 felt it a duty to comply with the earnest wish of my
1582 beloved and honoured mother, and for her sake to
1583 procure a swimming-belt. But in my own soul I felt as
1584 if I could not simply trust in GOD while I had this
1585 swimming-belt; and my heart had no rest until on that
1586 night, after all hope of being saved was gone, I had
1587 given it away. Then I had perfect peace; and, strange to
1588 say, put several light things together, likely to float at
1589 the time we struck, without any thought of
1590 inconsistency or scruple. Ever since, I have seen clearly
1591 the mistake I made—a mistake that is very common in

1592 these days, when erroneous teaching on faith-healing
1593 does much harm, misleading some as to the purposes of
1594 GOD, shaking the faith of others, and distressing the
1595 minds of many. The use of means ought not to lessen
1596 our faith in GOD; and our faith in GOD ought not to
1597 hinder our using whatever means He has given us for
1598 the accomplishment of His own purposes.

1599

1600 For years after this I always took a swimming-belt with
1601 me, and never had any trouble about it; for after the
1602 storm was over, the question was settled for me,
1603 through the prayerful study of the Scriptures. GOD
1604 gave me then to see my mistake, probably to deliver
1605 me from a great deal of trouble on similar questions
1606 now so constantly raised. When in medical or surgical
1607 charge of any case, I have never thought of neglecting
1608 to ask GOD's guidance and blessing in the use of
1609 appropriate means, nor yet of omitting to give Him
1610 thanks for answered prayer and restored health. But to
1611 me it would appear as presumptuous and wrong to
1612 neglect the use of those measures which He Himself
1613 has put within our reach, as to neglect to take daily
1614 food, and suppose that life and health might be
1615 maintained by prayer alone.

1616

1617 The voyage was a very tedious one. We lost a good
1618 deal of time on the equator from calms; and when we
1619 finally reached the Eastern Archipelago, were again
1620 detained from the same cause. Usually a breeze would
1621 spring up soon after sunset, and last until about dawn.
1622 The utmost use was made of it, but during the day we
1623 lay still with flapping sails, often drifting back and

1624 losing a good deal of the advantage we had gained
1625 during the night.

1626

1627 This happened notably on one occasion, when we were
1628 in dangerous proximity to the north of New Guinea.
1629 Saturday night had brought us to a point some thirty
1630 miles off the land; but during the Sunday morning
1631 service, which was held on deck, I could not fail to
1632 notice that the captain looked troubled, and frequently
1633 went over to the side of the ship. When the service was
1634 ended, I learnt from him the cause—a four-knot current
1635 was carrying us rapidly towards some sunken reefs,
1636 and we were already so near that it seemed improbable
1637 that we should get through the afternoon in safety.
1638 After dinner the long-boat was put out, and all hands
1639 endeavoured, without success, to turn the ship's head
1640 from the shore. As we drifted nearer we could plainly
1641 see the natives rushing about the sands and lighting
1642 fires every here and there. The captain's horn-book
1643 informed him that these people were cannibals, so that
1644 our position was not a little alarming.

1645

1646 After standing together on the deck for some time in
1647 silence, the captain said to me, "Well, we have done
1648 everything that can be done; we can only await the
1649 result." A thought occurred to me, and I replied, "No,
1650 there is one thing we have not done yet." "What is it?"
1651 he queried. "Four of us on board are Christians," I
1652 answered (the Swedish carpenter and our coloured
1653 steward, with the captain and myself); "let us each
1654 retire to his own cabin, and in agreed prayer ask the

1655 LORD to give us immediately a breeze. He can as
1656 easily send it now as at sunset.”

1657

1658 The captain complied with this proposal. I went and
1659 spoke to the other two men, and after prayer with the
1660 carpenter we all four retired to wait upon GOD. I had a
1661 good but very brief season in prayer, and then felt so
1662 satisfied that our request was granted that I could not
1663 continue asking, and very soon went up again on deck.
1664 The first officer, a godless man, was in charge. I went
1665 over and asked him to let down the clews or corners of
1666 the mainsail, which had been drawn up in order to
1667 lessen the useless flapping of the sail against the
1668 rigging. He answered, “What would be the good of
1669 that?” I told him we had been asking a wind from
1670 GOD, that it was coming immediately, and we were so
1671 near the reef by this time that there was not a minute to
1672 lose. With a look of incredulity and contempt, he said
1673 with an oath that he would rather see a wind than hear
1674 of it! But while he was speaking I watched his eye, and
1675 followed it up to the royal (the topmost sail), and there,
1676 sure enough, the corner of the sail was beginning to
1677 tremble in the coming breeze. “Don’t you see the wind
1678 is coming? Look at the royal!” I exclaimed. “No, it is
1679 only a cat’s-paw,” he rejoined (a mere puff of wind).
1680 “Cat’s-paw or not,” I cried, “pray let down the
1681 mainsail, and let us have the benefit!”

1682

1683 This he was not slow to do. In another minute the
1684 heavy tread of the men on the deck brought up the
1685 captain from his cabin to see what was the matter; and
1686 he saw that the breeze had indeed come. In a few

1687 minutes we were ploughing our way at six or seven
1688 knots an hour through the water, and the multitude of
1689 naked savages whom we had seen on the beach had no
1690 wreckage that night. We were soon out of danger; and
1691 though the wind was sometimes unsteady, we did not
1692 altogether lose it until after passing the Pelew Islands.

1693

1694 Thus GOD encouraged me, ere landing on China's
1695 shores, to bring every variety of need to Him in prayer,
1696 and _to expect that He would honour the Name_ of the
1697 LORD JESUS, and give the help which each
1698 emergency required.

1699

1700 [Illustration]

1701

1702 [Illustration]

1703

1704

1705

1706

1707 CHAPTER IX

1708

1709 EARLY MISSIONARY EXPERIENCES

1710

1711

1712 ON landing in Shanghai on 1st March 1854, I found
1713 myself surrounded with difficulties that were wholly
1714 unexpected. A band of rebels, known as the "Red
1715 Turbans," had taken possession of the native city,
1716 against which was encamped an Imperial army of from
1717 forty to fifty thousand men, who were a much greater
1718 source of discomfort and danger to the little European

1719 community than were the rebels themselves. Upon
1720 landing, I was told that to live outside the Settlement
1721 was impossible, while within the foreign concession
1722 apartments were scarcely obtainable at any price. The
1723 dollar, now worth about three shillings, had risen to a
1724 value of eight-and-ninepence, and the prospect for one
1725 with only a small income of English money was dark
1726 indeed. However, I had three letters of introduction,
1727 and counted on counsel and help, especially from one
1728 of those to whom I had been commended, whose
1729 friends I well knew and highly valued. Of course I
1730 sought him out at once, but only to learn that he had
1731 been buried a month or two before, having died from
1732 fever during the time of my voyage.

1733
1734 Saddened by these tidings, I inquired for a missionary
1735 to whom another of my letters of introduction was
1736 addressed; but a further disappointment awaited me—
1737 he had left for America. The third letter remained; but
1738 as it had been given by a comparative stranger, I had
1739 expected less from it than from the other two. It
1740 proved, however, to be GOD's channel of help. The
1741 Rev. Dr. Medhurst, of the London Mission, to whom it
1742 was addressed, introduced me to Dr. Lockhart, who
1743 kindly allowed me to live with him for six months. Dr.
1744 Medhurst procured my first Chinese teacher; and he,
1745 Dr. Edkins, and the late Mr. Alexander Wylie gave me
1746 considerable help with the language.

1747
1748 Those were indeed troublous times, and times of
1749 danger. Coming out of the city one day with Mr.
1750 Wylie, he entered into conversation with two coolies,

1751 while we waited a little while at the East Gate for a
1752 companion who was behind us. Before our companion
1753 came up an attack upon the city from the batteries on
1754 the opposite side of the river commenced, which
1755 caused us to hurry away to a place of less danger, the
1756 whiz of the balls being unpleasantly near. The coolies,
1757 unfortunately, stayed too long, and were wounded. On
1758 reaching the Settlement we stopped a few minutes to
1759 make a purchase, and then proceeded at once to the
1760 London Mission compound, where, at the door of the
1761 hospital, we found the two poor coolies with whom Mr.
1762 Wylie had conversed, their four ankles terribly
1763 shattered by a cannon ball. The poor fellows declined
1764 amputation, and both died. We felt how narrow had
1765 been our escape.

1766

1767 At another time, early in the morning, I had joined one
1768 of the missionaries on his verandah to watch the battle
1769 proceeding, at a distance of perhaps three-quarters of a
1770 mile, when suddenly a spent ball passed between us
1771 and buried itself in the verandah wall. Another day my
1772 friend Mr. Wylie left a book on the table after
1773 luncheon, and returning for it about five minutes later,
1774 found the arm of the chair on which he had been sitting
1775 shot clean away. But in the midst of these and many
1776 other dangers GOD protected us.

1777

1778 After six months' stay with Dr. Lockhart, I rented a
1779 native house outside the Settlement, and commenced a
1780 little missionary work amongst my Chinese
1781 neighbours, which for a few months continued
1782 practicable. When the French joined the Imperialists in

1783 attacking the city, the position of my house became so
1784 dangerous that during the last few weeks, in
1785 consequence of nightly recurring skirmishes, I gave up
1786 attempting to sleep except in the daytime. One night a
1787 fire appeared very near, and I climbed up to a little
1788 observatory I had arranged on the roof of the house, to
1789 see whether it was necessary to attempt escape. While
1790 there a ball struck the ridge of the roof on the opposite
1791 side of the quadrangle, showering pieces of broken tile
1792 all around me, while the ball itself rolled down into the
1793 court below. It weighed four or five pounds; and had it
1794 come a few inches higher, would probably have spent
1795 its force on me instead of on the building. My dear
1796 mother kept the ball for many years. Shortly after this I
1797 had to abandon the house and return to the Foreign
1798 Settlement—a step that was taken none too soon, for
1799 before the last of my belongings were removed, the
1800 house was burnt to the ground.

1801

1802 Of the trials of this early period it is scarcely possible
1803 to convey any adequate idea. To one of a sensitive
1804 nature, the horrors, atrocities, and misery connected
1805 with war were a terrible ordeal. The embarrassment
1806 also of the times was considerable. With an income of
1807 only eighty pounds a year, I was compelled, upon
1808 moving into the Settlement, to give one hundred and
1809 twenty for rent, and sublet half the house; and though
1810 the Committee of the Chinese Evangelisation Society
1811 increased my income when, after the arrival of Dr.
1812 Parker, they learned more of our circumstances, many
1813 painful experiences had necessarily been passed
1814 through. Few can realise how distressing to so young

1815 and untried a worker these difficulties seemed, or the
1816 intense loneliness of the position of a pioneer who
1817 could not even hint at many of his circumstances, as to
1818 do so would have been a tacit appeal for help.

1819

1820 The great enemy is always ready with his oft-repeated
1821 suggestion, "All these things are against me." But oh,
1822 how false the word! The cold, and even the hunger, the
1823 watchings and sleeplessness of nights of danger, and
1824 the feeling at times of utter isolation and helplessness,
1825 were well and wisely chosen, and tenderly and lovingly
1826 meted out. What circumstances could have rendered
1827 the Word of GOD more sweet, the presence of GOD
1828 more real, the help of GOD more precious? They were
1829 times, indeed, of emptying and humbling, but were
1830 experiences that made not ashamed, and that
1831 strengthened purpose to go forward as GOD might
1832 direct, with His proved promise, "I will not fail thee,
1833 nor forsake thee." One can see, even now, that as for
1834 GOD, His way is perfect, and yet can rejoice that the
1835 missionary path of to-day is comparatively a smooth
1836 and an easy one.

1837

1838 Journeying inland was contrary to treaty arrangements,
1839 and attended with much difficulty, especially for some
1840 time after the battle of Muddy Flat, in which an Anglo-
1841 American contingent of about three hundred marines
1842 and seamen, with a volunteer corps of less than a
1843 hundred residents, attacked the Imperial camp, and
1844 drove away from thirty to fifty thousand Chinese
1845 soldiers, the range of our shot and shell making the
1846 native artillery useless. Still, in the autumn of 1854 a

1847 journey of perhaps a week's duration was safely
1848 accomplished with Dr. Edkins, who of course did the
1849 speaking and preaching, while I was able to help in the
1850 distribution of books.

1851

1852 [Illustration]

1853

1854

1855

1856

1857 CHAPTER X

1858

1859 FIRST EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS

1860

1861

1862 A JOURNEY taken in the spring of 1855 with the Rev.
1863 J. S. Burden of the Church Missionary Society (now
1864 the Bishop of Victoria, Hong-kong) was attended with
1865 some serious dangers.

1866

1867 In the great mouth of the river Yang-tse, distant some
1868 thirty miles to the north of Shanghai, lies the group of
1869 islands of which Ts'ung-ming and Hai-men are the
1870 largest and most important; and farther up the river,
1871 where the estuary narrows away from the sea, is
1872 situated the influential city of T'ung-chau, close to
1873 Lang-shan, or the Wolf Mountains, famous as a resort
1874 for pilgrim devotees. We spent some time in
1875 evangelising on those islands, and then proceeded to
1876 Lang-shan, where we preached and gave books to
1877 thousands of the devotees who were attending an
1878 idolatrous festival. From thence we went on to T'ung-

1879 chau, and of our painful experiences there the
1880 following journal will tell:—

1881

1882

1883 _Thursday, April 26th, 1855._

1884

1885 After breakfast we commended ourselves to the care of
1886 our Heavenly FATHER, and sought His Blessing
1887 before proceeding to this great city. The day was dull
1888 and wet. We felt persuaded that Satan would not allow
1889 us to assail his kingdom, as we were attempting to do,
1890 without raising serious opposition; but we were also
1891 fully assured that it was the will of GOD that we
1892 should preach CHRIST in this city, and distribute the
1893 Word of Truth among its people. We were sorry that
1894 we had but few books left for such an important place:
1895 the result, however, proved that this also was
1896 providential.

1897

1898 Our native teachers did their best to persuade us not to
1899 go into the city; but we determined that, by GOD'S
1900 help, nothing should hinder us. We directed them,
1901 however, to remain in one of the boats; and if we did
1902 not return, to learn whatever they could respecting our
1903 fate, and make all possible haste to Shanghai with the
1904 information. We also arranged that the other boat
1905 should wait for us, even if we could not get back that
1906 night, so that we might not be detained for want of a
1907 boat in case of returning later. We then put our books
1908 into two bags, and with a servant who always
1909 accompanied us on these occasions, set off for the city,
1910 distant about seven miles. Walking was out of the

1911 question, from the state of the roads, so we availed
1912 ourselves of wheel-barrows, the only conveyance to be
1913 had in these parts. A wheel-barrow is cheaper than a
1914 sedan, only requiring one coolie; but is by no means an
1915 agreeable conveyance on rough, dirty roads.

1916

1917 We had not gone far before the servant requested
1918 permission to go back, as he was thoroughly frightened
1919 by reports concerning the native soldiery. Of course we
1920 at once consented, not wishing to involve another in
1921 trouble, and determined to carry the books ourselves,
1922 and look for physical as well as spiritual strength to
1923 Him who had promised to supply all our need.

1924

1925 At this point a respectable man came up, and earnestly
1926 warned us against proceeding, saying that if we did we
1927 should find to our sorrow what the T'ung-chau militia
1928 were like. We thanked him for his kindly counsel, but
1929 could not act upon it, as our hearts were fixed, whether
1930 it were to bonds, imprisonment, and death, or whether
1931 to distribute our Scriptures and tracts in safety, and
1932 return unhurt, we knew not; but we were determined,
1933 by the grace of GOD, not to leave T'ung-chau any
1934 longer without the Gospel, nor its teeming thousands to
1935 die in uncared-for ignorance of the Way of life.

1936

1937 After this my wheel-barrow man would proceed no
1938 farther, and I had to seek another, who was fortunately
1939 not difficult to find. As we went on, the ride in the mud
1940 and rain was anything but agreeable, and we could not
1941 help feeling the danger of our position, although
1942 wavering not for a moment. At intervals we

1943 encouraged one another with promises from the
1944 Scripture and verses of hymns. That verse—

1945

1946 “The perils of the sea, the perils of the land, Should not
1947 dishearten thee: thy LORD is nigh at hand. But should
1948 thy courage fail, when tried and sore oppressed, His
1949 promise shall avail, and set thy soul at rest.”

1950

1951 seemed particularly appropriate to our circumstances,
1952 and was very comforting to me.

1953

1954 On our way we passed through one small town of about
1955 a thousand inhabitants; and here, in the Mandarin
1956 dialect, I preached JESUS to a good number of people.
1957 Never was I so happy in speaking of the love of GOD
1958 and the atonement of JESUS CHRIST. My own soul
1959 was richly blessed, and filled with joy and peace; and I
1960 was able to speak with unusual freedom and ease. And
1961 how rejoiced I was when, afterwards, I heard one of
1962 our hearers repeating to the newcomers, in his own
1963 local dialect, the truths upon which I had been
1964 dwelling! Oh, how thankful I felt to hear a Chinaman,
1965 of his own accord, telling his fellow-countrymen that
1966 GOD loved them; that they were sinners, but that
1967 JESUS died instead of them, and paid the penalty of
1968 their guilt. That one moment repaid me for all the trials
1969 we had passed through; and I felt that if the LORD
1970 should grant HIS HOLY SPIRIT to change the heart of
1971 that man, we had not come in vain.

1972

1973 We distributed a few Testaments and tracts, for the
1974 people were able to read, and we could not leave them

1975 without the Gospel. It was well that we did so, for
1976 when we reached T'ung-chau we found we had quite as
1977 many left as we had strength to carry.

1978

1979 Nearing the end of our journey, as we approached the
1980 western suburb of the city, the prayer of the early
1981 Christians, when persecution was commencing, came
1982 to my mind: "And now, LORD, behold their
1983 threatenings, and grant unto Thy servants that with all
1984 boldness they may speak Thy Word." In this petition
1985 we most heartily united. Before entering the suburb we
1986 laid our plans, so as to act in concert, and told our
1987 wheel-barrow men where to await us, that they might
1988 not be involved in any trouble on our account. Then
1989 looking up to our Heavenly FATHER, we committed
1990 ourselves to His keeping, took our books, and set on for
1991 the city.

1992

1993 For some distance we walked along the principal street
1994 of the suburb leading to the West Gate unmolested, and
1995 were amused at the unusual title of Heh-kwei-tsi
1996 (black devils) which was applied to us. We wondered
1997 about it at the time, but afterwards found that it was our
1998 clothes, and not our skin, that gave rise to it. As we
1999 passed several of the soldiers, I remarked to Mr.
2000 Burdon that these were the men we had heard so much
2001 about, and that they seemed willing to receive us
2002 quietly enough. Long before we reached the gate,
2003 however, a tall powerful man, made tenfold fiercer by
2004 partial intoxication, let us know that all the militia were
2005 not so peaceably inclined, by seizing Mr. Burdon by
2006 the shoulders. My companion endeavoured to shake

2007 him off. I turned to see what was the matter, and at
2008 once we were surrounded by a dozen or more brutal
2009 men, who hurried us on to the city at a fearful pace.

2010

2011 My bag now began to feel very heavy, and I could not
2012 change hands to relieve myself. I was soon in a profuse
2013 perspiration, and was scarcely able to keep pace with
2014 them. We demanded to be taken before the chief
2015 magistrate, but were told that they knew where to take
2016 us, and what to do with such persons as we were, with
2017 the most insulting epithets. The man who first seized
2018 Mr. Burdon soon afterwards left him for me, and
2019 became my principal tormentor; for I was neither so
2020 tall nor so strong as my friend, and was therefore less
2021 able to resist him. He all but knocked me down again
2022 and again, seized me by the hair, took hold of my collar
2023 so as to almost choke me, and grasped my arms and
2024 shoulders, making them black and blue. Had this
2025 treatment continued much longer, I must have fainted.
2026 All but exhausted, how refreshing was the
2027 remembrance of a verse quoted by my dear mother in
2028 one of my last home letters—

2029

2030 “We speak of the realms of the blest,
2031 That country so bright and so fair,
2032 And oft are its glories confessed;
2033 But what must it be to be there!”

2034

2035 To be absent from the body! to be present with the
2036 LORD! to be free from sin! And this is the end of the
2037 worst that man’s malice can ever bring upon us.

2038

2039 As we were walking along Mr. Burdon tried to give
2040 away a few books that he was carrying, not knowing
2041 whether we might have another opportunity of doing
2042 so; but the fearful rage of the soldier, and the way he
2043 insisted on manacles being brought, which fortunately
2044 were not at hand, convinced us that in our present
2045 position we could do no good in attempting book-
2046 distribution. There was nothing to be done but quietly
2047 to submit, and go along with our captors.

2048

2049 Once or twice a quarrel arose as to how we should be
2050 dealt with; the more mild of our conductors saying that
2051 we ought to be taken to the magistrate's office, but
2052 others wishing to kill us at once without appeal to any
2053 authority. Our minds were kept in perfect peace; and
2054 when thrown together on one of these occasions, we
2055 reminded each other that the Apostles rejoiced that they
2056 were counted worthy to suffer in the cause of
2057 CHRIST. Having succeeded in getting my hand into
2058 my pocket, I produced a Chinese card (if the large red
2059 paper, bearing one's name, may be so called), and after
2060 this was treated with more respect. I demanded it
2061 should be given to the chief official of the place, and
2062 that we should be led to his office. Before this we had
2063 been unable, say what we would, to persuade them that
2064 we were foreigners, although we were both in English
2065 attire.

2066

2067 Oh the long weary streets that we were dragged
2068 through! I thought they would never end; and seldom
2069 have I felt more thankful than when we stopped at a
2070 place where we were told a mandarin resided. Quite

2071 exhausted, bathed in perspiration, and with my tongue
2072 cleaving to the roof of my mouth, I leaned against the
2073 wall, and saw that Mr. Burdon was in much the same
2074 condition. I requested them to bring us chairs, but they
2075 told us to wait; and when I begged them to give us
2076 some tea, received only the same answer. Round the
2077 doorway a large crowd had gathered; and Mr. Burdon,
2078 collecting his remaining strength, preached CHRIST
2079 JESUS to them. Our cards and books had been taken in
2080 to the mandarin, but he proved to be one of low rank,
2081 and after keeping us waiting for some time he referred
2082 us to his superiors in office.

2083

2084 Upon hearing this, and finding that it was their purpose
2085 to turn us out again into the crowded streets, we
2086 positively refused to move a single step, and insisted on
2087 chairs being brought. After some demur this was done;
2088 we seated ourselves in them, and were carried on. On
2089 the road we felt so glad of the rest which the chairs
2090 afforded us, and so thankful at having been able to
2091 preach JESUS in spite of Satan's malice, that our joy
2092 was depicted on our countenances; and as we passed
2093 along we heard some say that we did not look like bad
2094 men, while others seemed to pity us. When we arrived
2095 at the magistrate's office, I wondered where we were
2096 being taken; for though we passed through some great
2097 gates that looked like those of the city wall, we were
2098 still evidently within the city. A second pair of gates
2099 suggested the idea that it was a prison into which we
2100 were being carried; but when we came in sight of a
2101 large tablet, with the inscription “_Ming ch fu mu_”
2102 (the father and mother of the people), we felt that we

2103 had been conveyed to the right place; this being the
2104 title assumed by the mandarins.

2105

2106 Our cards were again sent in, and after a short delay we
2107 were taken into the presence of Ch'en Ta Lao-ie (the
2108 Great Venerable Father Ch'en), who, as it proved, had
2109 formerly been Tao-tai of Shanghai, and consequently
2110 knew the importance of treating foreigners with
2111 courtesy. Coming before him, some of the people fell
2112 on their knees and bowed down to the ground, and my
2113 conductor motioned for me to do the same, but without
2114 success. This mandarin, who seemed to be the highest
2115 authority of T'ung-chau, and wore an opaque blue
2116 button on his cap, came out to meet us, and treated us
2117 with every possible token of respect. He took us to an
2118 inner apartment, a more private room, but was followed
2119 by a large number of writers, runners, and other semi-
2120 officials. I related the object of our visit, and begged
2121 permission to give him copies of our books and tracts,
2122 for which he thanked me. As I handed him a copy of
2123 the New Testament with part of the Old (from Genesis
2124 to Ruth) and some tracts, I tried to explain a little about
2125 them, and also to give him a brief summary of our
2126 teachings. . . . He listened very attentively, as of course
2127 did all the others present. He then ordered some
2128 refreshments to be brought in, which were very
2129 welcome, and himself partook of them with us.

2130

2131 After a long stay, we asked permission to see
2132 something of the city, and to distribute the books we
2133 had brought, before our return. To this he kindly
2134 consented. We then mentioned that we had been most

2135 disrespectfully treated as we came in, but that we did
2136 not attach much importance to the fact, being aware
2137 that the soldiers knew no better. Not desiring, however,
2138 to have such an experience repeated, we requested him
2139 to give orders that we were not to be further molested.
2140 This also he promised to do, and with every possible
2141 token of respect accompanied us to the door of his
2142 official residence, sending several runners to see that
2143 we were respectfully treated. We distributed our books
2144 well and quickly, and left the city quite in state. It was
2145 amusing to us to see the way in which the runners
2146 made use of their tails. When the street was blocked by
2147 the crowd, they turned them into whips, and laid them
2148 about the people's shoulders to right and left!

2149
2150 We had a little trouble in finding our wheel-barrows;
2151 but eventually succeeding, we paid off the chair
2152 coolies, mounted our humble vehicles, and returned to
2153 the river, accompanied for fully half the distance by an
2154 attendant from the magistrate's office. Early in the
2155 evening we got back to the boats in safety, sincerely
2156 thankful to our Heavenly FATHER for His gracious
2157 protection and aid.

2158

2159 [Illustration]

2160

2161

2162

2163

2164 CHAPTER XI

2165

2166 WITH THE REV. WILLIAM BURNS

2167

2168

2169 AFTER the retaking of Shanghai by the Imperialists, in
2170 February 1855, I was enabled to rent a house within the
2171 walls of the native city, and gladly availed myself of
2172 this opportunity to reside amidst the crowded
2173 population left to inhabit the ruins that had survived the
2174 war. Here I made my headquarters, though often absent
2175 on more or less prolonged itinerations.

2176

2177 At the suggestion of the Rev. Dr. Medhurst, the veteran
2178 leader of the London Mission, I was led at about this
2179 period to adopt the native costume in preference to
2180 foreign dress, to facilitate travel and residence inland.
2181 The Chinese had permitted a foreign firm to build a silk
2182 factory some distance inland, with the proviso that the
2183 style of building must be purely Chinese, and that there
2184 should be nothing external to suggest that it was
2185 foreign. Much benefit was found to result from this
2186 change of costume; and I, and most of those associated
2187 with me, have continued to use native dress.

2188

2189 The T'ai-p'ing rebellion, commenced in 1851, had by
2190 this time reached the height of its ephemeral success.
2191 The great city of Nan-king had fallen before the
2192 invading host; and there, within two hundred miles of
2193 Shanghai, the rebels had established their headquarters,
2194 and proceeded to fortify themselves for further
2195 conquests. During the summer of 1855 various
2196 attempts were made to visit the leaders of the
2197 movement, in order to bring to bear some decidedly

2198 Christian influence upon them; but so little success was
2199 met with, that these efforts were abandoned.

2200

2201 I, amongst others, had sought to reach Nan-king; but
2202 finding it impossible to do so, turned my attention
2203 again to evangelistic work on the island of Ts'ung-
2204 ming. After some time I was enabled so far to
2205 overcome the prejudice and fears of the people as to
2206 rent a little house and settle down in their midst. This
2207 was a great joy and encouragement to me; but before
2208 many weeks were over complaints were made by the
2209 local authorities to the British Consul, who compelled
2210 me to retire; though the French Consul had himself
2211 secured to the Romish missionaries a property within
2212 three or four miles of the house I had to vacate. Sorely
2213 tried and disappointed by this unexpected hindrance, I
2214 reluctantly returned to Shanghai, little dreaming of the
2215 blessing that GOD had in store for me there.

2216

2217 A few months previously the Rev. William Burns, of
2218 the English Presbyterian Mission, had arrived in that
2219 port on his return journey from home; and before
2220 proceeding to his former sphere of service in the
2221 southern province of FU-KIEN, he had endeavoured,
2222 like myself, without success, to visit the T'ai-p'ing
2223 rebels at Nan-king. Failing in this attempt, he made his
2224 headquarters in Shanghai for a season, devoting
2225 himself to the evangelisation of the surrounding
2226 populous regions. Thus in the autumn of the year I was
2227 providentially led into association with this beloved
2228 and honoured servant of GOD.

2229

2230 We journeyed together, evangelising cities and towns
2231 in southern KIANG-SU and north CHEH-KIANG,
2232 living in our boats, and following the course of the
2233 canals and rivers which here spread like a network over
2234 the whole face of the rich and fertile country. Mr.
2235 Burns at that time was wearing English dress; but saw
2236 that while I was the younger and in every way less
2237 experienced, I had the quiet hearers, while he was
2238 followed by the rude boys, and by the curious but
2239 careless; that I was invited to the homes of the people,
2240 while he received an apology that the crowd that would
2241 follow precluded his being invited. After some weeks
2242 of observation he also adopted the native dress, and
2243 enjoyed the increased facilities which it gave.

2244

2245 Those happy months were an unspeakable joy and
2246 privilege to me. His love for the Word was delightful,
2247 and his holy, reverential life and constant communings
2248 with GOD made fellowship with him satisfying to the
2249 deep cravings of my heart. His accounts of revival
2250 work and of persecutions in Canada, and Dublin, and in
2251 Southern China were most instructive, as well as
2252 interesting; for with true spiritual insight he often
2253 pointed out GOD's purposes in trial in a way that made
2254 all life assume quite a new aspect and value. His views
2255 especially about evangelism as the great work of the
2256 Church, and the order of lay evangelists as a lost order
2257 that Scripture required to be restored, were seed-
2258 thoughts which were to prove fruitful in the subsequent
2259 organisation of the China Inland Mission.

2260

2261 Externally, however, our path was not always a smooth
2262 one; but when permitted to stay for any length of time
2263 in town or city, the opportunity was well utilised. We
2264 were in the habit of leaving our boats, after prayer for
2265 blessing, at about nine o'clock in the morning, with a
2266 light bamboo stool in hand. Selecting a suitable station,
2267 one would mount the stool and speak for twenty
2268 minutes, while the other was pleading for blessing; and
2269 then changing places, the voice of the first speaker had
2270 a rest. After an hour or two thus occupied, we would
2271 move on to another point at some distance from the
2272 first, and speak again. Usually about midday we
2273 returned to our boats for dinner, fellowship, and prayer,
2274 and then resumed our out-door work until dusk. After
2275 tea and further rest, we would go with our native
2276 helpers to some tea-shop, where several hours might be
2277 spent in free conversation with the people. Not
2278 infrequently before leaving a town we had good reason
2279 to believe that much truth had been grasped; and we
2280 placed many Scriptures and books in the hands of those
2281 interested. The following letter was written by Mr.
2282 Burns to his mother at home in Scotland about this
2283 time:—

2284

2285

2286 “TWENTY-FIVE MILES FROM SHANGHAI,
2287 _January 26th, 1856_.

2288

2289 “Taking advantage of a rainy day which confines me to
2290 my boat, I pen a few lines, in addition to a letter to
2291 Dundee, containing particulars which I need not repeat.
2292 It is now forty-one days since I left Shanghai on this

2293 last occasion. A young English missionary, Mr. Taylor,
2294 of the Chinese Evangelisation Society, has been my
2295 companion during these weeks—he in his boat, and I in
2296 mine—and we have experienced much mercy, and on
2297 some occasions considerable assistance in our work.

2298

2299 “I must once more tell the story I have had to tell
2300 already more than once—how four weeks ago, on
2301 December 29th, I put on the Chinese dress, which I am
2302 now wearing. Mr. Taylor had made this change a few
2303 months before, and I found that he was, in
2304 consequence, so much less incommoded in preaching,
2305 etc., by the crowd, that I concluded it was my duty to
2306 follow his example. We were at that time more than
2307 double the distance from Shanghai that we are now,
2308 and would still have been at as great a distance had we
2309 not met at one place with a band of lawless people,
2310 who demanded money and threatened to break our
2311 boats if their demands were refused. The boatmen were
2312 very much alarmed, and insisted on returning to some
2313 place nearer home. These people had previously broken
2314 in, violently, a part of Mr. Taylor’s boat, because their
2315 unreasonable demand for books was not complied with.

2316

2317 “We have a large, very large, field of labour in this
2318 region, though it might be difficult in the meantime for
2319 one to establish himself in any particular place; the
2320 people listen with attention, but we need the Power
2321 from on High to convince and convert. Is there any
2322 spirit of prayer on our behalf among GOD’s people in
2323 Kilsyth? or is there any effort to seek this spirit? How
2324 great the need is, and how great the arguments and

2325 motives for prayer in this case. The harvest here is
2326 indeed great, and the labourers are few, and imperfectly
2327 fitted without much grace for such a work. And yet
2328 grace can make the few and feeble instruments the
2329 means of accomplishing great things—things greater
2330 than we can even conceive.”

2331

2332 The incident referred to in this letter, which led to our
2333 return to Shanghai more speedily than we had at first
2334 intended, took place on the northern border of CHEH-
2335 KIANG. We had reached a busy market town known
2336 by the name of Wu-chen, or Black Town, the
2337 inhabitants of which, we had been told, were the
2338 wildest and most lawless people in that part of the
2339 country. Such indeed we found them to be: the town
2340 was a refuge for salt smugglers and other bad
2341 characters. The following extracts are taken from my
2342 journal, written at the time:—

2343

2344

2345 _January 8th, 1856._

2346

2347 Commenced our work in Wu-chen this morning by
2348 distributing a large number of tracts and some
2349 Testaments. The people seemed much surprised, and
2350 we could not learn that any foreigner had been here
2351 before. We preached twice—once in the temple of the
2352 God of War, and afterwards in an empty space left by a
2353 fire, which had completely destroyed many houses. In
2354 the afternoon we preached again to a large and
2355 attentive audience on the same site; and in the evening
2356 adjourned to a tea-shop, where we had a good

2357 opportunity of speaking until it got noised abroad that
2358 we were there, when, too many people coming in, we
2359 were obliged to leave. Our native assistants, Tsien and
2360 Kuei-hua, were able, however, to remain. Returning to
2361 our boats, we spoke to a number of people standing on
2362 a bridge, and felt we had abundant reason to be
2363 thankful and encouraged by the result of our first day's
2364 labour.

2365

2366

2367 _January 10th._

2368

2369 First sent Tsien and Kuei-hua to distribute some sheet
2370 tracts. After their return we went with them, and in a
2371 space cleared by fire we separated, and addressed two
2372 audiences. On our return to the boats for lunch, we
2373 found people waiting, as usual, and desiring books.
2374 Some were distributed to those who were able to read
2375 them; and then asking them kindly to excuse us while
2376 we took our midday meal, I went into my boat and shut
2377 the door.

2378

2379 Hardly was there time to pour out a cup of tea when a
2380 battering began, and the roof was at once broken in. I
2381 went out at the back, and found four or five men taking
2382 the large lumps of frozen earth turned up in a field
2383 close by—weighing, I should suppose, from seven to
2384 fourteen pounds each—and throwing them at the boat.
2385 Remonstrance was of no avail, and it was not long ere a
2386 considerable part of the upper structure of the boat was
2387 broken to pieces, and a quantity of earth covered the
2388 things inside. Finally, Tsien got a boat that was passing

2389 to land him at a short distance, and by a few tracts drew
2390 away the attention of the men, thus ending the assault.

2391

2392 We now learned that of those who had done the
2393 mischief only two were natives of the place, the others
2394 being salt smugglers, and that the cause was our not
2395 having satisfied their unreasonable demand for books.
2396 Most providentially no one was injured; and as soon as
2397 quiet was somewhat restored, we all met in Mr.
2398 Burns's boat and joined in thanksgiving that we had
2399 been preserved from personal harm, praying also for
2400 the perpetrators of the mischief, and that it might be
2401 over-ruled for good to us and to those with us. We then
2402 took our lunch and went on shore, and but a few steps
2403 from the boats addressed a large multitude that soon
2404 assembled. We were specially assisted; never were we
2405 heard with more attention, and not one voice was found
2406 to sympathise with the men who had molested us. In
2407 the evening, at the tea-shops, the same spirit was
2408 manifested, and some seemed to hear with joy the glad
2409 tidings of salvation through a crucified and risen
2410 SAVIOUR.

2411

2412 As we came home we passed a barber's shop still open,
2413 and I went in, and while getting my head shaved had an
2414 opportunity of speaking to a few people, and
2415 afterwards pasted a couple of sheet tracts on the wall
2416 for the benefit of future customers.

2417

2418

2419 _January 11th._

2420

2421 A respectable shop-keeper of the name of Yao, who on
2422 the first or second day of our stay at Wu-chen had
2423 received portions of the New Testament and a tract,
2424 came yesterday, when our boat was broken, to beg for
2425 some more books. At that time we were all in
2426 confusion from the damage done, and from the earth
2427 thrown into the boat, and so invited him to come again
2428 in a day or two's time, when we would gladly supply
2429 him. This morning he appeared and handed in the
2430 following note:—

2431
2432 “On a former day I begged Burns and Taylor, the two
2433 ‘_Rabbis_,’ to give me good books. It happened at that
2434 time those of our town whose hearts were deceived by
2435 _Satan_, not knowing the _Son of David_, went so far
2436 as to dare to ‘_raca_’ and ‘_moreh_’ and injure your
2437 respected boat. I thank you for promising afterwards to
2438 give the books, and beg the following: Complete New
2439 Testament, ‘Discourse of a Good Man when near his
2440 Death,’ ‘Important Christian Doctrines,’ an Almanack,
2441 ‘Principles of Christianity,’ ‘Way to make the World
2442 happy,’—of each one copy. Sung and Tsien, and all
2443 teachers I hope are well. Further compliments are
2444 unwritten.”

2445
2446 This note is interesting, as showing that he had been
2447 reading the New Testament attentively, as the italicised
2448 words were all taken from it. His use of “raca” and
2449 “moreh” for reviling, shows their meaning was not lost
2450 upon him.

2451

2452 After supplying this man, we went out with Tsien and
2453 Kuei-hua to the east of the town, and spoke in the street
2454 for a short time. Upon returning to the boats, I was
2455 visited by two CHIH-LI men, who are in the
2456 magistrate's office here. I was greatly helped in
2457 speaking to them of a crucified SAVIOUR in the
2458 Mandarin dialect; and though one of them did not pay
2459 much attention, the other did, and made inquiries that
2460 showed the interest he was feeling. When they had left,
2461 I went on shore and spoke to the people collected there,
2462 to whom Kuei-hua had been preaching. The setting sun
2463 afforded a parable, and reminded one of the words of
2464 JESUS, "The night cometh, when no man can work;"
2465 and as I spoke of the uncertain duration of this life, and
2466 of our ignorance as to the time of CHRIST'S return, a
2467 degree of deep seriousness prevailed that I had never
2468 previously witnessed in China. I engaged in prayer, and
2469 the greatest decorum was observed. I then returned to
2470 my boat with a Buddhist priest who had been in the
2471 audience, and he admitted that Buddhism was a system
2472 of deceit that could give no hope in death.

2473

2474

2475 _January 12th._

2476

2477 In the afternoon we addressed the people on shore
2478 close to our boats, also in one of the streets of the city,
2479 and in a tea-shop, books being distributed on each
2480 occasion. In the evening we went as usual to speak in
2481 the tea-shops, but determined to go to the opposite end
2482 of the town, in order to afford those who lived there a
2483 better opportunity of meeting with us. It was a long

2484 straggling place, nearly two English miles in length. As
2485 Mr. Burns and I were accustomed to talk together in
2486 Chinese, this conclusion was known to those in the
2487 boats.

2488

2489 After we had proceeded a short distance we changed
2490 our minds, and went instead to the usual tea-shop,
2491 thinking that persons might have gone there expecting
2492 to meet us. But this was not the case; and we did not
2493 find such serious hearers as we had done on previous
2494 occasions. On this account Mr. Burns proposed leaving
2495 earlier than usual, and we did so, telling Tsien and
2496 Kuei-hua that they might remain a little longer.
2497 Returning to the boats, we gave away a few books; but,
2498 singularly enough, were left to go alone, no one
2499 accompanying us, as is so generally the case. Instead of
2500 being a clear night, as it was when we started, we
2501 found that it had become intensely dark. On our way
2502 we met the boatman, whose manner seemed very
2503 strange, and without giving us any explanation he blew
2504 out the candle of our lantern; we relighted the lantern,
2505 telling him not to put it out again, when to our surprise
2506 he deliberately removed the candle and threw it into the
2507 canal. He then walked down along a low wall jutting
2508 out to the river's edge, and gazed into the water.

2509

2510 Not knowing what was the matter with him, I ran
2511 forward to hold him, fearful lest he were going to
2512 drown himself; but to my great relief he came quietly
2513 back. In answer to our repeated questions he told us not
2514 to speak, for some bad men were seeking to destroy the
2515 boats, and they had moved away to avoid them. He

2516 then led us to the place where one of them was lying.
2517 Before long Tsien and Kuei-hua came and got safely
2518 on board, and soon after we were joined by the teacher
2519 Sung, and the boat moved away.

2520

2521 The cause of all this disturbance was then explained. A
2522 man professing to be the constable had come to the
2523 boats in our absence, with a written demand for ten
2524 dollars and a quantity of opium. He stated that there
2525 were more than fifty country people (salt smugglers)
2526 awaiting our reply in an adjoining tea-shop; and if we
2527 gave them what they wanted, and three hundred cash to
2528 pay for their tea, we might remain in peace; but that if
2529 not, they would come at once and destroy our boats.
2530 Sung told them that we could not comply with their
2531 demand; for, not being engaged in trade, but only in
2532 preaching and book-distribution, we had not an atom of
2533 opium, and that our money was nearly all expended.
2534 The man, however, told him plainly that he did not
2535 believe him, and Sung had no alternative but to seek us
2536 out, desiring the man to await our reply. Not knowing
2537 that we had changed our plans, he sought us in the
2538 wrong direction, and of course in vain.

2539

2540 In the meanwhile the boatmen had succeeded in
2541 moving off. They were very much alarmed; and having
2542 so recently had proof of what these men would do in
2543 open daylight, felt no desire to experience what they
2544 might attempt by night. Moving away, therefore, they
2545 had separated, so that if one boat should be injured the
2546 other might afford us a refuge. It was after this that we
2547 had providentially met the boatman, and had been

2548 safely led on board. As Sung repassed the place where
2549 we were previously moored, he saw between the trees a
2550 dozen or more men, and heard them inquiring where
2551 the boats had gone to; but no one could tell.
2552 Fortunately they sought in vain.

2553

2554 After a while the two boats joined, and rowed together
2555 for some time. It was already late, and to travel by
2556 night in that part of the country was not the way to
2557 avoid danger from evil men; so the question arose as to
2558 what should be done. This we left for the boatmen to
2559 decide; they had moved off of their own accord, and
2560 we felt that whatever we personally might desire we
2561 could not constrain others to remain in a position of
2562 danger on our account. We urged them, however, to do
2563 quickly whatever they intended to do, as the morrow
2564 was the LORD'S DAY, when we should not wish to
2565 travel. We also informed them that wherever we were
2566 we must fulfil our mission, and preach the Gospel; it
2567 therefore made but little difference where we might
2568 stay, for even if we passed the night unperceived, we
2569 were sure to be found out on the following morning.
2570 The men consequently concluded that we might as well
2571 return to the place from which we had started; to this
2572 we fully agreed, and they turned back accordingly.
2573 But—whether by accident or no we could not tell—
2574 they got into another stream, and rowed for some time
2575 they knew not whither. At last, as it was very dark, they
2576 moored for the night.

2577

2578 We then called all the boatmen together, with our
2579 native assistants, and read to them the ninety-first

2580 Psalm. It may be imagined how appropriate to our
2581 position and need and how sweetly consoling was this
2582 portion of GOD’S Word:—

2583

2584 “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the MOST
2585 HIGH Shall abide under the shadow of the
2586 ALMIGHTY. I will say of the LORD, He is my
2587 refuge and my fortress: My GOD; in Him will I trust.

2588

2589 “Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the
2590 fowler, And from the noisome pestilence.

2591

2592 He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His
2593 wings shalt thou trust:

2594 His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not
2595 be afraid for the terror by night; Nor for the arrow that
2596 flieth by day.

2597

2598 “Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I
2599 deliver him. I will set him on high, because he hath
2600 known My Name. He shall call upon Me, and I will
2601 answer him; I will be with him in trouble;—I will
2602 deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I
2603 satisfy him,—and show him My salvation.”

2604

2605 Committing ourselves in prayer to His care and
2606 keeping Who had covered us with thick darkness and
2607 permitted us to escape from the hand of the violent, we
2608 retired for the night; which—thanks to the kind
2609 protection of the WATCHMAN OF ISRAEL, who
2610 neither slumbers nor forgets His people—we passed in
2611 peace and quietness, and were enabled, in some

2612 measure, to realise the truth of that precious word,
2613 “_Thou_ art my _Hiding-place_, and my _Shield_.”

2614

2615

2616 _Sunday, January 13th._

2617

2618 This morning I was awakened about 4 A.M. by violent
2619 pain in the knee-joint. I had bruised it the day before,
2620 and severe inflammation was the result. To my great
2621 surprise I heard the rain pouring down in torrents, the
2622 weather having previously been particularly fine. On
2623 looking out, we found ourselves so near our former
2624 stopping-place, that, had nothing happened to prevent
2625 it, we should not have felt justified in neglecting to go
2626 into the town to preach as usual; but the rain was so
2627 heavy all day that no one could leave the boats. Thus
2628 we enjoyed a delightful day of rest, such as we had not
2629 had for some time; and the weather prevented much
2630 inquiry being made for us. Had the day been fine we
2631 should most likely have been discovered, even if we
2632 had not left the boats. As it was, we were allowed to
2633 think in peace, with wonder and gratitude, of the
2634 gracious dealings of our GOD, who had thus led us
2635 apart into “a desert place” to rest awhile.

2636

2637

2638 _Monday, January 14th._

2639

2640 A cloudless morning. One of the native assistants went
2641 before daybreak to get some clothes which had been
2642 given out for washing. He came back with the tidings
2643 that, notwithstanding the drenching rain of yesterday,

2644 men had been seeking us in all directions. We had been
2645 kept, however, in peace and safety “under the shadow
2646 of the Almighty.”

2647

2648 The boatmen were now so thoroughly alarmed that
2649 they would stay no longer, and moved off at dawn. I
2650 was confined to my quarters by lameness, and had no
2651 alternative but to go with them. In the afternoon we
2652 reached Ping-wang, on the way to Shanghai.

2653

2654 “Ill that GOD blesses is our good,
2655 And unblest good is ill;
2656 And all is right that seems most wrong,
2657 If it be His sweet will.”

2658

2659 [Illustration]

2660

2661 [Illustration]

2662

2663

2664

2665

2666 CHAPTER XII

2667

2668 CALLED TO SWATOW

2669

2670

2671 HAVING to leave the neighbourhood of Black Town
2672 thus unexpectedly was a real disappointment to us, as
2673 we had hoped to spend some time evangelising in that
2674 district. We were to prove, however, that no unforeseen
2675 mischance had happened, but that these circumstances

2676 which seemed so trying were necessary links in the
2677 chain of a divinely ordered providence, guiding to
2678 other and wider spheres.

2679

2680 GOD does not permit persecution to arise without
2681 sufficient reason. . . . He was leading us by a way that
2682 we knew not; but it was none the less His way.

2683

2684 “O LORD, how happy should we be
2685 If we would cast our care on Thee,
2686 If we from self would rest;
2687 And feel at heart that One above,
2688 In perfect wisdom, perfect love,
2689 Is working for the best!”

2690

2691 When we reached Shanghai, thinking to return inland
2692 in a few days with fresh supplies of books and money,
2693 we met a Christian captain who had been trading at
2694 Swatow, and he put very strongly before us the need of
2695 that region, and the fact that there were British
2696 merchants living on Double Island, selling opium and
2697 engaged in the coolie trade (practically a slave traffic),
2698 while there was no British missionary to preach the
2699 Gospel. The SPIRIT OF GOD impressed me with the
2700 feeling that this was His call, but for days I felt that I
2701 could not obey it. I had never had such a spiritual father
2702 as Mr. Burns; I had never known such holy, happy
2703 fellowship; and I said to myself that it could not be
2704 GOD’S will that we should separate.

2705

2706 In great unrest of soul I went one evening, with Mr.
2707 Burns, to take tea at the house of the Rev. R. Lowrie, of

2708 the American Presbyterian Mission, at the South Gate
2709 of Shanghai. After tea Mrs. Lowrie played over to us
2710 “The Missionary Call.”[2] I had never heard it before,
2711 and it greatly affected me. My heart was almost broken
2712 before it was finished, and I said to the LORD, in the
2713 words that had been sung—

2714

2715 “And I will go!

2716 I may no longer doubt to give up friends, and idol
2717 hopes, And every tie that binds my heart. . . .
2718 Henceforth, then, it matters not, if storm or sunshine be
2719 my earthly lot, bitter or sweet my cup; I only pray,
2720 GOD, make me holy,
2721 And my spirit nerve for the stern hour of strife.”

2722

2723 Upon leaving I asked Mr. Burns to come home with me
2724 to the little house that was still my headquarters in the
2725 native city, and there, with many tears, told him how
2726 the LORD had been leading me, and how rebellious I
2727 had been and unwilling to leave him for this new
2728 sphere of labour. He listened with a strange look of
2729 surprise, and of pleasure rather than pain; and answered
2730 that he had determined that very night to tell me that he
2731 had heard the LORD’S call to Swatow, and that his one
2732 regret had been the prospect of the severance of our
2733 happy fellowship. We went together; and thus was
2734 recommenced missionary work in that part of China,
2735 which in later years has been so abundantly blessed.

2736

2737 Long before this time the Rev. R. Lechler, of the Basel
2738 Missionary Society, had widely itinerated in the
2739 neighbourhood of Swatow and the surrounding regions.

2740 Driven about from place to place, he had done work
2741 that was not forgotten, although ultimately he was
2742 obliged to retire to Hong-kong. For more than forty
2743 years this earnest-hearted servant of GOD has
2744 continued in “labours more abundant”; and quite
2745 recently he has left Hong-kong, with his devoted wife,
2746 to return again inland, and spend the strength of his
2747 remaining years amongst the people he has so long and
2748 truly loved.

2749

2750 Captain Bowers, the Christian friend who had been
2751 used of GOD in bringing the needs of Swatow before
2752 Mr. Burns and myself, was overjoyed when he heard of
2753 our decision to devote ourselves to the evangelisation
2754 of that busy, important, and populous mart. Being
2755 about to sail himself on his return journey, he gladly
2756 offered us free passages on board the Geelong, in
2757 which we left Shanghai early in the month of March
2758 1856.

2759

2760 A favourable journey of six days brought us to Double
2761 Island, where we found ourselves landed in the midst
2762 of a small but very ungodly community of foreigners,
2763 engaged in the opium trade and other commercial
2764 enterprises. Unwilling to be in any way identified with
2765 these fellow-countrymen, we were most desirous of
2766 obtaining quarters at once within the native city,
2767 situated on a promontory of the mainland, five miles
2768 farther up, at the mouth of the Han river. Great
2769 difficulty was experienced in this attempt to obtain a
2770 footing amongst the people. Indeed, it seemed as
2771 though we should fail altogether, and we were

2772 helplessly cast upon the LORD in prayer. Our GOD
2773 soon undertook for us. Meeting one day with a
2774 Cantonese merchant, a relative of the highest official in
2775 the town, Mr. Burns addressed him in the Cantonese
2776 dialect; this gentleman was so pleased at being spoken
2777 to by a foreigner in his own tongue that he became our
2778 friend, and secured us a lodging. We had only one little
2779 room, however, and not easily shall I forget the long
2780 hot summer months in that oven-like place, where
2781 towards the eaves one could touch the heated tiles with
2782 one's hand. More room or better accommodation it was
2783 impossible to obtain.

2784

2785 We varied our stay by visits to the surrounding
2786 country; but the difficulties and dangers that
2787 encountered us here were so great and constant, that
2788 our former work in the North began to appear safe and
2789 easy in comparison. The hatred and contempt of the
2790 Cantonese was very painful, "foreign devil," "foreign
2791 dog," or "foreign pig" being the commonest
2792 appellations; but all this led us into deeper fellowship
2793 than I had ever known before with Him who was
2794 "despised and rejected of men."

2795

2796 In our visits to the country we were liable to be seized
2797 at any time and held to ransom; and the people
2798 commonly declared that the whole district was
2799 "without emperor, without ruler, and without law."
2800 Certainly, might was right in those days. On one
2801 occasion we were visiting a small town, and found that
2802 the inhabitants had captured a wealthy man of another
2803 clan. A large ransom was demanded for his release, and

2804 on his refusing to pay it they had smashed his ankle-
2805 bones, one by one, with a club, and thus extorted the
2806 promise they desired. There was nothing but GOD'S
2807 protection to prevent our being treated in the same way.
2808 The towns were all walled, and one such place would
2809 contain ten or twenty thousand people of the same clan
2810 and surname, who were frequently at war with the
2811 people living in the next town. To be kindly received in
2812 one place was not uncommonly a source of danger in
2813 the next. In circumstances such as these the preserving
2814 care of our GOD was often manifested.

2815

2816 After a time the local mandarin became ill, and the
2817 native doctors were unable to relieve him. He had
2818 heard from some who had been under my treatment of
2819 the benefit derived, and was led to seek our help. GOD
2820 blessed the medicines given, and grateful for relief, he
2821 advised our renting a house for a hospital and
2822 dispensary. Having his permission, we were able to
2823 secure the entire premises, one room of which we had
2824 previously occupied. I had left my stock of medicine
2825 and surgical instruments under the care of my friend,
2826 the late Mr. Wylie, in Shanghai, and went back at once
2827 to fetch them.

2828

2829 Mr. Burns came down from a town called Am-po, that
2830 we had visited together several times, to see me off,
2831 and returned again when I had sailed, with two native
2832 evangelists sent up from Hong-kong by the Rev. J.
2833 Johnson, of the American Baptist Missionary Union.
2834 The people were willing to listen to their preaching,
2835 and to accept their books as a gift, but they would not

2836 buy them. One night robbers broke in and carried off
2837 everything they had, with the exception of their stock
2838 of literature, which was supposed to be valueless. Next
2839 morning, very early, they were knocked up by persons
2840 wishing to buy books, and the sales continued; so that
2841 by breakfast time they had not only cash enough to
2842 procure food, but to pay also for the passage of one of
2843 the men to Double Island, below Swatow, with a letter
2844 to Mr. Burns's agent to supply him with money.
2845 Purchasers continued coming during that day and the
2846 next, and our friends lacked nothing; but on the third
2847 day they could not sell a single book. Then, however,
2848 when the cash from their sales was just exhausted, the
2849 messenger returned with supplies.

2850

2851 It was early in July, after about four months' residence
2852 in Swatow, that I left for Shanghai, intending to return
2853 in the course of a few weeks, bringing with me my
2854 medical apparatus, for further work in association with
2855 the Rev. William Burns. A new and promising field
2856 seemed to be opening before us, and it was with much
2857 hopeful anticipation that we looked forward to the
2858 future of the work. Marked blessing was indeed in store
2859 for the city and neighbourhood of Swatow; but it was
2860 not the purpose of GOD that either of us should remain
2861 to reap the harvest. Mr. Burns while in the interior was
2862 taken up and imprisoned by the Chinese authorities
2863 soon after I left, and was sent to Canton. And though
2864 he returned to Swatow after the war had broken out, he
2865 was called away for other service, which prevented his
2866 subsequent return; while my journey to Shanghai

2867 proved to be the first step in a diverging pathway
2868 leading to other spheres.

2869

2870 FOOTNOTE:

2871

2872 [2] For words and music see the end of this chapter.

2873

2874

2875 [Illustration: Music: The Missionary Call]

2876

2877 “THE MISSIONARY CALL”

2878

2879 1. My soul is not at rest.

2880 There comes a strange

2881 and secret whisper to

2882 my. . . .

2883 spirit, like a dream of night,

2884 that tells me

2885 I am on enchanted

2886 ground.

2887

2888

2889 CHORUS FOR FIRST FOUR VERSES.

2890

2891 *_Vivace._* The voice of my departed LORD, “Go,

2892 teach all nations,”

2893

2894 Comes on the night air and awakes mine ear.

2895

2896

2897 CHORUS FOR LAST VERSE.

2898

2899 Through ages of eternal years,
2900 My spirit never shall repent,
2901 that toil and suffering once were mine . . . below.
2902
2903

2904 2. Why live I here? the vows of GOD are | on me; | and
2905 I may not stop to play with shadows or pluck earthly
2906 flowers, | till I my work have done, and | rendered up ac
2907 | count.
2908

2909 3. And I will | go! | I may no longer doubt to give up
2910 friends, and idol | hopes, | and every tie that binds my
2911 heart to | thee, my | country.
2912

2913 4. Henceforth, then, it matters not, if storm or sunshine
2914 be my | earthly lot, | bitter or sweet my | cup; | I only
2915 pray: "GOD make me holy, and my spirit nerve for the
2916 stern | hour of strife!"
2917

2918 5. And when one for whom Satan hath struggled as he
2919 hath for | me, | has gained at last that blessed | shore, |
2920 Oh! how this heart will glow with | gratitude and | love.
2921

2922 [Illustration]
2923
2924
2925
2926

2927 CHAPTER XIII

2928
2929 MAN PROPOSES, GOD DISPOSES
2930

2931

2932 IT is interesting to notice the various events which
2933 united, in the providence of GOD, in preventing my
2934 return to Swatow, and ultimately led to my settling in
2935 Ningpo, and making that the centre for the
2936 development of future labours.

2937

2938 Upon reaching Shanghai, great was my dismay to find
2939 that the premises in which my medicines and
2940 instruments had been stored were burnt down, and that
2941 all the medicines and many of the instruments were
2942 entirely destroyed. To me this appeared a great
2943 calamity, and I fear I was more disposed with faithless
2944 Jacob to say, "All these things are against me," than to
2945 recognise that "All things work together for good." I
2946 had not then learned to think of GOD as the One Great
2947 Circumstance "in Whom we live, and move, and have
2948 our being"; and of all lesser, external circumstances,
2949 as necessarily the kindest, wisest, best, because either
2950 ordered or permitted by Him. Hence my
2951 disappointment and trial were very great.

2952

2953 Medicines were expensive in Shanghai, and my means
2954 were limited. I therefore set out on an inland journey to
2955 Ningpo, hoping to obtain a supply from Dr. William
2956 Parker, a member of the same mission as myself. I took
2957 with me my few remaining possessions, the principal
2958 being my watch, a few surgical instruments, a
2959 concertina, books for the study of Chinese, which in
2960 those days were very expensive; but left behind in
2961 Shanghai a portion of my money.

2962

2963 The country through which I had to pass was suffering
2964 much from drought; it was the height of summer; and
2965 the water in the Grand Canal was very low, having
2966 been largely drawn upon for the neighbouring rice
2967 fields, as well as evaporated by the intense heat. I had
2968 determined to make the journey as much of a mission
2969 tour as possible, and set out well supplied with
2970 Christian tracts and books. After fourteen days spent in
2971 travelling slowly through the populous country,
2972 preaching and distributing books, etc., we reached a
2973 large town called Shih-mun-wan, and here, finding that
2974 my supply of literature was exhausted, I determined not
2975 to linger over the rest of the journey, but to reach
2976 Ningpo as speedily as possible, vi the city of Hai-
2977 ning.

2978
2979

2980 August 4th, 1856.

2981

2982 There was no water beyond Shih-mun-wan, so I paid
2983 off my boat, hired coolies to carry my things as far as
2984 to Chang-gan, and ere sunrise we were on the way. I
2985 walked on alone, leaving my servant to follow with the
2986 men, who made frequent stoppages to rest; and on
2987 reaching a city through which we had to pass, I waited
2988 for them in a tea-shop just outside the North Gate. The
2989 coolies came on very slowly, and seemed tired when
2990 they arrived. I soon found that they were both opium-
2991 smokers, so that, although they had only carried a load
2992 that one strong man would think nothing of taking
2993 three times the distance, they really seemed wearied.

2994

2995 After some rice and tea and an hour's rest—including, I
2996 doubt not, a smoke of the opium pipe—they were a
2997 little refreshed, and I proposed moving on, that we
2998 might get to Chang-gan before the sun became too
2999 powerful. My servant, however, had a friend in the
3000 city, and he desired to spend the day there, and to go on
3001 next morning. But to this I objected, wishing to reach
3002 Hai-ning that night if possible. . . . We therefore set off,
3003 entered the North Gate, and had passed through about a
3004 third of the city, when the coolies stopped to rest, and
3005 said they should be unable to carry the burden on to
3006 Chang-gan. Finally, they agreed to take it to the South
3007 Gate, where they were to be paid in proportion to the
3008 distance they had carried it; and the servant undertook
3009 to call other coolies and come along with them.

3010

3011 I walked on before as in the first instance, and the
3012 distance being only about four miles, soon reached
3013 Chang-gan, and waited their arrival, meanwhile
3014 engaging coolies for the rest of the journey to Hai-ning.
3015 Having waited a long time, I began to wonder at the
3016 delay; and at length it became too late to finish the
3017 journey to Hai-ning that night. I felt somewhat
3018 annoyed; and but that my feet were blistered, and the
3019 afternoon very hot, I should have gone back to meet
3020 them and urge them on. At last I concluded that my
3021 servant must have gone to his friend's, and would not
3022 appear until evening. But evening came, and still there
3023 was no sign of them.

3024

3025 Feeling very uneasy, I began diligently to inquire
3026 whether they had been seen. At last a man responded,

3027 “Are you a guest from Shih-mun-wan?” I answered in
3028 the affirmative. “Are you going to Hai-ning?” “That is
3029 my destination.” “Then your things have gone on
3030 before you; for I was sitting in a tea-shop when a coolie
3031 came in, took a cup of tea, and set off for Hai-ning in a
3032 great hurry, saying that the bamboo box and bed he
3033 carried, which were just such as you describe yours to
3034 have been, were from Shih-mun-wan, and he had to
3035 take them to Hai-ning to-night, where he was to be paid
3036 at the rate of ten cash a pound.” From this I concluded
3037 that my goods were on before me; but it was
3038 impossible to follow them at once, for I was too tired to
3039 walk, and it was already dark.

3040

3041 Under these circumstances all I could do was to seek a
3042 lodging for the night; and no easy task I found it. After
3043 raising my heart to GOD to ask His aid, I walked
3044 through to the farther end of the town, where I thought
3045 the tidings of a foreigner’s being in the place might not
3046 have spread, and looked out for an inn. I soon came to
3047 one, and went in, hoping that I might pass
3048 unquestioned, as it was already dark. Asking the bill of
3049 fare, I was told that cold rice—which proved to be
3050 more than “rather burnt”—and snakes, fried in lamp-
3051 oil, were all that could be had. Not wishing any
3052 question to be raised as to my nationality, I was
3053 compelled to order some, and tried to make a meal, but
3054 with little success.

3055

3056 While thus engaged I said to the landlord, “I suppose I
3057 can arrange to spend the night here?”

3058

3059 To which he replied in the affirmative; but bringing out
3060 his book, he added—

3061

3062 “In these unsettled times we are required by the
3063 authorities to keep a record of our lodgers: may I ask
3064 your respected family name?”

3065

3066 “My unworthy family name is Tai,” I responded.

3067

3068 “And your honourable second name?”

3069

3070 “My humble name is Ia-koh” (James).

3071

3072 “What an extraordinary name! I never heard it before.
3073 How do you write it?”

3074

3075 I told him, and added, “It is a common name in the
3076 district from which I come.”

3077

3078 “And may I ask whence you come and whither you are
3079 going?”

3080

3081 “I am journeying from Shanghai to Ningpo, by way of
3082 Hang-chau.”

3083

3084 “What may be your honourable profession?”

3085

3086 “I heal the sick.”

3087

3088 “Oh! you are a physician,” the landlord remarked; and
3089 to my intense relief closed the book. His wife,
3090 however, took up the conversation.

3091

3092 “You are a physician, are you?” said she; “I am glad of
3093 that, for I have a daughter afflicted with leprosy. If you
3094 will cure her, you shall have your supper and bed for
3095 nothing.”

3096

3097 I was curious enough to inquire what my supper and
3098 bed were to cost, if paid for; and to my amusement
3099 found they were worth less than three-halfpence of our
3100 money!

3101

3102 Being unable to benefit the girl, I declined to prescribe
3103 for her, saying that leprosy was a very intractable
3104 disease, and that I had no medicines with me.

3105

3106 The mother, however, brought pen and paper, urging,
3107 “You can at least write a prescription, which will do no
3108 harm, if it does no good.”

3109

3110 But this also I declined to do, and requested to be
3111 shown my bed. I was conducted to a very miserable
3112 room on the ground-floor, where, on some boards
3113 raised upon two stools, I passed the night, without bed
3114 or pillow, save my umbrella and shoe, and without any
3115 mosquito netting. Ten or eleven other lodgers were
3116 sleeping in the same room, so I could not take anything
3117 off, for fear of its being stolen; but I was, I found, by
3118 no means too warm as midnight came on.

3119

3120

3121 _August 5th._

3122

3123 As may be supposed, I arose but little rested or
3124 refreshed, and felt very far from well. I had to wait a
3125 long time ere breakfast was obtainable, and then there
3126 was another delay before I could get change for the
3127 only dollar I had with me, in consequence of its being
3128 chipped in one or two places. More than three hundred
3129 cash also were deducted from its price on this account,
3130 which was a serious loss to me in my trying position.

3131

3132 I then sought throughout the town for tidings of my
3133 servant and coolies, as I thought it possible that they
3134 might have arrived later, or have come on in the
3135 morning. The town is large, long, and straggling, being
3136 nearly two miles from one end to the other, so this
3137 occupied some time. I gained no information, however;
3138 and, footsore and weary, set out for Hai-ning in the full
3139 heat of the day. The journey—about eight miles—took
3140 me a long time; but a halfway village afforded a
3141 resting-place and a cup of tea, both of which I gladly
3142 availed myself of. When about to leave again, a heavy
3143 shower of rain came on, and the delay thus occasioned
3144 enabled me to speak a little to the people about the
3145 truths of the Gospel.

3146

3147 The afternoon was far spent before I approached the
3148 northern suburb of Hai-ning, where I commenced
3149 inquiries, but could hear no tidings of my servant or
3150 things. I was told that outside the East Gate I should be
3151 more likely to hear of them, as it was there the sea-
3152 junks called. I therefore proceeded thither, and sought
3153 for them outside the Little East Gate, but in vain. Very
3154 weary, I sat down in a tea-shop to rest; and while there

3155 a number of persons from one of the mandarin's offices
3156 came in, and made inquiries as to who I was, where I
3157 had come from, etc. On learning the object of my
3158 search, one of the men in the tea-shop said, "A bamboo
3159 box and a bed, such as you describe, were carried past
3160 here about half an hour ago. The bearer seemed to be
3161 going towards either the Great East Gate or the South
3162 Gate; you had better go to the hong's there and inquire."
3163 I asked him to accompany me in the search, and
3164 promised to reward him for his trouble, but he would
3165 not. Another man offered to go with me, so we set off
3166 together, and both inside and outside the two gates
3167 made diligent inquiries, but all in vain. I then engaged a
3168 man to make a thorough search, promising him a
3169 liberal reward if he should be successful. In the
3170 meantime I had some dinner, and addressed a large
3171 concourse of people who had gathered together.

3172
3173 When he returned, having met with no success, I said
3174 to him, "I am now quite exhausted: will you help me to
3175 find quarters for the night, and then I will pay you for
3176 your trouble?" He was willing to befriend me, and we
3177 set off in search of lodgings. At the first place or two
3178 the people would not receive me; for though on our
3179 first going in they seemed willing to do so, the presence
3180 of a man who followed us, and who, I found, was
3181 engaged in one of the Government offices, seemed to
3182 alarm them, and I was refused. We now went to a third
3183 place, and being no longer followed by the mandarin's
3184 messenger, we were promised quarters; some tea was
3185 brought, and I paid the man who had accompanied me
3186 for his trouble.

3187

3188 Soon after he was gone some official people came in;
3189 they soon went away, but the result of their visit was
3190 that I was told I could not be entertained there that
3191 night. A young man present blamed them for their
3192 heartless behaviour, and said, "Never mind, come with
3193 me; and if we cannot get better lodgings for you, you
3194 shall sleep at our house." I went with him, but we
3195 found the people of his house unwilling to receive me.
3196 Weary and footsore, so that I could scarcely stand, I
3197 had again to seek quarters, and at length got promise of
3198 them; but a little crowd collecting about the door, they
3199 desired me to go to a tea-shop and wait there till the
3200 people had retired, or they would be unable to
3201 accommodate me. There was no help for it, so I went,
3202 accompanied still by the young man, and waited till
3203 past midnight. Then we left for the promised resting-
3204 place; but my conductor would not find it, and he led
3205 me about to another part of the city; and finally,
3206 between one and two o'clock, he left me to pass the
3207 rest of the night as best I could.

3208

3209 I was opposite a temple, but it was closed; so I lay
3210 down on the stone steps in front of it, and putting my
3211 money under my head for a pillow, should soon have
3212 been asleep in spite of the cold had I not perceived a
3213 person coming stealthily towards me. As he
3214 approached I saw he was one of the beggars so
3215 common in China, and had no doubt his intention was
3216 to rob me of my money. I did not stir, but watched his
3217 movements, and looked to my FATHER not to leave
3218 me in this hour of trial. The man came up, looked at me

3219 for some time to assure himself that I was asleep (it
3220 was so dark that he could not see my eyes fixed on
3221 him), and then began to feel about me gently. I said to
3222 him in the quietest tone, but so as to convince him that
3223 I was not, nor had been, sleeping, “What do you
3224 want?” He made no answer, but went away.

3225

3226 I was very thankful to see him go, and when he was out
3227 of sight put as much of my cash as would not go into
3228 my pocket safely up my sleeve, and made my pillow of
3229 a stone projection of the wall. It was not long ere I
3230 began to doze, but I was aroused by the all but
3231 noiseless footsteps of two persons approaching; for my
3232 nervous system was rendered so sensitive by
3233 exhaustion that the slightest noise startled me. Again I
3234 sought protection from Him who alone was my stay,
3235 and lay still as before, till one of them came up and
3236 began to feel under my head for the cash. I spoke
3237 again, and they sat down at my feet. I asked them what
3238 they were doing; they replied that they, like me, were
3239 going to pass the night there. I then requested them to
3240 take the opposite side, as there was plenty of room, and
3241 leave this side to me; but they would not move from
3242 my feet, so I raised myself up and set my back against
3243 the wall.

3244

3245 They said, “You had better lie down and sleep; if you
3246 do not, you will be unable to walk to-morrow. Do not
3247 be afraid; we shall not leave you, and will see that no
3248 one hurts you.”

3249

3250 “Listen to me,” I replied. “I do not want your
3251 protection; I need it not; I am not a Chinese; I do not
3252 worship your senseless, helpless idols. I worship GOD;
3253 He is my FATHER; I trust in Him. I know well what
3254 you are, and what your intentions are, and shall keep
3255 my eye on you, and shall not sleep.”

3256

3257 On this, one of them went away, but soon returned with
3258 a third companion. I felt very uneasy, but looked to
3259 GOD for help. Once or twice one of them got up to see
3260 if I was asleep. I only said, “Do not be mistaken; I am
3261 not sleeping.” Occasionally my head dropped, and this
3262 was a signal for one of them to rise; but I at once
3263 roused myself and made some remark. As the night
3264 slowly passed on, I felt very weary; and to keep myself
3265 awake, as well as to cheer my mind, I sang several
3266 hymns, repeated aloud some portions of Scripture, and
3267 engaged in prayer in English, to the great annoyance of
3268 my companions, who seemed as if they would have
3269 given anything to get me to desist. After that they
3270 troubled me no more; and shortly before dawn of day
3271 they left me, and I got a little sleep.

3272

3273

3274 _August 6th._

3275

3276 I was awakened by the young man who had so misled
3277 me on the previous evening. He was very rude, and
3278 insisted on my getting up and paying him for his
3279 trouble, and even went so far as to try to accomplish by
3280 force what he wanted. This roused me; and in an
3281 unguarded moment, with very improper feeling, I

3282 seized his arm with such a grasp as he little expected I
3283 was capable of, and dared him to lay a finger upon me
3284 again or to annoy me further. This quite changed his
3285 manner; he let me quietly remain till the guns
3286 announced the opening of the gates of the city, and
3287 then he begged me to give him some money to buy
3288 opium with. It is needless to say this was refused. I
3289 gave him the price of two candles, that he said he had
3290 burnt while with me last night and no more. I learned
3291 he was connected with one of the mandarin's offices.

3292

3293 As soon as possible, I bought some rice gruel and tea
3294 for breakfast, and then once more made a personal
3295 search after my things. Some hours thus spent proving
3296 unavailing, I set out on the return journey, and after a
3297 long, weary, and painful walk reached Chang-gan
3298 about noon. Here also my inquiries failed to give me
3299 any trace of the missing goods; so I had a meal cooked
3300 in a tea-shop, got a thorough wash and bathed my
3301 inflamed feet, and after dinner rested and slept till four
3302 in the afternoon.

3303

3304 Much refreshed, I then set on to return to the city, at the
3305 South Gate of which I had parted with my servant and
3306 coolies two days before. On the way I was led to reflect
3307 on the goodness of GOD, and recollected that I had not
3308 made it a matter of prayer that I might be provided with
3309 lodgings last night. I felt condemned, too, that I should
3310 have been so anxious for my few things, while the
3311 many precious souls around me had caused so little
3312 emotion. I came as a sinner and pleaded the blood of
3313 JESUS, realising that I was accepted in Him—

3314 pardoned, cleansed, sanctified—and oh the love of
3315 JESUS, how great I felt it to be! I knew something
3316 more than I had ever previously known of what it was
3317 to be despised and rejected, and to have nowhere to lay
3318 one’s head; and I felt more than ever I had done before
3319 the greatness of that love which induced Him to leave
3320 His home in glory and suffer thus for me; nay, to lay
3321 down His very life upon the Cross. I thought of Him as
3322 “despised and rejected of men, a Man of sorrows, and
3323 acquainted with grief”; I thought of Him at Jacob’s
3324 well, weary, hungry, and thirsty, yet finding it His meat
3325 and drink to do His Father’s will; and contrasted this
3326 with my littleness of love. I looked to Him for pardon
3327 for the past, and for grace and strength to do His will in
3328 the future, to tread more closely in His footsteps, and
3329 be more than ever wholly His. I prayed for myself, for
3330 friends in England, and for my brethren in the work.
3331 Sweet tears of mingled joy and sorrow flowed freely,
3332 the road was almost forgotten, and before I was aware
3333 of it I had reached my destination. Outside the South
3334 Gate I took a cup of tea, asked about my lost luggage,
3335 and spoke of the love of JESUS. Then I entered the
3336 city, and after many vain inquiries left it by the North
3337 Gate.

3338

3339 I felt so much refreshed both in mind and body by the
3340 communion I had on my walk to the city that I thought
3341 myself able to finish the remaining six miles back to
3342 Shih-mun-wan that evening. First I went into another
3343 tea-shop to buy some native cakes, and was making a
3344 meal of them when who should come in but one of the
3345 identical coolies who had carried my things the first

3346 stage. From him I learned that after I left them they had
3347 taken my luggage to the South Gate; there my servant
3348 went away, saying on his return that I had gone on, that
3349 he did not intend to start at once, but would spend the
3350 day with his friend, and then rejoin me; they carried the
3351 things to this friend's house, and left them there. I got
3352 him to go with me to the house, and there learned that
3353 the man had spent the day and night with them, and
3354 next morning had called other coolies, and set off for
3355 Hang-chau. This was all I could gather; so, unable to
3356 do anything but proceed on my return journey to
3357 Shanghai with all expedition, I left the city again. It
3358 was now too late to go on to Shih-mun-wan. I looked to
3359 my FATHER as able to supply all my need, and
3360 received another token of His ceaseless love and care,
3361 being invited to sleep on a hong-boat, now dry in the
3362 bed of the river. The night was again very cold and the
3363 mosquitoes troublesome. Still, I got a little rest, and at
3364 sunrise was up and continued my journey.

3365

3366

3367 _August 7th._

3368

3369 I felt very ill at first, and had a sore throat, but reflected
3370 on the wonderful goodness of GOD in enabling me to
3371 bear the heat by day and the cold by night so long. I felt
3372 also that quite a load was now taken off my mind. I had
3373 committed myself and my affairs to the LORD, and
3374 knew that if it was for my good and for His glory my
3375 things would be restored; if not, all would be for the
3376 best. I hoped that the most trying part of my journey
3377 was now drawing to a close, and this helped me, weary

3378 and footsore, on the way. When I got to Shih-mun-wan
3379 and had breakfasted, I found I had still eight hundred
3380 and ten cash in hand; and I knew that the hong-boat
3381 fare to Kia-hing Fu was one hundred and twenty cash,
3382 and thence to Shanghai three hundred and sixty,
3383 leaving me just three hundred and thirty cash—or
3384 twelve pence and a fraction—for three or four days
3385 provisions. I went at once to the boat office, but to my
3386 dismay found that from the dry state of the river goods
3387 had not come down, so that no boat would leave to-day
3388 and perhaps none to-morrow. I inquired if there were
3389 no letter-boats for Kia-hing Fu, and was told that they
3390 had already left. The only remaining resource was to
3391 ascertain if any private boats were going in which I
3392 could get a passage. My search, however, was in vain;
3393 and I could get no boat to undertake to go all the way
3394 to Shanghai, or my difficulty would have been at an
3395 end.

3396
3397 Just at this juncture I saw before me, at a turn in the
3398 canal, a letter-boat going in the direction of Kia-hing
3399 Fu This, I concluded, must be one of the Kia-hing boats
3400 that had been unexpectedly detained, and I set off after
3401 it as fast as hope and the necessities of the case would
3402 carry me. For the time being weariness and sore feet
3403 were alike forgotten. After a chase of about a mile I
3404 overtook it.

3405
3406 “Are you going to Kia-hing Fu?” I called out.

3407
3408 “No,” was the only answer.

3409

3410 “Are you going in that direction?”

3411

3412 “No.”

3413

3414 “Will you give me a passage as far as you do go that
3415 way?”

3416

3417 Still “No,” and nothing more.

3418

3419 Completely dispirited and exhausted, I sank down on
3420 the grass and fainted away.

3421

3422 As consciousness returned some voices reached my
3423 ear, and I found they were talking about me. One said,
3424 “He speaks pure Shanghai dialect,” and from their own
3425 speech I knew them to be Shanghai people. Raising
3426 myself, I saw that they were on a large hong-boat on
3427 the other side of the canal, and after a few words they
3428 sent their small boat to fetch me, and I went on board
3429 the junk. They were very kind, and gave me some tea;
3430 and when I was refreshed and able to partake of it,
3431 some food also. I then took my shoes and stockings off
3432 to ease my feet, and the boatman kindly provided me
3433 with hot water to bathe them. When they heard my
3434 story, and saw the blisters on my feet, they evidently
3435 pitied me, and hailed every boat that passed to see if it
3436 was going my way. Not finding one, by and by, after a
3437 few hours’ sleep, I went ashore with the captain,
3438 intending to preach in the temple of Kwan-ti.

3439

3440 Before leaving the junk I told the captain and those on
3441 board that I was now unable to help myself; that I had

3442 not strength to walk to Kia-hing Fu, and having been
3443 disappointed in getting a passage to-day, I should no
3444 longer have sufficient means to take me there by letter-
3445 boat, which was an expensive mode of travelling; that I
3446 knew not how the GOD whom I served would help me,
3447 but that I had no doubt He would do so; and that my
3448 business now was to serve Him where I was. I also told
3449 them that the help which I knew would come ought to
3450 be an evidence to them of the truth of the religion
3451 which I and the other missionaries at Shanghai
3452 preached.

3453

3454 On our way to the town, while engaged in conversation
3455 with the captain, we saw a letter-boat coming up. The
3456 captain drew my attention to it; but I reminded him that
3457 I had no longer the means of paying my passage by it.
3458 He hailed it, nevertheless, and found that it was going
3459 to a place about nine English miles from Shanghai,
3460 whence one of the boatmen would carry the mails
3461 overland to the city. He then said, "This gentleman is a
3462 foreigner from Shanghai, who has been robbed, and has
3463 no longer the means of returning. If you will take him
3464 with you as far as you go, and then engage a sedan
3465 chair to carry him the rest of the way, he will pay you
3466 in Shanghai. You see my boat is lying aground yonder
3467 for want of water, and cannot get away. Now, I will
3468 stand surety; and if this gentleman does not pay when
3469 you get to Shanghai, I will do so on your return." This
3470 unsolicited kindness on the part of a Chinaman, a
3471 perfect stranger, will appear the more remarkable to
3472 any one acquainted with the character of the Chinese,
3473 who are generally most reluctant to risk their money.

3474 Those on the letter-boat agreeing to the terms, I was
3475 taken on board as a passenger. Oh, how thankful I felt
3476 for this providential interposition, and to be once more
3477 on my way to Shanghai!

3478

3479 Letter-boats such as the one on which I was now
3480 travelling are of a long narrow build, and very limited
3481 as to their inside accommodation. One has to lie down
3482 all the time they are in motion, as a slight movement
3483 would easily upset them. This was no irksome
3484 condition to me, however; on the contrary, I was only
3485 too glad to be quiet. They are the quickest boats I have
3486 seen in China. Each one is worked by two men, who
3487 relieve one another continuously night and day. They
3488 row with their feet, and paddle with their hands; or if
3489 the wind is quite favourable, row with their feet, and
3490 with one hand manage a small sail, while steering with
3491 the other.

3492

3493 After a pleasant and speedy journey, I reached
3494 Shanghai in safety on August 9th, through the help of
3495 Him who has said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake
3496 thee;" "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of
3497 the world."

3498

3499 [Illustration]

3500

3501 [Illustration]

3502

3503

3504

3505

3506 CHAPTER XIV

3507

3508 PROVIDENTIAL GUIDANCE

3509

3510

3511 IT now seemed very clear that the lost property—
3512 including everything I possessed in China, with the
3513 exception of a small sum of money providentially left
3514 in Shanghai—had been deliberately stolen by my
3515 servant, who had gone off with it to Hang-chau. The
3516 first question, of course, was how best to act for the
3517 good of the man who had been the cause of so much
3518 trouble. It would not have been difficult to take steps
3519 that would have led to his punishment; though the
3520 likelihood of any reparation being made for the loss
3521 sustained was very small. But the consideration which
3522 weighed most heavily was that the thief was a man for
3523 whose salvation I had laboured and prayed; and I felt
3524 that to prosecute him would not be to emphasise the
3525 teaching of the Sermon on the Mount, in which we had
3526 read together, “Resist not evil,” and other similar
3527 precepts. Finally, concluding that his soul was of more
3528 value than the 40 worth of things I had lost, I wrote and
3529 told him this, urging upon him his need of repentance
3530 and faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. The course I
3531 took commended itself to my Christian friends in
3532 England, one of whom was afterwards led to send me a
3533 cheque for 40—the first of many subsequently received
3534 from the same kind helper.

3535

3536 Having obtained the little money left in Shanghai, I
3537 again set out for Ningpo, to seek assistance from Dr.

3538 Parker in replacing the medicines I had previously lost
3539 by fire. This being satisfactorily accomplished, I
3540 returned once more to Shanghai, en route for
3541 Swatow, hoping soon to rejoin my much-loved friend,
3542 Mr. Burns, in the work in that important centre. GOD
3543 had willed it otherwise, however; and the delay caused
3544 by the robbery was just sufficient to prevent me from
3545 starting for the South as I had intended.

3546

3547 Over the political horizon storm-clouds had long been
3548 gathering, precursors of coming war; and early in
3549 October of this year (1856) the affair of the Lorcha
3550 Arrow at Canton led to the definite commencement
3551 of hostilities. Very soon China was deeply involved in
3552 a second prolonged struggle with foreign powers; and
3553 missionary operations, in the South at any rate, had to
3554 be largely suspended. Tidings of these events, together
3555 with letters from Mr. Burns, arrived just in time to meet
3556 me in Shanghai as I was leaving for Swatow; and thus
3557 hindered, I could not but realise the hand of GOD in
3558 closing the door I had so much desired to enter.

3559

3560 While in Ningpo, I had made the acquaintance of Mr.
3561 John Jones, who, with Dr. Parker, represented the
3562 Chinese Evangelisation Society in that city. Hindered
3563 from returning to Swatow, I now decided to join these
3564 brethren in the Ningpo work, and set out at once upon
3565 the journey. On the afternoon of the second day, when
3566 already about thirty miles distant from Shanghai, Mr.
3567 Jones and I drew near the large and important city of
3568 Sung-kiang, and I spoke of going ashore to preach the

3569 Gospel to the thronging multitudes that lined the banks
3570 and crowded the approaches to the city gates.

3571

3572 Among the passengers on board the boat was one
3573 intelligent man, who in the course of his travels had
3574 been a good deal abroad, and had even visited England,
3575 where he went by the name of Peter. As might be
3576 expected, he had heard something of the Gospel, but
3577 had never experienced its saving power. On the
3578 previous evening I had drawn him into earnest
3579 converse about his soul's salvation. The man listened
3580 with attention, and was even moved to tears, but still no
3581 definite result was apparent. I was pleased, therefore,
3582 when he asked to be allowed to accompany me, and to
3583 hear me preach.

3584

3585 I went into the cabin of the boat to prepare tracts and
3586 books for distribution on landing with my Chinese
3587 friend, when suddenly I was startled by a splash and a
3588 cry from without. I sprang on deck, and took in the
3589 situation at a glance. Peter was gone! The other men
3590 were all there, on board, looking helplessly at the spot
3591 where he had disappeared, but making no effort to save
3592 him. A strong wind was carrying the junk rapidly
3593 forward in spite of a steady current in the opposite
3594 direction, and the low-lying, shrubless shore afforded
3595 no landmark to indicate how far we had left the
3596 drowning man behind.

3597

3598 I instantly let down the sail and leapt overboard in the
3599 hope of finding him. Unsuccessful, I looked around in
3600 agonising suspense, and saw close to me a fishing-boat

3601 with a peculiar drag-net furnished with hooks, which I
3602 knew would bring him up.

3603

3604 “Come!” I cried, as hope revived in my heart. “Come
3605 and drag over this spot directly; a man is drowning just
3606 here!”

3607

3608 “Veh bin” (It is not convenient), was the unfeeling
3609 answer.

3610

3611 “Don’t talk of convenience!” cried I in an agony; “a
3612 man is drowning, I tell you!”

3613

3614 “We are busy fishing,” they responded, “and cannot
3615 come.”

3616

3617 “Never mind your fishing,” I said, “I will give you
3618 more money than many a day’s fishing will bring; only
3619 come—come at once!”

3620

3621 “How much money will you give us?”

3622

3623 “We cannot stay to discuss that now! Come, or it will
3624 be too late. I will give you five dollars” (then worth
3625 about thirty shillings in English money).

3626

3627 “We won’t do it for that,” replied the men. “Give us
3628 twenty dollars, and we will drag.”

3629

3630 “I do not possess so much: do come quickly, and I will
3631 give you all I have!”

3632

3633 “How much may that be?”

3634

3635 “I don’t know exactly, about fourteen dollars.”

3636

3637 At last, but even then slowly enough, the boat was
3638 paddled over, and the net let down. Less than a minute
3639 sufficed to bring up the body of the missing man. The
3640 fishermen were clamorous and indignant because their
3641 exorbitant demand was delayed while efforts at
3642 resuscitation were being made. But all was in vain—
3643 life was extinct.

3644

3645 To myself this incident was profoundly sad and full of
3646 significance, suggesting a far more mournful reality.
3647 Were not those fishermen actually guilty of this poor
3648 Chinaman’s death, in that they had the means of saving
3649 him at hand, if they would but have used them?
3650 Assuredly they were guilty. And yet, let us pause ere
3651 we pronounce judgment against them, lest a greater
3652 than Nathan answer, “_Thou art the man_.” Is it so
3653 hard-hearted, so wicked a thing to neglect to save the
3654 body? Of how much sorer punishment, then, is he
3655 worthy who leaves the soul to perish, and Cain-like
3656 says, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” The LORD JESUS
3657 commands, commands _me_, commands _you_, my
3658 brother, and _you_, my sister. “Go,” says He, “go ye
3659 into _all_ the world, and preach the Gospel to _every_
3660 creature.” Shall we say to _Him_, “No, it is not
3661 convenient”? shall we tell _Him_ that we are busy
3662 fishing and cannot go? that we have bought a piece of
3663 ground and cannot go? that we have purchased five
3664 yoke of oxen, or have married, or are engaged in other

3665 and more interesting pursuits, and cannot go? Ere long
3666 “we must all appear before the judgment seat of
3667 CHRIST; that every one may receive the things done in
3668 his body.” Let us remember, let us pray for, let us
3669 labour for the unevangelised Chinese; _or we shall sin
3670 against our own souls_. Let us consider _Who_ it is
3671 that has said, “If thou _forbear_ to deliver them that are
3672 drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;
3673 if thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not He that
3674 pondereth the heart consider it? and He that keepeth
3675 _thy_ soul, doth not he know it? and shall not He
3676 render to every man according to his works?”

3677

3678 Through midnight gloom from Macedon,
3679 The cry of myriads as of one;
3680 The voiceful silence of despair
3681 Is eloquent in awful prayer:
3682 The soul’s exceeding bitter cry,
3683 “Come o’er and help us, or we die.”

3684

3685 How mournfully it echoes on,
3686 For half the earth is Macedon;
3687 These brethren to their brethren call,
3688 And by the Love which loves them all,
3689 And by the whole world’s Life they cry,
3690 “O ye that live, behold we die!”

3691

3692 By other sounds the world is won
3693 Than that which wails from Macedon;
3694 The roar of gain is round it rolled,
3695 Or men unto themselves are sold,
3696 And cannot list the alien cry,

3697 “O hear and help us, lest we die!”
3698
3699 Yet with that cry from Macedon
3700 The very car of CHRIST rolls on:
3701 “_I come; who would abide My day,_
3702 _In yonder wilds prepare My way;_
3703 _My voice is crying in their cry,_
3704 _Help ye the dying, lest ye die_.”
3705

3706 JESU, for men of Man the SON,
3707 Yea, THINE the cry from Macedon;
3708 Oh, by the kingdom and the power
3709 And glory of Thine advent hour,
3710 Wake heart and will to hear their cry:
3711 Help us to help them, lest we die.

3712

3713 [Illustration]

3714

3715 [Illustration]

3716

3717

3718

3719 CHAPTER XV

3720

3721 SETTLEMENT IN NINGPO

3722

3723

3724 THE autumn of 1856 was well advanced before I
3725 reached Ningpo, one of the most ancient and influential
3726 cities on the coast of China. Opened to the residence of
3727 foreigners in 1842 by the treaty of Nan-king, it had
3728 long been the scene of missionary labours. Within its

3729 thronging thoroughfares the busy tide of life runs high.
3730 Four hundred thousand human beings dwell within or
3731 around the five miles circuit of its ancient wall, every
3732 one a soul that JESUS loves, for whom He died.

3733

3734 As winter drew on I rented a native house in Wu-gyiao-
3735 deo, or Lake Head Street. It was not then a very
3736 comfortable residence. I have a very distinct
3737 remembrance of tracing my initials on the snow which
3738 during the night had collected upon my coverlet in the
3739 large barn-like upper room, now subdivided into four
3740 or five smaller ones, each of which is comfortably
3741 ceiled. The tiling of an unceiled Chinese house may
3742 keep off the rain—if it happens to be sound—but it
3743 does not afford so good a protection against snow,
3744 which will beat up through crannies and crevices, and
3745 find its way within. But however unfinished may have
3746 been its fittings, the little house was well adapted for
3747 work amongst the people; and there I thankfully settled
3748 down, finding ample scope for service,—morning,
3749 noon, and night.

3750

3751 During the latter part of this year my mind was greatly
3752 exercised about continued connection with my Society,
3753 it being frequently in debt. Personally I had always
3754 avoided debt, and kept within my salary, though at
3755 times only by very careful economy. Now there was no
3756 difficulty in doing this, for my income was larger, and
3757 the country being in a more peaceful state, things were
3758 not so dear. But the Society itself was in debt. The
3759 quarterly bills which I and others were instructed to
3760 draw were often met by borrowed money, and a

3761 correspondence commenced which terminated in the
3762 following year by my resigning from conscientious
3763 motives.

3764

3765 To me it seemed that the teaching of GOD’S Word was
3766 unmistakably clear: “Owe no man any thing.” To
3767 borrow money implied, to my mind, a contradiction of
3768 Scripture—a confession that GOD had withheld some
3769 good thing, and a determination to get for ourselves
3770 what He had not given. Could that which was wrong
3771 for one Christian to do be right for an association of
3772 Christians? Or could any amount of precedents make a
3773 wrong course justifiable? If the Word taught me
3774 anything, it taught me to have no connection with debt.
3775 I could not think that GOD was poor, that He was short
3776 of resources, or unwilling to supply any want of
3777 whatever work was really His. It seemed to me that if
3778 there were lack of funds to carry on work, then to that
3779 degree, in that special development, or at that time, it
3780 could not be the work of GOD. To satisfy my
3781 conscience I was therefore compelled to resign
3782 connection with the Society which had hitherto
3783 supplied my salary.

3784

3785 It was a great satisfaction to me that my friend and
3786 colleague, Mr. Jones, also of the Chinese
3787 Evangelisation Society, was led to take the same step;
3788 and we were both profoundly thankful that the
3789 separation took place without the least breach of
3790 friendly feeling on either side. Indeed, we had the joy
3791 of knowing that the step we took commended itself to
3792 several members of the Committee, although as a

3793 whole the Society could not come to our position.
3794 Depending upon GOD alone for supplies, we were
3795 enabled to continue a measure of connection with our
3796 former supporters, sending home journals, etc., for
3797 publication as before, so long as the Society continued
3798 to exist.

3799

3800 The step we had taken was not a little trying to faith. I
3801 was not at all sure what GOD would have me do, or
3802 whether He would so meet my need as to enable me to
3803 continue working as before. I had no friends whatever
3804 from whom I expected supplies. I did not know what
3805 means the LORD might use; but I was willing to give
3806 up all my time to the service of evangelisation among
3807 the heathen, if by any means He would supply the
3808 smallest amount on which I could live; and if He were
3809 not pleased to do this, I was prepared to undertake
3810 whatever work might be necessary to supply myself,
3811 giving all the time that could be spared from such a
3812 calling to more distinctly missionary efforts. But GOD
3813 blessed and prospered me; and how glad and thankful I
3814 felt when the separation was really effected! I could
3815 look right up into my FATHER'S face with a satisfied
3816 heart, ready, by His grace, to do the next thing as He
3817 might teach me, and feeling very sure of His loving
3818 care.

3819

3820 And how blessedly He did lead me on and provide for
3821 me I can never, never tell. It was like a continuation of
3822 some of my earlier home experiences. My faith was not
3823 untried; it often, often failed, and I was so sorry and
3824 ashamed of the failure to trust such a FATHER. But

3825 oh! I was learning to know Him. I would not even then
3826 have missed the trial. He became so near, so real, so
3827 intimate. The occasional difficulty about funds never
3828 came from an insufficient supply for personal needs,
3829 but in consequence of ministering to the wants of
3830 scores of the hungry and dying ones around us. And
3831 trials far more searching in other ways quite eclipsed
3832 these difficulties; and being deeper, brought forth in
3833 consequence richer fruits. How glad one is now, not
3834 only to know, with dear Miss Havergal, that——

3835
3836 “They who trust Him wholly
3837 Find Him wholly true,”

3838
3839 but also that when we fail to trust fully He still remains
3840 unchangingly faithful. He is wholly true whether we
3841 trust or not. “If we believe not, He abideth faithful; He
3842 cannot deny Himself.” But oh, how we dishonour our
3843 LORD whenever we fail to trust Him, and what peace,
3844 blessing, and triumph we lose in thus sinning against
3845 the Faithful One! May we never again presume in
3846 anything to doubt Him!

3847
3848 The year 1857 was a troublous time, and closed with
3849 the notorious bombardment of Canton by the British,
3850 and the commencement of our second Chinese war.
3851 Rumours of trouble were everywhere rife, and in many
3852 places the missionaries passed through not a little
3853 danger. In Ningpo this was especially the case, and the
3854 preserving care of GOD in answer to prayer was
3855 consequently most marked. When the awful news of
3856 the bombardment of Canton reached the Cantonese in

3857 Ningpo their wrath and indignation knew no bounds,
3858 and they immediately set to work to plot the
3859 destruction of all the foreigners resident in the city and
3860 neighbourhood. It was well known that many of the
3861 foreigners were in the habit of meeting for worship
3862 every Sunday evening at one of the missionary houses,
3863 and the plan was to surround the place on a given
3864 occasion and make short work of all present, cutting off
3865 afterwards any who might not be present.

3866

3867 The sanction of the Tao-t'ai, or chief civil magistrate of
3868 the city, was easily obtained; and nothing remained to
3869 hinder the execution of the plot, of which the foreigners
3870 were of course entirely in ignorance. (A similar plot
3871 against the Portuguese a few months later was carried
3872 out, and between fifty and sixty were massacred in
3873 open daylight.) It so happened, however, that one of
3874 those acquainted with the conspiracy had a friend
3875 engaged in the service of the missionaries; and anxious
3876 for his safety, he was led to warn him of the coming
3877 danger, and urge his leaving foreign employ. The
3878 servant made the matter known to his master, and thus
3879 the little community became aware of their peril.
3880 Realising the gravity of the situation, they determined
3881 to meet together at the house of one of their number to
3882 seek the protection of the Most High, and to hide under
3883 the shadow of His wings. Nor did they thus meet in
3884 vain.

3885

3886 At the very time we were praying the LORD was
3887 working. He led an inferior mandarin, the
3888 Superintendent of Customs, to call upon the Tao-t'ai,

3889 and remonstrate with him upon the folly of permitting
3890 such an attempt, which he assured him would rouse the
3891 foreigners in other places to come with armed forces to
3892 avenge the death of their countrymen and raze the city
3893 to the ground. The Tao-t'ai replied that, when the
3894 foreigners came for that purpose, he should deny all
3895 knowledge of or complicity in the plot, and so direct
3896 their vengeance against the Cantonese, who would in
3897 their turn be destroyed; "and thus," said he, "we shall
3898 get rid of both Cantonese and foreigners by one stroke
3899 of policy." The Superintendent of Customs assured him
3900 that all such attempts at evasion would be useless; and,
3901 finally, the Tao-t'ai sent to the Cantonese, withdrawing
3902 his permission, and prohibiting the attack. This took
3903 place at the very time when we were asking protection
3904 of the LORD, though we did not become acquainted
3905 with the facts until some weeks later. Thus again we
3906 were led to prove that—

3907
3908 "Sufficient is His arm alone,
3909 And our defence is sure."

3910
3911 I cannot attempt to give any historical record of the
3912 events of this period, but ere 1857 terminated Mr.
3913 Jones and I were cheered by tokens of blessing. It is
3914 interesting to recall the circumstances connected with
3915 the first profession of faith in Christ, which encouraged
3916 us.

3917
3918 On one occasion I was preaching the glad tidings of
3919 salvation through the finished work of CHRIST, when
3920 a middle-aged man stood up, and testified before his

3921 assembled countrymen to his faith in the power of the
3922 Gospel.

3923

3924 “I have long sought for the Truth,” said he earnestly,
3925 “as my fathers did before me; but I have never found it.
3926 I have travelled far and near, but without obtaining it. I
3927 have found no rest in Confucianism, Buddhism, or
3928 Taoism; but I do find rest in what I have heard here to-
3929 night. Henceforth I am a believer in JESUS.”

3930

3931 This man was one of the leading officers of a sect of
3932 reformed Buddhists in Ningpo. A short time after his
3933 confession of faith in the SAVIOUR there was a
3934 meeting of the sect over which he had formerly
3935 presided. I accompanied him to that meeting, and there,
3936 to his former co-religionists, he testified of the peace he
3937 had obtained in believing. Soon after, one of his former
3938 companions was converted and baptized. Both now
3939 sleep in JESUS. The first of these two long continued
3940 to preach to his countrymen the glad tidings of great
3941 joy. A few nights after his conversion he asked how
3942 long this Gospel had been known in England. He was
3943 told that we had known it for some hundreds of years.

3944

3945 “What!” said he, amazed; “is it possible that for
3946 hundreds of years you have had the knowledge of these
3947 glad tidings in your possession, and yet have only now
3948 come to preach it to us? My father sought after the
3949 Truth for more than twenty years, and died without
3950 finding it. Oh, why did you not come sooner?”

3951

3952 A whole generation has passed away since that
3953 mournful inquiry was made; but how many, alas! might
3954 repeat the same question to-day? More than two
3955 hundred millions in the meanwhile have been swept
3956 into eternity, without an offer of salvation. How long
3957 shall this continue, and the MASTER'S words, "To
3958 every creature," remain unheeded?

3959

3960 [Illustration]

3961

3962 [Illustration]

3963

3964

3965

3966

3967 CHAPTER XVI

3968

3969 TIMELY SUPPLIES

3970

3971

3972 NOT infrequently our GOD brings His people into
3973 difficulties on purpose that they may come to know
3974 Him as they could not otherwise do. Then He reveals
3975 Himself as "a very present help in trouble," and makes
3976 the heart glad indeed at each fresh revelation of a
3977 FATHER'S faithfulness. We who only see so small a
3978 part of the sweet issues of trial often feel that we would
3979 not for anything have missed them; how much more
3980 shall we bless and magnify His Name when all the
3981 hidden things are brought to light!

3982

3983 In the autumn of 1857, just one year after I came to
3984 settle in Ningpo, a little incident occurred that did
3985 much to strengthen our faith in the loving-kindness and
3986 ever-watchful care of GOD.

3987

3988 A brother in the LORD, the Rev. John Quarterman, of
3989 the American Presbyterian Mission North, was taken
3990 with virulent small-pox, and it was my mournful
3991 privilege to nurse him through his suffering illness to
3992 its fatal close. When all was over, it became necessary
3993 to lay aside the garments worn while nursing, for fear
3994 of conveying the infection to others. Not having
3995 sufficient money in hand to purchase what was needful
3996 in order to make this change, prayer was the only
3997 resource. The LORD answered it by the unexpected
3998 arrival of a long-lost box of clothing from Swatow, that
3999 had remained in the care of the Rev. William Burns
4000 when I left him for Shanghai, in the early summer of
4001 the previous year. The arrival of the things just at this
4002 juncture was as appropriate as it was remarkable, and
4003 brought a sweet sense of the FATHER'S own
4004 providing.

4005

4006 About two months later the following was penned:—

4007

4008

4009 _November 18th, 1857._

4010

4011 Many seem to think that I am very poor. This certainly
4012 is true enough in one sense, but I thank GOD it is “as
4013 poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet
4014 possessing all things.” And my GOD shall supply _all_

4015 my need; to Him be all the glory. I would not, if I
4016 could, be otherwise than I am—entirely dependent
4017 myself upon the LORD, and used as a channel of help
4018 to others.

4019

4020 On Saturday, the 4th inst., our regular home mail
4021 arrived. That morning we supplied, as usual, a
4022 breakfast to the destitute poor, who came to the number
4023 of seventy. Sometimes they do not reach forty, at
4024 others again exceeding eighty. They come to us every
4025 day, LORD'S Day excepted, for then we cannot
4026 manage to attend to them and get through all our other
4027 duties too. Well, on that Saturday morning we paid all
4028 expenses, and provided ourselves for the morrow, after
4029 which we had not a single dollar left between us. How
4030 the LORD was going to provide for Monday we knew
4031 not; but over our mantelpiece hung two scrolls in the
4032 Chinese character—_Ebenezer_, “Hitherto hath the
4033 LORD helped us”; and _Jehovah-Jireh_, “The LORD
4034 will provide”—and He kept us from doubting for a
4035 moment. That very day the mail came in, _a week
4036 sooner than was expected_, and Mr. Jones received a
4037 bill for two hundred and fourteen dollars. We thanked
4038 GOD and took courage. The bill was taken to a
4039 merchant, and although there is usually a delay of
4040 several days in getting the change, this time he said,
4041 “Send down on Monday.” We sent, and though he had
4042 not been able to buy all the dollars, he let us have
4043 seventy on account; so all was well. Oh, it is sweet to
4044 live thus directly dependent upon the LORD, who
4045 never fails us!

4046

4047 On Monday the poor had their breakfast as usual, for
4048 we had not told them not to come, being assured that it
4049 was the LORD’S work, and that the LORD would
4050 provide. We could not help our eyes filling with tears
4051 of gratitude when we saw not only our own needs
4052 supplied, but the widow and the orphan, the blind and
4053 the lame, the friendless and the destitute, together
4054 provided for by the bounty of Him who feeds the
4055 ravens. “O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt
4056 His Name together. . . . Taste and see that the LORD is
4057 good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. O fear
4058 the LORD, ye His saints: for there is no want to them
4059 that fear Him. The young lions do lack, and suffer
4060 hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any
4061 good thing”—and if not good, why want it?

4062

4063 But even two hundred dollars cannot last for ever, and
4064 by New Year’s Day supplies were again getting low.
4065 At last, on January 6th, 1858, only one solitary cash
4066 remained—the twentieth part of a penny—in the joint
4067 possession of Mr. Jones and myself; but though tried
4068 we looked to GOD once again to manifest His gracious
4069 care. Enough provision was found in the house to
4070 supply a meagre breakfast; after which, having neither
4071 food for the rest of the day, nor money to buy any, we
4072 could only betake ourselves to Him who was able to
4073 supply all our need with the petition, “Give us this day
4074 our daily bread.”

4075

4076 After prayer and deliberation we thought that perhaps
4077 we ought to dispose of something we possessed in
4078 order to meet our immediate requirements. But on

4079 looking round we saw nothing that we could well
4080 spare, and little that the Chinese would purchase for
4081 ready money. Credit to any extent we might have had,
4082 could we conscientiously have availed ourselves of it,
4083 but this we felt to be unscriptural in itself, as well as
4084 inconsistent with the position we were in. We had,
4085 indeed, one article—an iron stove—which we knew the
4086 Chinese would readily purchase; but we much regretted
4087 the necessity of parting with it. At length, however, we
4088 set out to the founder's, and after a walk of some
4089 distance came to the river, which we had intended to
4090 cross by a floating bridge of boats; but here the LORD
4091 shut up our path. The bridge had been carried away
4092 during the preceding night, and the river was only
4093 passable by means of a ferry, the fare for which was
4094 two cash each person. As we only possessed one cash,
4095 our course clearly was to return and await GOD'S own
4096 interposition on our behalf.

4097
4098 Upon reaching home, we found that Mrs. Jones had
4099 gone with the children to dine at a friend's house, in
4100 accordance with an invitation accepted some days
4101 previously. Mr. Jones, though himself included in the
4102 invitation, refused now to go and leave me to fast
4103 alone. So we set to work and carefully searched the
4104 cupboards; and though there was nothing to eat, we
4105 found a small packet of cocoa, which, with a little hot
4106 water, somewhat revived us. After this we again cried
4107 to the LORD in our trouble, and the LORD heard and
4108 saved us out of all our distresses. For while we were
4109 still upon our knees a letter arrived from England
4110 containing a remittance.

4111

4112 This timely supply not only met the immediate and
4113 urgent need of the day; for in the assured confidence
4114 that GOD, whose we were and whom we served, would
4115 not put to shame those whose whole and only trust was
4116 in Himself. My marriage had been previously arranged
4117 to take place just fourteen days after this date. And this
4118 expectation was not disappointed; for “the mountains
4119 shall depart, and the hills be removed, but My kindness
4120 shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of
4121 My peace be removed.” And although during
4122 subsequent years our faith was often exercised, and
4123 sometimes severely, He ever proved faithful to His
4124 promise, and never suffered us to lack any good thing.

4125

4126 Never, perhaps, was there a union that more fully
4127 realised the blessed truth, “Whoso findeth a wife
4128 findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the
4129 LORD.” My dear wife was not only a precious gift to
4130 me; GOD blessed her to many others during the twelve
4131 eventful years through which she was spared to those
4132 that loved her and to China.

4133

4134 Hers had been a life connection with missionary work
4135 in that great empire; for her father, the loved and
4136 devoted Samuel Dyer, was amongst the very earliest
4137 representatives of the London Mission in the East. He
4138 reached the Straits as early as 1827, and for sixteen
4139 years laboured assiduously amongst the Chinese in
4140 Penang and Singapore, completing at the same time a
4141 valuable fount of Chinese metallic type, the first of the
4142 kind that had then been attempted. Dying in 1843, it

4143 was never Mr. Dyers privilege to realise his hopes of
4144 ultimately being able to settle on Chinese soil; but his
4145 children lived to see the country opened to the Gospel,
4146 and to take their share in the great work that had been
4147 so dear to his heart. At the time of her marriage, my
4148 dear wife had been already living for several years in
4149 Ningpo with her friend, Miss Aldersey, in whose varied
4150 missionary operations she was well qualified to render
4151 valuable assistance.

4152

4153 [Illustration]

4154

4155

4156

4157

4158 CHAPTER XVII

4159

4160 GOD A REFUGE FOR US

4161

4162

4163 A SOMEWHAT different though not less manifest
4164 answer to prayer was vouchsafed early in the year
4165 1859. My dear wife was brought very low by illness,
4166 and at last all hope of recovery seemed gone. Every
4167 remedy tried had proved unavailing; and Dr. Parker,
4168 who was in attendance, had nothing more to suggest.
4169 Life was ebbing fast away. The only ground of hope
4170 was that GOD might yet see fit to raise her up, in
4171 answer to believing but submissive prayer.

4172

4173 The afternoon for the usual prayer meeting among the
4174 missionaries had arrived, and I sent in a request for

4175 prayer, which was most warmly responded to. Just at
4176 this time a remedy that had not yet been tried was
4177 suggested to my mind, and I felt that I must hasten to
4178 consult Dr. Parker as to the propriety of using it. It was
4179 a moment of anguish. The hollow temples, sunken
4180 eyes, and pinched features denoted the near approach
4181 of death; and it seemed more than questionable as to
4182 whether life would hold out until my return. It was
4183 nearly two miles to Dr. Parker's house, and every
4184 moment appeared long. On my way thither, while
4185 wrestling mightily with GOD in prayer, the precious
4186 words were brought with power to my soul, "Call upon
4187 Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou
4188 shall glorify Me." I was at once enabled to plead them
4189 in faith, and the result was deep, deep, unspeakable
4190 peace and joy. All consciousness of distance was gone.
4191 Dr. Parker cordially approved of the use of the means
4192 suggested, but upon arriving at home I saw at a glance
4193 that the desired change had taken place in the absence
4194 of this or any other remedy. The pinched aspect of the
4195 countenance had given place to the calmness of
4196 tranquil slumber, and not one unfavourable symptom
4197 remained to retard recovery to health and strength.

4198

4199 Spared thus in answer to prayer the loss of my own
4200 loved one, it was with added sympathy and sorrow that
4201 I felt for Dr. Parker, when, in the autumn of the same
4202 year, his own wife was very suddenly removed. It
4203 being necessary for the doctor to return at once with his
4204 motherless children to Glasgow, temporary
4205 arrangements had to be made for the conduct of the
4206 Mission Hospital in Ningpo, for which he alone had

4207 been responsible. Under these circumstances he
4208 requested me to take up the work, at least so far as the
4209 dispensary was concerned. After a few days' waiting
4210 upon the LORD for guidance, I felt constrained to
4211 undertake not only the dispensary work, but also that of
4212 the hospital; relying solely upon the faithfulness of a
4213 prayer-hearing GOD to furnish the means required for
4214 its support.

4215

4216 The funds for the maintenance of the hospital had
4217 hitherto been supplied by the proceeds of the doctor's
4218 foreign medical practice; and with his departure these
4219 ceased. But had not GOD said that whatever we ask in
4220 the Name of the LORD JESUS shall be done? And are
4221 we not told to seek first the kingdom of GOD, not
4222 means to advance it, and that all these things shall be
4223 added to us? Such promises were surely sufficient.
4224 Eight days before entering upon this responsibility I
4225 had not the remotest idea of ever doing so; still less
4226 could friends at home have anticipated it. But the
4227 LORD had foreseen the need, and already funds were
4228 on the way to supply it.

4229

4230 At times there were not less than fifty in-patients in the
4231 hospital, besides a large number who daily attended the
4232 out-patient department. Thirty beds were ordinarily
4233 allotted to free patients and their attendants; and about
4234 as many to opium-smokers, who paid for their board
4235 while being cured of the habit. As all the wants of the
4236 sick in the wards were supplied gratuitously, in
4237 addition to the remedial appliances needed for the out-
4238 patient work, the daily expenses were considerable;

4239 besides which, a number of native attendants were
4240 required, involving their support.

4241

4242 When Dr. Parker handed the hospital over to me he
4243 was able to leave money that would meet the salaries
4244 and working expenses of the current month, and little
4245 more. Being unable to guarantee their support, his
4246 native staff retired; and then I mentioned the
4247 circumstances to the members of our little church,
4248 some of whom volunteered to help me, depending, like
4249 myself, upon the LORD; and they with me continued to
4250 wait upon GOD that in some way or other He would
4251 provide for His own work. Day by day the stores
4252 diminished, and they were all but exhausted when one
4253 day a remarkable letter reached me from a friend in
4254 England which contained a cheque for 50. The letter
4255 stated that the sender had recently lost his father, and
4256 had inherited his property; that not desiring to increase
4257 his personal expenditure, he wished to hold the money
4258 which had now been left to him to further the LORD'S
4259 work. He enclosed the 50, saying that I might know of
4260 some special need for it; but leaving me free to use it
4261 for my own support, or in any way that the LORD
4262 might lead me; only asking to know how it was
4263 applied, and whether there was need for more.

4264

4265 After a little season of thanksgiving with my dear wife,
4266 I called my native helpers into our little chapel, and
4267 translated to them the letter. I need not say how
4268 rejoiced they were, and that we together praised GOD.
4269 They returned to their work in the hospital with
4270 overflowing hearts, and told out to the patients what a

4271 GOD was ours; appealing to them whether their idols
4272 had ever helped them so. Both helpers and patients
4273 were blessed spiritually through this remarkable
4274 provision, and from that time the LORD provided all
4275 that was necessary for carrying on the institution, in
4276 addition to what was needed for the maintenance of my
4277 own family, and for sustaining other branches of
4278 missionary work under my care. When, nine months
4279 later, I was obliged through failure of health to
4280 relinquish this charge, I was able to leave more funds
4281 in hand for the support of the hospital than were
4282 forthcoming at the time I undertook it.

4283

4284 But not only were pecuniary supplies vouchsafed in
4285 answer to prayer—many lives were spared; persons
4286 apparently in hopeless stages of disease were restored,
4287 and success was given in cases of serious and
4288 dangerous operations. In the case of one poor man,
4289 whose legs were amputated under very unfavourable
4290 circumstances, healthy action took place with such
4291 rapidity that both wounds were healed in less than two
4292 weeks. And more permanent benefits than these were
4293 conferred. Many were convinced of the truth of
4294 Christianity; not a few sought the LORD in faith and
4295 prayer, and experienced the power of the Great
4296 Physician to cure the sin-sick soul. During the nine
4297 months above alluded to sixteen patients from the
4298 hospital were baptized, and more than thirty others
4299 became candidates for admission into one or other of
4300 the Christian churches in the city.

4301

4302 Thus the year 1860 began with openings on all hands,
4303 but time and strength were sadly too limited to admit of
4304 their being used to the best advantage. For some time
4305 the help of additional workers had been a much-felt
4306 need; and in January very definite prayer was made to
4307 the LORD of the harvest that He would thrust forth
4308 more labourers into this special portion of the great
4309 world-field. Writing to relatives at home in England,
4310 under date of January 16th, 1860, I thus expressed the
4311 deep longing of our hearts:—

4312

4313 Do you know any earnest, devoted young men desirous
4314 of serving GOD in China, who—not wishing for more
4315 than their actual support—would be willing to come
4316 out and labour here? Oh, for four or five such helpers!
4317 They would probably begin to preach in Chinese in six
4318 months time; and in answer to prayer the necessary
4319 means for their support would be found.

4320

4321 But no one came to help us then; and under the
4322 incessant physical and mental strain involved, in the
4323 care of the hospital during Dr. Parker's absence, as
4324 well as the continued discharge of my other missionary
4325 duties, my own health began rapidly to fail, and it
4326 became a serious question as to whether it would not be
4327 needful to return to England for a time.

4328

4329 It was hard to face this possibility. The growing church
4330 and work seemed to need our presence, and it was no
4331 small trial to part from those whom we had learned so
4332 truly to love in the LORD. Thirty or forty native
4333 Christians had been gathered into the recently

4334 organised church; and the well-filled meetings, and the
4335 warm-hearted earnestness of the converts, all bespoke a
4336 future of much promise. At last, however, completely
4337 prostrated by repeated attacks of illness, the only hope
4338 of restoration seemed to lie in a voyage to England and
4339 a brief stay in its more bracing climate; and this
4340 necessity, painful though it seemed at the time, proved
4341 to be only another opportunity for the manifestation of
4342 the faithfulness and loving care of Him “who worketh
4343 all things after the counsel of His own will.”

4344

4345 As heretofore, the LORD was present with His aid. The
4346 means for our journey were supplied, and that so
4347 liberally that we were able to bring with us a native
4348 Christian to assist in translation or other literary work,
4349 and to instruct in the language such helpers as the
4350 LORD might raise up for the extension of the Mission.
4351 That He would give us fellow-labourers we had no
4352 doubt; for we had been enabled to seek them from Him
4353 in earnest and believing prayer for many months
4354 previously.

4355

4356 The day before leaving China we wrote as follows to
4357 our friend W. T. Berger, Esq., whom we had known in
4358 England, and who had ever strengthened our hands in
4359 the LORD while in that distant land:—

4360

4361 “We are bringing with us a young Chinese brother to
4362 assist in literary work, and I hope also in teaching the
4363 dialect to those whom the LORD may induce to return
4364 with us.”

4365

4366 And throughout the voyage our earnest cry to GOD
4367 was that He would overrule our stay at home for good
4368 to China, and make it instrumental in raising up at least
4369 five helpers to labour in the province of CHEH-
4370 KIANG.

4371

4372 The way in which it pleased the LORD to answer these
4373 earnest and believing prayers, and the “exceeding
4374 abundantly” with which He crowned them, we shall
4375 now sketch in brief outline.

4376

4377 [Illustration]

4378

4379

4380

4381

4382 CHAPTER XVIII

4383

4384 A NEW AGENCY NEEDED

4385

4386

4387 “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your
4388 ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are
4389 higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your
4390 ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”[3] How
4391 true are these words! When the LORD is bringing in
4392 great blessing in the best possible way, how oftentimes
4393 our unbelieving hearts are feeling, if not saying, like
4394 Jacob of old, “All these things are against me.” Or we
4395 are filled with fear, as were the disciples when the
4396 LORD, walking on the waters, drew near to quiet the
4397 troubled sea, and to bring them quickly to their desired

4398 haven. And yet mere common-sense ought to tell us
4399 that He, whose way is perfect, can make no
4400 mistakes; that He who has promised to “perfect that
4401 which concerneth” us, and whose minute care counts
4402 the very hairs of our heads, and forms for us our
4403 circumstances, must know better than we the way to
4404 forward our truest interests and to glorify His own
4405 Name.

4406

4407 “Blind unbelief is sure to err
4408 And scan His work in vain;
4409 GOD is His own Interpreter,
4410 And He will make it plain.”

4411

4412 To me it seemed a great calamity that failure of health
4413 compelled my relinquishing work for GOD in China,
4414 just when it was more fruitful than ever before; and to
4415 leave the little band of Christians in Ningpo, needing
4416 much care and teaching, was a great sorrow. Nor was
4417 the sorrow lessened when, on reaching England,
4418 medical testimony assured me that return to China, at
4419 least for years to come, was impossible. Little did I
4420 then realise that the long separation from China was a
4421 necessary step towards the formation of a work which
4422 GOD would bless as He has blessed the CHINA
4423 INLAND MISSION. While in the field, the pressure of
4424 claims immediately around me was so great that I
4425 could not think much of the still greater needs of the
4426 regions farther inland; and, if they were thought of,
4427 could do nothing for them. But while detained for some
4428 years in England, daily viewing the whole country on
4429 the large map on the wall of my study, I was as near to

4430 the vast regions of Inland China as to the smaller
4431 districts in which I had laboured personally for GOD;
4432 and prayer was often the only resource by which the
4433 burdened heart could gain any relief.

4434

4435 As a long absence from China appeared inevitable, the
4436 next question was how best to serve China while in
4437 England, and this led to my engaging for several years,
4438 with the late Rev. F. F. Gough of the C. M. S., in the
4439 revision of a version of the New Testament in the
4440 colloquial of Ningpo for the British and Foreign Bible
4441 Society. In undertaking this work, in my short-
4442 sightedness I saw nothing beyond the use that the
4443 Book, and the marginal references, would be to the
4444 native Christians; but I have often seen since that,
4445 without those months of feeding and feasting on the
4446 Word of GOD, I should have been quite unprepared to
4447 form, on its present basis, a mission like the CHINA
4448 INLAND MISSION.

4449

4450 In the study of that Divine Word I learned that, to
4451 obtain successful labourers, not elaborate appeals for
4452 help, but, _first_, earnest _prayer_ to GOD to thrust
4453 forth labourers, and, _second_, the deepening of the
4454 spiritual life of the church, so that _men_ should be
4455 unable to stay at home, were what was needed. I saw
4456 that the Apostolic plan was not to raise ways and
4457 means, but _to go and do the work_, trusting in His
4458 sure Word who has said, “Seek ye _first_ the Kingdom
4459 of GOD and His righteousness, and all these things
4460 shall be added unto you.”

4461

4462 In the meantime the prayer for workers for CHEH-
4463 KIANG was being answered. The first, Mr. Meadows,
4464 sailed for China with his young wife in January 1862,
4465 through the kind co-operation and aid of our friend Mr.
4466 Berger. The second left England in 1864, having her
4467 passage provided by the Foreign Evangelisation
4468 Society. The third and fourth reached Ningpo on July
4469 24th, 1865. A fifth soon followed them, reaching
4470 Ningpo in September 1865. Thus the prayer for the five
4471 workers was fully answered; and we were encouraged
4472 to look to GOD for still greater things.

4473

4474 Months of earnest prayer and not a few abortive efforts
4475 had resulted in a deep conviction that a special agency
4476 was essential for the evangelisation of Inland China.
4477 At this time I had not only the daily help of prayer and
4478 conference with my beloved friend and fellow-worker
4479 the late Rev. F. F. Gough, but also invaluable aid and
4480 counsel from Mr. and Mrs. Berger, with whom I and
4481 my dear wife (whose judgment and piety were of
4482 priceless value at this juncture) spent many days in
4483 prayerful deliberation. The grave difficulty of possibly
4484 interfering with existing missionary operations at home
4485 was foreseen; but it was concluded that, by simple trust
4486 in GOD, suitable agency might be raised up and
4487 sustained without interfering injuriously with any
4488 existing work. I had also a growing conviction that
4489 GOD would have me to seek from Him the needed
4490 workers, and to go forth with them. But for a long time
4491 unbelief hindered my taking the first step.

4492

4493 How inconsistent unbelief always is! I had no doubt
4494 that, if I prayed for workers, “_in_ the Name” of the
4495 LORD JESUS CHRIST, they would be given me. I had
4496 no doubt that, in answer to such prayer, the means for
4497 our going forth would be provided, and that doors
4498 would be opened before us in unreached parts of the
4499 Empire. But I had not then learned to trust GOD for
4500 _keeping_ power and grace for myself, so no wonder
4501 that I could not trust Him to keep others who might be
4502 prepared to go with me. I feared that in the midst of the
4503 dangers, difficulties, and trials which would necessarily
4504 be connected with such a work, some who were
4505 comparatively inexperienced Christians might break
4506 down, and bitterly reproach me for having encouraged
4507 them to undertake an enterprise for which they were
4508 unequal.

4509

4510 Yet, what was I to do? The feeling of blood-guiltiness
4511 became more and more intense. Simply because I
4512 refused to ask for them, the labourers did not come
4513 forward—did not go out to China—and every day tens
4514 of thousands were passing away to Christless graves!
4515 Perishing China so filled my heart and mind that there
4516 was no rest by day, and little sleep by night, till health
4517 broke down. At the invitation of my beloved and
4518 honoured friend, Mr. George Pearse (then of the Stock
4519 Exchange), I went to spend a few days with him in
4520 Brighton.

4521

4522 On Sunday, June 25th, 1865, unable to bear the sight of
4523 a congregation of a thousand or more Christian people
4524 rejoicing in their own security, while millions were

4525 perishing for lack of knowledge, I wandered out on the
4526 sands alone, in great spiritual agony; and there the
4527 LORD conquered my unbelief, and I surrendered
4528 myself to GOD for this service. I told Him that all the
4529 responsibility as to issues and consequences must rest
4530 with Him; that as His servant, it was mine to obey and
4531 to follow Him—His, to direct, to care for, and to guide
4532 me and those who might labour with me. Need I say
4533 that peace at once flowed into my burdened heart?
4534 There and then I asked Him for twenty-four fellow-
4535 workers, two for each of eleven inland provinces which
4536 were without a missionary, and two for Mongolia; and
4537 writing the petition on the margin of the Bible I had
4538 with me, I returned home with a heart enjoying rest
4539 such as it had been a stranger to for months, and with
4540 an assurance that the LORD would bless His own work
4541 and that I should share in the blessing. I had previously
4542 prayed, and asked prayer, that workers might be raised
4543 up for the eleven then unoccupied provinces, and thrust
4544 forth and provided for, but had not surrendered myself
4545 to be their leader.

4546
4547 About this time, with the help of my dear wife, I wrote
4548 the little book, China's Spiritual Need and Claims.
4549 Every paragraph was steeped in prayer. With the help
4550 of Mr. Berger, who had given valued aid in the revision
4551 of the manuscript, and who bore the expense of
4552 printing an edition of 3000 copies, they were soon put
4553 in circulation. I spoke publicly of the proposed work as
4554 opportunity permitted, specially at the Perth and
4555 Mildmay Conferences of 1865, and continued in prayer
4556 for fellow-workers, who were soon raised up, and after

4557 due correspondence were invited to my home, then in
4558 the East of London. When one house became
4559 insufficient, the occupant of the adjoining house
4560 removed, and I was able to rent it; and when that in its
4561 turn became insufficient, further accommodation was
4562 provided close by. Soon there were a number of men
4563 and women under preparatory training, and engaging in
4564 evangelistic work which tested in some measure their
4565 qualifications as soul-winners.

4566

4567 [Illustration]

4568

4569 FOOTNOTES:

4570

4571 [3] Isaiah lv. 8, 9.

4572

4573

4574

4575

4576 CHAPTER XIX

4577

4578 THE FORMATION OF THE C. I. M.

4579

4580

4581 IT was thus that in the year 1865 the CHINA INLAND
4582 MISSION was organised; and the workers already in
4583 the field were incorporated into it. W. T. Berger, Esq.,
4584 then residing at Saint Hill, near East Grinstead, without
4585 whose help and encouragement I could not have gone
4586 forward, undertook the direction of the home
4587 department of the work during my anticipated absence
4588 in China; and I proposed, as soon as arrangements

4589 could be completed, to go out with the volunteers and
4590 take the direction of the work in the field. For the
4591 support of the workers already in China, our friends at
4592 home were sending in unsolicited contributions from
4593 time to time, and every need was met.

4594

4595 We had now, however, to look forward to the outgoing
4596 of a party of sixteen or seventeen, and estimated that
4597 from 1500 to 2000 might be required to cover outfits,
4598 passage-money, and initial expenses. I wrote a little
4599 pamphlet, calling it "Occasional Paper, No. I."
4600 (intending in successive numbers to give to donors and
4601 friends accounts of the work wrought through us in
4602 China), and in that paper stated the anticipated needs
4603 for floating the enterprise. I expected that GOD would
4604 incline the hearts of some of the readers to send
4605 contributions: I had determined never to use personal
4606 solicitation, or to make collections, or to issue
4607 collecting-books. Missionary-boxes were thought
4608 unobjectionable, and we had a few prepared for those
4609 who might ask for them, and have continued to use
4610 them ever since.

4611

4612 It was February 6th, 1866, when I sent my manuscript
4613 of "Occasional Paper, No. I.," with a design for the
4614 cover, to the printer. From delays in engraving and
4615 printing, it was March 12th when the bales of
4616 pamphlets were delivered at my house. Now on
4617 February 6th a daily prayer-meeting, from 12 to 1
4618 o'clock, had been commenced, to ask for the needed
4619 funds. And that we had not asked in vain, the following
4620 extract from "Occasional Paper, No. II." will show:—

4621

4622 “The receipts for 1864 were 51:14s.; for 1865, from
4623 January to June, 221:12:6, besides two free passages;
4624 from June to December, 923:12:8. Hindrances having
4625 occurred, the MS. of the “Occasional Paper, No. I.”
4626 was not completed till February 6th, 1866. Up to this
4627 time we had received (from December 30th) 170:8:3.

4628

4629 “We felt much encouraged by the receipt of so much
4630 money in little more than a month, as it was entirely
4631 unsolicited by us—save from GOD. But it was also
4632 evident that we must ask the LORD to do yet greater
4633 things for us, or it would be impossible for a party of
4634 from ten to sixteen to leave in the middle of May.
4635 _Daily united prayer was therefore offered to_ GOD
4636 for the funds needful for the outfits and passages of as
4637 many as He would have to go out in May.

4638

4639 “Owing to the delays mentioned above in the printing
4640 of the ‘Occasional Paper,’ it was not ready for the
4641 publisher until March 12th. On this day I again
4642 examined my mission cash-book, and the comparison
4643 of the result of the two similar periods of one month
4644 and six days each, one before and one after special
4645 prayer for 1500 to 2000, was very striking:—

4646

4647 “Receipts from December 30th to February 6th, 170 8
4648 3 “ Feb. 6th to Mar. 12th 1774 5 11

4649 “Funds advised, since received 200 0 0

4650 ————— 1974 5 11

4651

4652 “This, it will be noticed, was previous to the
4653 circulation of the ‘Occasional Paper,’ and,
4654 consequently, was not the result of it. It was the
4655 response of a faithful GOD to the united prayers of
4656 those whom He had called to serve Him in the Gospel
4657 of His dear SON.

4658

4659 “We can now compare with these two periods a third of
4660 the same extent. From March 12th to April 18th the
4661 receipts were 529, showing that when GOD had
4662 supplied the special need, the special supply also
4663 ceased. Truly there is a LIVING GOD, and HE is the
4664 hearer and answerer of prayer.”

4665

4666 But this gracious answer to prayer made it a little
4667 difficult to circulate “Occasional Paper, No. I.,” for it
4668 stated as a need that which was already supplied. The
4669 difficulty was obviated by the issue with each copy of a
4670 coloured inset stating that the funds for outfit and
4671 passage were already in hand in answer to prayer. We
4672 were reminded of the difficulty of Moses—not a very
4673 common one in the present day—and of the
4674 proclamation he had to send through the camp to the
4675 people to prepare no more for the building of the
4676 Tabernacle, as the gifts in hand were already too much.
4677 We are convinced that if there were less solicitation
4678 for money and more dependence upon the power of
4679 the HOLY GHOST and upon the deepening of spiritual
4680 life, the experience of Moses would be a common one
4681 in every branch of Christian work.

4682

4683 Preparations for sailing to China were at once
4684 proceeded with. About this time I was asked to give a
4685 lecture on China in a village not very far from London,
4686 and agreed to do so on condition that there should be
4687 no collection, and that this should be announced on the
4688 bills. The gentleman who invited me, and who kindly
4689 presided as chairman, said he had never had that
4690 condition imposed before. He accepted it, however, and
4691 the bills were issued accordingly for the 2nd or 3rd of
4692 May. With the aid of a large map, something of the
4693 extent and population and deep spiritual need of China
4694 was presented, and many were evidently impressed.

4695

4696 At the close of the meeting the chairman said that by
4697 my request it had been intimated on the bills that there
4698 would be no collection; but he felt that many present
4699 would be distressed and burdened if they had not the
4700 opportunity of contributing something towards the
4701 good work proposed. He trusted that as the proposition
4702 emanated entirely from himself, and expressed, he felt
4703 sure, the feelings of many in the audience, I should not
4704 object to it. I begged, however, that the condition
4705 agreed to might be carried out; pointing out among
4706 other reasons for making no collection, that the very
4707 reason adduced by our kind chairman was, to my mind,
4708 one of the strongest for not making it. My wish was,
4709 not that those present should be relieved by making
4710 such contribution as might there and then be
4711 convenient, under the influence of a present emotion;
4712 but that each one should go home burdened with the
4713 deep need of China, and ask of GOD what He would
4714 have them to do. If, after thought and prayer, they were

4715 satisfied that a pecuniary contribution was what He
4716 wanted of them, it could be given to any Missionary
4717 Society having agents in China; or it might be posted to
4718 our London office; but that perhaps in many cases what
4719 GOD wanted was not a money contribution, but
4720 personal consecration to His service abroad; or the
4721 giving up of son or daughter—more precious than
4722 silver or gold—to His service. I added that I thought
4723 the tendency of a collection was to leave the
4724 impression that the all-important thing was money,
4725 whereas no amount of money could convert a single
4726 soul; that what was needed was that men and women
4727 filled with the HOLY GHOST should give
4728 themselves to the work: for the support of such there
4729 would never be a lack of funds. As my wish was
4730 evidently very strong, the chairman kindly yielded to it,
4731 and closed the meeting. He told me, however, at the
4732 supper-table, that he thought it was a mistake on my
4733 part, and that, notwithstanding all I had said, a few
4734 persons had put some little contributions into his hands.

4735

4736 Next morning at breakfast, my kind host came in a
4737 little late, and acknowledged to not having had a very
4738 good night. After breakfast he asked me to his study,
4739 and giving me the contributions handed to him the
4740 night before, said, “I thought last night, Mr. Taylor,
4741 that you were in the wrong about a collection; I am
4742 now convinced you were quite right. As I thought in
4743 the night of that stream of souls in China ever passing
4744 onward into the dark, I could only cry as you
4745 suggested, ‘LORD, what wilt Thou have me to do?’
4746 I think I have obtained the guidance I sought, and here

4747 it is.” He handed me a cheque for 500, adding that if
4748 there had been a collection he would have given a few
4749 pounds to it, but now this cheque was the result of
4750 having spent no small part of the night in prayer.

4751

4752 I need scarcely say how surprised and thankful I was
4753 for this gift. I had received at the breakfast-table a letter
4754 from Messrs. Killick, Martin and Co., shipping agents,
4755 in which they stated that they could offer us the whole
4756 passenger accommodation of the ship Lammermuir.
4757 I went direct to the ship, found it in every way suitable,
4758 and paid the cheque on account. As above stated, the
4759 funds deemed needed had been already in hand for
4760 some time; but the coincidence of the simultaneous
4761 offer of the ship accommodation and this munificent
4762 gift—GOD’S “exceeding abundantly”—greatly
4763 encouraged my heart.

4764

4765 On the 26th of May we sailed for China in the
4766 Lammermuir, a missionary party of 16 (besides my
4767 four children and their nurse, and Miss Bausum
4768 (afterwards Mrs. Barchet)); in all 22 passengers. Mr.
4769 Berger took charge of the home department, and thus
4770 the C. I. M. was fully inaugurated.

4771

4772 [Illustration]

4773

4774

4775

4776

4777 CHAPTER XX

4778

4779 THE MISSION IN 1894

4780

4781

4782 THE events sketched in the last two chapters have been
4783 more fully delineated by Miss Guinness in her
4784 interesting Story of the China Inland Mission, which
4785 continues its history to the present date. It is indeed a
4786 record of the goodness of GOD, every remembrance of
4787 which calls for gratitude and praise. We can only here
4788 briefly mention a few facts, referring our readers to
4789 Miss Guinness's work for all details.

4790

4791 After a voyage of many mercies the Lammermuir
4792 party safely reached China, and during the first ten
4793 years stations and out-stations were opened in many
4794 cities and towns in four provinces which hitherto had
4795 been unreached by the Gospel. At home Mr. and Mrs.
4796 Berger continued their devoted service until March
4797 19th, 1872, I having returned to England the year
4798 before. Shortly after this the London Council was
4799 formed, which has now for several years been assisted
4800 by an auxiliary Council of ladies. A Scotch Council
4801 was also formed in Glasgow a few years ago.

4802

4803 A visit to America in 1888 issued in the formation of
4804 the Council for North America, and a similar Council
4805 for Australasia was commenced in Melbourne two
4806 years later. In the field a China Council was organised
4807 in 1886, composed of senior missionaries who meet
4808 quarterly in Shanghai.

4809

4810 Closely associated with the C. I. M. are seven
4811 Committees—in England, Norway, Sweden (two),
4812 Finland, Germany, and the United States—which send
4813 out and support their own missionaries, who in China
4814 have the assistance of the educational and other
4815 advantages of the C. I. M., and who work under its
4816 direction.

4817

4818 The staff of the Mission, in May 1893, consisted of 552
4819 missionaries (including wives and associates). There
4820 were also 326 native helpers (95 of whom were
4821 unpaid), working as pastors, evangelists, teachers,
4822 colporteurs, Bible-women, etc., in 14 different
4823 provinces.

4824

4825 Duly qualified candidates for missionary labour are
4826 accepted without restriction as to denomination,
4827 provided they are sound in the faith in all fundamental
4828 truths: these go out in dependence upon GOD for
4829 temporal supplies, with the clear understanding that the
4830 officers of the Mission do not guarantee any income
4831 whatever; and knowing that as they will not go into
4832 debt, they can only minister to them as the funds sent in
4833 from time to time will allow. But we praise GOD that
4834 during the past twenty-eight years such ministry has
4835 always been possible; our GOD has supplied all our
4836 need, and has withheld no good thing.

4837

4838 All the expenses of the Mission at home and abroad are
4839 met by voluntary contributions, sent to the offices of
4840 the Mission without personal solicitation, by those who
4841 wish to aid in this effort to spread the knowledge of the

4842 Gospel throughout China. The income for the year
4843 1892 was about 34,000 from all sources—Great
4844 Britain, the Continent of Europe, North America,
4845 Australasia, China, etc.

4846

4847 Some of the missionaries having private property have
4848 gone out at their own expense, and do not take
4849 anything from the Mission funds.

4850

4851 Stations have been opened in ten of the eleven
4852 provinces which were previously without Protestant
4853 missionaries; from one of these, however, we have had
4854 to retire. The eleventh province has been visited several
4855 times, and it is hoped that in it permanent work may
4856 soon be begun.

4857

4858 More than 200 stations and out-stations have been
4859 opened in fourteen of the eighteen provinces, in all of
4860 which stations either missionaries or native labourers
4861 are resident. Over 6000 converts have been baptized
4862 from the commencement, some 4000 of whom are now
4863 living and in fellowship.

4864

4865

4866 THE MISSION IN 1902

4867

4868 The year 1894, in which the first edition of A
4869 Retrospect appeared, was marked by the erection of
4870 large and commodious premises for the work of the
4871 Mission, and early in the following year the houses in
4872 Pyrland Road, which had so long formed the home of
4873 the Mission in England, were vacated, and

4874 NEWINGTON GREEN, LONDON, N., became the
4875 address of the Mission offices and home.

4876

4877 From that date until the Boxer outbreak of 1900 the
4878 Mission made steady progress, the development of the
4879 work in China being accompanied by corresponding
4880 developments in the home departments of the Mission
4881 in England, America, and Australasia.

4882

4883 In January 1900, before the Boxer outbreak, there were
4884 in connection with the Mission, 811 missionaries,
4885 including wives and associates; 171 stations; 223 out-
4886 stations; 387 chapels; 581 paid native helpers; 193
4887 unpaid native helpers; 8557 communicants in
4888 fellowship, 12,964 having been baptized from the
4889 commencement. There were 266 organised churches;
4890 788 boarding scholars; 1382 day scholars; 6 hospitals;
4891 18 dispensaries; and 46 opium refuges.

4892

4893 During the terrible year of 1900, when no fewer than
4894 135 missionaries and 53 missionaries' children and
4895 many thousands of Chinese Christians were cruelly
4896 murdered, the China Inland Mission lost 58
4897 missionaries and 21 children. The records of these
4898 unparalleled times of suffering have been told in
4899 Martyred Missionaries of the China Inland Mission
4900 and in Last Letters, both of which books will be
4901 found advertised at the end of this volume. Apart from
4902 loss of life, there was an immense amount of Mission
4903 property destroyed, and the missionaries were
4904 compelled to retire from their stations in most parts of
4905 China.

4906

4907 The doors closed by this outbreak have all been
4908 reopened in the goodness of GOD. In those districts
4909 which suffered most from the massacres the work has
4910 largely been one of reorganisation; but throughout
4911 China generally there has been a spirit of awakening
4912 and a time of enlarged opportunity; which is a loud call
4913 for more men and women to volunteer to step into the
4914 gaps and fill the places of those who have fallen.

4915

4916 Among recent developments we would specially
4917 mention the opening of a new home centre at
4918 Philadelphia, U.S.A. The total income of the Mission
4919 for 1901 was 53,633 = \$257,712, and the total received
4920 in England alone, for 1902, was 51,446 = \$246,912.
4921 The total membership of the Mission in June 1902 was
4922 761.

4923

4924 Current information about the progress of the work in
4925 China may be obtained from China's Millions, the
4926 organ of the Mission. It is published monthly, and may
4927 be ordered through any bookseller from Messrs.
4928 Morgan and Scott, 12 Paternoster Buildings, E.C., for
4929 1s. per year, or direct by post from the offices of the
4930 Mission, Newington Green, London, N., for 1s. 6d. per
4931 annum.

4932

4933 The Australasian edition of China's Millions may be
4934 ordered at the same price from M. L. Hutchinson, Little
4935 Collins Street, or from the Mission Offices, 267 Collins
4936 Street, Melbourne. The North American edition will be

4937 sent post free from the Mission Offices, 507 Church
4938 Street, Toronto, for 50 cents per annum.

4939

4940 Prayer meetings on behalf of the work in China are
4941 held at the principal home centres of the Mission, as
4942 follows: Every Saturday afternoon from 4 to 6 o'clock,
4943 at Newington Green, London. Every Friday evening at
4944 8 o'clock, at 507 Church Street, Toronto. Every
4945 Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, in the Office, 267
4946 Collins Street, Melbourne. A hearty invitation to attend
4947 any one of these meetings is given to any one residing
4948 in or visiting any of these cities.

4949

4950 Donations to the Mission, applications from candidates,
4951 orders for literature, requests for deputation speakers,
4952 and other correspondence should be forwarded to

4953

4954 The Secretary,
4955 China Inland Mission,
4956 Newington Green, London, N.

4957

4958 The Home Director,
4959 China Inland Mission,
4960 507 Church Street, Toronto, Canada.

4961

4962 or

4963

4964 702 Witherspoon Buildings, Philadelphia, U.S.A.

4965

4966 or to

4967

4968 The Secretary,

4969 China Inland Mission,
4970 267 Collins Street, Melbourne, Australia.

4971

4972 [Illustration: MAP OF CHINA

4973

4974 Shewing {1. All Protestant Mission Stations in China
4975 up to June 1866, when the C.I.M. was founded (they
4976 numbered fifteen) These are underlined in black.

4977 {2. The Stations of the China Inland Mission which
4978 (with the exception of Ning-Po & Fung-hwa) have
4979 been opened since June 1866. These are printed in red.]

4980

4981

4982 [Illustration]

4983

4984

4985

4986

4987 STATIONS OF THE CHINA INLAND MISSION

4988

4989 1900

4990

4991 (BEFORE THE BOXER OUTBREAK)

4992

4993

4994 The best guide to the stations of the Mission is the new
4995 China Inland Mission Map (size 44 × 38 in.,
4996 mounted on linen, coloured, varnished, and hung on
4997 rollers), price 8s. net, carriage and packing extra.
4998 Mounted to fold, 8s. net, post free.

4999

5000 Provinces.[4] Stations.[5] WORK BEGUN.

- 5001
5002 =Kan-suh=, 1876 LIANG-CHAU 1888
5003 SI-NING 1885
5004 LAN-CHAU 1885
5005 TS'IN-CHAU 1878
5006 _Area,[6] 125,450 square miles._ FU K'IANG 1899
5007 _Population, 9,285,377._ P'ING-LIANG 1895 KING-
5008 CHAU 1895
5009 TS'ING-NING 1897
5010 Chen-yuen 1897
5011 Tong-chi 1899
5012 _____
5013 _____
5014 =Shen-si=, 1876. Lung-chau 1893
5015 FENG-TSIANG 1888
5016 Mei-hien 1893
5017 K'IEN-CHAU 1894
5018 _Area, 67,400 square miles._ Chau-chih 1893
5019 _Population, 8,432,193._ _Sang-kia-chuang_ 1894
5020 Hing-p'ing 1893
5021 SI-GAN 1893
5022 _Ying-kia-wei_ 1893
5023 Chen-kia-hu 1897
5024 Lan-t'ien 1895
5025 K'ien-yang 1897
5026 Ch'ang-wu 1897
5027 San-shui 1897
5028 T'UNG-CHAU 1891
5029 Han-ch'eng 1897
5030 HAN-CHUNG 1879
5031 Ch'eng-ku 1887
5032 Si-hsiang 1896

- 5033 Yang-hien 1896
 5034 HING-AN 1898
 5035 _____
 5036 _____
 5037 =Shan-si=, 1876 TA-T'UNG 1886
 5038 Hwen-yuen 1898
 5039 SOH-P'ING 1895
 5040 Ts-yuin 1895
 5041 YING-CHAU 1897
 5042 Hiao-i 1887
 5043 Kiai-hiu 1891
 5044 SIH-CHAU 1885
 5045 Ta-ning 1885
 5046 KIH-CHAU 1891
 5047 Ho-tsin 1893
 5048 Ping-yao 1888
 5049 _Area, 56,268 square miles._ HOH-CHAU 1886
 5050 _Population, 12,211,453._ Hung-t'ung 1886 Yoh-yang
 5051 1896
 5052 P'ING-YANG 1879
 5053 K'h-wu 1885
 5054 I-sh 1891
 5055 Yin-ch'eng 1888
 5056 _Mei-ti-kiai_ 1895
 5057 HIAI-CHAU 1895
 5058 Lu-ch'eng 1889
 5059 _-wu_ 1896
 5060 LU-GAN 1889
 5061 Kiang-chau 1898
 5062 _____
 5063 _____
 5064 =Chih-li=, 1887 T'IEN-TSIN 1888

- 5065 _Area, 58,949 square miles._ PAO-T'ING 1891
 5066 _Population, 17,937,000._ Hwuy-luh 1887
 5067 SHUN-TEH 1888
 5068 _____
 5069 _____
 5070 =Shan-tung=, 1879 _Chefoo_ 1879
 5071 “ Sanatorium 1880
 5072 “ Boys’ School 1880
 5073 _Area, 53,762 square miles._ “ Girls’ “ 1884
 5074 _Population, 36,247,835._ “ Preparatory School 1895
 5075 _T’ung-shin_ 1889
 5076 Ning-hai 1886
 5077 _____
 5078 _____
 5079 =Ho-nan=, 1875 Siang-ch’eng 1891
 5080 _Chau-kia-k’eo_ 1884
 5081 _Ho-nan_ ...
 5082 _Ho-peh_ ...
 5083 _Ho-si_ ...
 5084 _Area, 66,913 square miles._ CH’EN-CHAU 1895
 5085 _Population, 22,115,827._ T’ai-k’ang 1895 _She-k’i-
 5086 tien_ 1886
 5087 Kwang-chau 1899
 5088 Hin-an 1899
 5089 _King-ts-kuan_ 1896
 5090 _____
 5091 _____
 5092 =W. Si-ch’uan=, 1877 Kwan-hien 1889
 5093 CH’EN-TU 1881
 5094 KIA-TING 1888
 5095 _Area of whole Province, SUI-FU 1888
 5096 166,800 square miles._ LU-CHAU 1890

- 5097 Hiao-sh 1899
5098 CH'UNG-K'ING 1877
5099 Ta-chien-lu 1897
5100 _____
5101 _____
5102 =E. Si-ch'uan=, 1886 Kwang-yuen 1889
5103 _Sin-tien-ts_ 1892
5104 PAO-NING 1886
5105 Ying-shan 1898
5106 _Population of whole Province, K-hien 1898
5107 67,712,897._ SHUN-K'ING 1896
5108 Pa-chau 1887
5109 SUI-TING 1899
5110 Wan-hien 1888
5111 _____
5112 _____
5113 =Hu-peh=, 1874 _Lao-ho-k'eo_ 1887
5114 _Area, 70,450 square miles._ _Han-kow_ 1889
5115 _Population, 34,244,685._ I-CH'ANG 1895
5116 _____
5117 _____
5118 =Gan-hwuy=, 1869 T'ai-ho 1892
5119 VING-CHAU 1897
5120 _Ch'eng-yang-kwan_ 1887
5121 _K'u-ch'eng_ 1887
5122 Fuh-hing-tsih (Lai-gan) 1898
5123 LUH-GAN 1890
5124 GAN-K'ING 1869
5125 _Area, 48,461 square miles._ Training Home ...
5126 _Population, 20,596,288._ Wu-hu 1893
5127 Kien-p'ing 1894
5128 NING-KWOH 1874

- 5129 KWANG-TEH 1890
 5130 CH'I-CHAU 1889
 5131 Kien-teh 1892
 5132 HWUY-CHAU 1884
 5133 _____
 5134 _____
 5135 =Kiang-su=, 1854 Gan-tung 1891
 5136 Ts'ing-kiang-pu 1869
 5137 Kao-yiu 1888
 5138 YANG-CHAU 1868
 5139 Training Home ...
 5140 CHIN-KIANG 1888
 5141 _Area, 44,500 square miles._ Shanghai 1854
 5142 _Population, 20,905,171._ Financial Department ...
 5143 Business Department ...
 5144 Home ...
 5145 Hospital ...
 5146 Evangelistic Work ...
 5147 Literary Work ...
 5148 _____
 5149 _____
 5150 =Yun-nan=, 1877 Bhmo (Upper Burmah) 1875
 5151 _Area, 107,969 square miles._ TA-LI 1881
 5152 _Population, 11,721,576._ YUN-NAN 1882
 5153 K'H-TS'ING 1889
 5154 _____
 5155 _____
 5156 =Kwei-chau=, 1877 KWEI-YANG 1877
 5157 GAN-SHUN 1888
 5158 _Area, 64,554 square miles._ Tuh-shan 1893
 5159 _Population, 7,669,181._ HING-I 1891
 5160 (Work among Aborigines) ...

- 5161 _P'ang-hai_ 1897
 5162 _____
 5163 _____
 5164 =Hu-nan=, 1875 CH'ANG-TEH 1898
 5165 _Area, 74,320 square miles_. SHEN-CHAU 1898
 5166 _Population, 21,002,604._ Ch'a-ling 1898 _____
 5167 _____
 5168 _____
 5169 =Kiang-si=, 1869 KIU-KIANG 1889
 5170 Ku-ling Sanatorium 1898
 5171 _Ta-ku-t'ang_ 1873
 5172 NAN-K'ANG 1887
 5173 Gan-ren 1889
 5174 RAO-CHAU 1898
 5175 _Peh-kan_ 1893
 5176 Kwei-k'i 1878
 5177 _Shang-ts'ing_ 1893
 5178 H-wan 1899
 5179 Ih-yang 1890
 5180 _Area, 72,176 square miles._ _Ho-k'eo_ 1878
 5181 _Population, 24,534,118._ _Yang-k'eo_ 1890 Kwang-
 5182 feng 1889
 5183 Yuh-shan 1877
 5184 _Chang-shu_ 1895
 5185 KUI-GAN 1891
 5186 _Feng-kang_ 1891
 5187 KAN-CHAU 1899
 5188 Sin-feng 1899
 5189 LIN-KIANG 1898
 5190 NAN-CH'ANG 1898
 5191 UEN-CHAU (_Itinerating_) ...
 5192 Yung-sin 1899

- 5193 _____
5194 _____
5195 =Cheh-kiang=, 1857 HANG-CHAU 1866
5196 SHAO-HING 1866
5197 Sin-ch'ang 1870
5198 KIU-CHAU 1872
5199 Ch'ang-shan 1878
5200 Lan-k'i 1894
5201 _Area, 39,150 square miles_. KIN-HWA 1875
5202 _Population, 11,588,692._ Yung-k'ang 1882 Tseh-k'i
5203 1897
5204 CH'U-CHAU 1875
5205 Lung-ch'uen 1894
5206 Uin-ho 1895
5207 Song-yang 1896
5208 _Siao-mei_ 1896
5209 Tsin-yun 1898
5210 NING-P'O 1857
5211 Fung-hwa 1866
5212 Ning-hai 1868
5213 T'ien-t'ai 1898
5214 T'AI-CHAU 1867
5215 Ling-he District ...
5216 Hwang-yen 1896
5217 T'ai-p'ing 1898
5218 WUN-CHAU 1867
5219 Bing-yae 1874
5220
5221 FOOTNOTES:
5222

5223 [4] Arranged in three lines from west to east, for easy
5224 reference to Map. The dates in this column in many
5225 cases are of itinerations begun.

5226

5227 [5] Capitals of Provinces in capital letters; of
5228 Prefectures in small capitals; and of Counties in
5229 romans; Market Towns in italics.

5230

5231 [6] Areas and populations are from The Statesman's
5232 Year Book.

5233

5234

5235 [Illustration]

5236

5237 Printed by R. & R. CLARK, LIMITED,
5238 Edinburgh.

5239

5240 * * * * *

5241

5242 Transcriber's Notes:

5243

5244 Page 109, "my" changed to "My" (My marriage had
5245 been)

5246

5247 Page 125, ending) added. (Miss Bausum (afterwards
5248 Mrs. Barchett)); in)

5249

5250 Page 129, format of "God" was changed to "GOD" to
5251 match rest of usage. (goodness of GOD)

5252

5253 Possible inconsistencies in spelling of Chinese names
5254 were retained such as Bhmo and Bham.

5255

5256

5257

5258

5259

5260

5261

5262 End of the Project Gutenberg EBook of A Retrospect,
5263 by James Hudson Taylor

5264

5265 <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/26744/26744-8.txt>