Diary #3
Dec. 1894
Oct. 1896

3

W. W. Lawton's Diary
Soochow
China
From Dec 13th 1894
to Oct. 11th 1895

p 20, 23, 25, 26, 33, 38, 41, 44, 45
78, 88, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Nashville, Tennessee

Whereas it has pleased Providence to affict our Bro. & Sister Tatum by taking their little daughter, Eva Rich Tatum, whose sunny disposition & bright winning manners endeared her to us all

Therefore be it resolved by this Conference

1st That we as a body assure our brother & sister of our deep sorrow in this their time of bereavement; & extend to them our heartfelt Christian sympathy in their great loss.

2nd That a copy of this resolution be handed to Bro. & Sister Tatum, that a copy be spread on the minutes of the Conference and that a copy be sent to the Biblical Recorder & —— County paper for publication

Grand Canal,
Sept. 1895

Dr. Broadus
Calendars
Chinkiang Mission more prominent.
Jin SS Wong S.S.
Circular Letter

~~Hly report~~
~~Sr. B~~
~~sermon~~
~~address~~
~~Report~~
~~talk~~
~~write to Magazine~~
~~F.W. Journal~~

Dec. 12 I am hard down at the language. It comes easier than I had expected. Where there is a will there is a way. I have just gotten Dr Yates' book revised by Mr Silsby. It will I am sure do much to help me in my study. I shall go to work & study it like Prof. Sampey made us study Hebrew. How glad I am that my mind has had the training that it has had. I am sure my work will be fifty percent easier because of it.

I am now reading Les Miserables. I try to put one hour a day on it. I have resolved if possible to do some work of that kind. I do not think I am to tie myself down entirely to the language - that would not do myself nor the cause that I represent justice. I am now studying with Bro Brittons teacher. He seems to be a very good one except that he puts an "h" in some places where it ought not to be.

I sent my letters off today. We will as a general rule send mail away from here once a week. We can send it however every day. It costs five cents to send it from here to Shanghai be the ~~exp~~ package large or small. In Shanghai

Bro Tatum mails them for us. The weather has been beautiful so far. Sun shines brightly. There was a heavy frost last night.

Dec. 13th 1874

Began Dr. Yates book today. Like it very much, believe it will greatly aid one in learning the language.

The Soochow Literary Society met this afternoon at Mr. Rogers; Mr Baxter Pres Miss Smith Sec Mrs Parker librarian. The paper read this P.M. was a translation of the first part of a book written by Mr James of the English Baptists. So far as I can judge it is a splendid book to put into the hands of the literati. It is an ingeniously gotten up affair. His introduction is so gradual & leads so delicately up to what he has to say. He tells the Chinamen (to whom he is writing) that "the more one thinks the more he will understand; & the more one works the more he will know" and building on this he tries simply to create enough interest on behalf of the reader to cause him to take up our Bible & study it for himself.

It was a saying among the ancients Mr James said that "without foundation there can be no Being". This argument he refutes by telling a man who did not believe there was ice in any part of world simply because he had not seen it. We must have faith if we believe anything. But then religion is objected, he says by you Chinamen, because it is new. He answers it is not new but even if it were there are many new things that are good. He then brings up quite a number of illustrations. He makes himself clearly understood by the simplest & best known illustrations & quite a number of them too — this to the Chinaman mind is very necessary. I enjoyed the evening very much & feel profited by it. It is certainly a great pleasure to be here with these older missionaries — one can gain so much from them.

Dr. Parkes observation on how nicely the Chinaman has a way of saying a man fell through on examination. He stood next after Sih Sah (who was the last on the list of those who passed).

程 曾 賢 Teacher

陸 德 恩 Lawton

包 志 登 Paxton

白 多 瑪 Britton

蘇 宗 Soochow

Dec 15.

The above names were written by Bro Brittons teacher Dec 14th. They are very neat in all of their work — the blots were put there by me. Bro B. went to Quinsan yesterday we look for him tomorrow by dinner. Our services went on here as usual — the barber took charge. I was struck with the poor ear that the Chinese have for our music. Neither Mr nor Mrs B were in the chapel this evening & so the

natives had to do most of their own singing. They had almost gotten through singing the whole hymn before I could tell what they were trying to sing — they would say the words in a musical tone of voice — some on one key some on another — but had very little music about it. I have been reading the last Chinese Recorder. There are some good articles in it. I was especially struck with the one by Bro. G.W. Greene of Canton on "The Relation of the Missionary to the Churches (at home) It is a sensible & clear cut presentation of the subject — Be a man even if you are a Missionary yet be a true & sympathetic Christian. The article on Li Hung Chang by Ex Consul (U.S.) Seward is good & to me opened up some new things about this great Chinaman.

Snow today continued almost the whole day. Miss Barton is on her way to America so Bro Patum writes Bro. B. I am progressing slowly in the language. It seems so far to be quite an interesting language to study. With health I shall be

able to do something with it I'm sure. I am now reading (English) a little book by Wm Reid on "The Blood of Jesus" given to me by Walter E.C. I feel more than ever before the great worth of Jesus' blood & the utter insufficiency of anything else.

U.S. mail is in Japan — has been there since the 4th inst — don't know when it will get here.

DEC 17th

Bro B. went to Quinsan on Sat. & returned early yesterday Monday morning. He says it was one of the most pleasant meetings he has ever had there. All the members in town came & one Bro. who lives six miles out in the country walks in every Sunday that the weather allows. That looks like some amount of zeal for the cause God grant that he may indeed be already washed in the saving blood of Christ.

Yesterday Bro B. & myself visited the Chinese poor house of Soochow. There is room for 70 but they have very small quarters — a room about six by ten would hold seven. There is a poor house, reform school & dispensary of goods to the poor all in one.

I saw a "yamen runner" taking a rogue to the "lock up". The officer had tied a string to the end of the queue & was driving him by that. There are some very pretty open courts in Soochow. I have not yet begun to see any thing of the city for I fear I shall get lost. I hope soon to be able to stand alone in more respects than one. Today is a beautiful day — sun shining brightly & snow on the house tops. The sun was shining yesterday also.

N.C. Daily News Sat Dec 15. 1894

Death of Rubinstein

London 21st Nov.

Anton Rubinstein, the great Russian pianist & composer, is dead!

"Europe & Arabia" is the heading of a good editorial in the same paper. It says

The ideal of one (Europe) is activity, & other Nirvana.

In Europe 1 in 10 of pop. at school
" Japan 1 in 14
" India 1 in 59
" China 1 in 90
" Siberia 1 in 260

In Europe boys & girls are educated in almost the same proportion, in Asia only 1 to 10

Europe's watchword is "Love God & save the world"
Asia's " "Obey the Emperor & save yr. self"

This very good on general outline but do not carry the examination too far. Why?

Dec. 21st 1894

Yesterday I took ~~dinner~~ dinner with Mr. Paxton. It is the first time I've taken a meal out side of Mr. B's home since coming to Soochow. Mr. Paxton says I am the first ~~for~~ visitor he has had. It was quite pleasant. He had a good dinner & it was very nicely prepared. From there we went to prayer-meeting. It was at Mr Anderson's & led by Dr. DuBose. Dr. gave us a good talk founded on the latter part of 2nd chapter of Ephesians. The Dr. becomes thoroughly taken up with his subject while speaking & therefore can the better hold the attention of listeners. He is a pleasant speaker & says some good things. He came around today to ask me to take his time for preaching on Sunday & he would take mine. I exchanged on the ground that I would not thus be brought into double service.

First experience at book-selling took place this P.M. Dec. 21st 1894. Bro. B. & myself went out with a good arm full apiece. He sold twenty five I believe, & I sold seventeen. The price is eight cash apiece or less than one cent. I was much pleased at the progress made. It was quite interesting to me. One fellow offered me some salted ground-nuts to eat. I took one & enjoyed it. He insisted that I take more. Another fellow gave me five cash & before I could count them he had gone. (next day going down street they cried "feh zz ng kok dong dea") A boy gave me nine cash. I returned one while standing before quite a crowd. I refused seven cash for a book. The old man

said he had no more. Very seldom did I find a Chinaman who would try to pass off seven or less cash for eight. I found them all exceedingly polite ex. so much more than I had hoped or expected to find them that I may say they were exceedingly polite. May the Lord bless this my first direct effort to give the gospel to the heathen to the Chinaman's good & to mine.

1. All things to all men
The old man smoking his pipe in his shop— I approached in my most dignified manner bowed, offered him my books. He immediately took them & paid for them then went to reading

2. Paxtons man giving me the paper on the street calling me Loh Tsin sah — my surprise to have the papers returned & I thought I had sold & my surprise & one sd. know me.

One Chinaman asked Bro. B. if I was a man or a woman. I had on a large overcoat & felt hat

Dec 23.

This afternoon I led the services held at Mr Hayes. I preached from Eccl. 9:10. It was not as easy work as I had thought it would be. May the Lord bless my feeble efforts (I can but feel that they were feeble) to the furtherance of cause. Here a little & there a little. Each time brings with it renewed illustrations of the truth of one of Dr Broadus' sayings :- "a preacher must work as if all depended upon himself and must trust knowing that all depends upon God". Then after all this, leave it in Christs hands & he will help to bring something out of even nothing.

My trouble in delivery this P.M. was that I stumbled & halted too much — I do not think I was as easy in my delivery as I should have been. Nothing reasonable is impossible to a man who is willing to do & has God back of him.

I am invited around to Mrs. Anderson's for dinner Christmas. We are to have one dinner here & then Mr Paxton and myself are to go on to Mr Anderson's.

I learned this Evening that Dr. Wilkinson of Greenville & family are coming to China on the next steamer & will locate in Soochow

Dec. 29

Christmas was spent very pleasantly. At Mr. Brittons was Miss Flemming, Miss Smith & Mr Paxton. The table talk and after conversation was pleasant & I hope profitable. At four oclock Mr. P & myself went over to see the young ladies at the Methodist settlement. Staid there & chatted away until seven at which time we went to Mr. Anderson. There all v Methodist Mission & Soochow met, also Mr Collier an Englishman & Shanghai who has recently joined the Mission & Mr. P. & Myself. The dinner was fine, turkey ham &c.&c.&c. for too many good things to try to enumerate. After dinner we played some games & thus the evening passed into the past. Pleasant will be the memory of the day. When I reached home that night my American mail was here—then I had a feast for about an hour. I retired after twelve.

Miss Grace Watson died She was an excellent young woman. Bright, accomplished entertaining. She worked too hard at school I understand.

Prof A.T. Robinson & Miss Ella Broadus Md. 1894
C.T. Kincannon & Miss — Md.
W.H. Gibson & Miss Md.
C.C. Vaughn & " Katie Moorehead Md Oct 17th.

The evangelist at Shanghai came over yesterday to see if he could not serve us in that capacity here. We need a man & he is a fine preacher, but it seemed that as it was much cheaper to live here than in Shanghai therefore he ought to take less. The station offered him nine dollars & his house. He thinks it too little & so has decided to return to Shanghai. May the Lord lead us in this matter.

Jan. 1st 1895

Pleasant services on Sunday at Mr Hayes lead by Mr Hayes. Mr. Paxton is gone to Shanghai to meet Mr. Wilkinson & family from Greenville S.C.

Bro Britton & myself went over a good large part & northern portion & city this afternoon. We went

out to the East Wall, took the "Po Ta" to the big Pagoda went all through that. It is nine stories high, there are two hundred & thirty steps from the ground to the top. We speak of our large Washington Monument 555 ft high with all of its grandeur but this seems in some respects grander than that, & to think that it was made in honor of religion. It shows that we are religious & that not to a small degree. From this place one gets a splendid view of City. We count five pagodas in Soochow, one outside to the N.W. & two outside to the W or S.W. & one to the S.E. I think.

While we were in the Pagoda Dr. Hart & wife also his father, Sister & Dr Hair came up. We were just leaving when they came. Mrs Hart has been here two years & this is her first visit to this place. Bro. B. was here there I think before he visited it.

I have just had me a desk made to stand up by: 2 coats $1.50, table coat $1.40, an addition 25¢ total $3.15¢

I am enjoying Victor Hugo. He seems somewhat tiresome in some of his minute descriptions of Paris & places Corinth for instance which may be put down as a wine shop. He is however a master writer. His description of Louis Phillipe was one of finest things I've seen for some time. As the new year opens up I praise God that I'm here and allowed to begin work among these people. As I walked along this afternoon a baby saw me & it ran for dear life. Perhaps she did not know whether I was a Yankee or a monkey.

A man in one of shops made a terrible face at me. I smiled & bowed low taking off my cap to him. He changed his countenance to a smile. Perhaps as I had on a cap he thought me a Jap.

Jan. 2nd 1895

Attended the union meeting of all of natives this evening. Held at Dr Dr Boze's. A lecture on Szuchen province was given by Dr Hart who has been there for some time. There were quite

a number v natives present. The chapel was about full. The gate keeper walked there & back with me. ✗ One v students took hold v my arm as I was coming back & tried to stop me. I stopped, faced him, smiled, bowed low taking off my hat (couldn't say any thing for I didn't know enough) A young China-man standing there said as I left (for the man immediately let me loose) "Good adwize". How glad I am that I did not pull loose as my first impulse would have lead me to do

Jan 3rd

We had a pleasant and profitable literary meeting today at Dr DuBose' Mr. Lyon read the paper. The author was not known. It was a treatise against religion. Some facts jotted down from this paper

X not known in China before Tong dynasty he said

He refers quite often to Richie an Italian, Verbe-ist, & Adam Sharl ~~woodbridge~~ three Catholics of note, who built many chapels 30 I believe in 13 v Provinces Adam Sharl is buried in Pekin - Dr Parker visited his grave

One v writers points was Xnity does not h. ancestral worship. ec "they discard the relation of child to parent." He calls Missionaries the rag tag & bob tail v religion. He says Xnity tells us Buddha is in hell - who saw him there. They tell us + tis G. was crucified who cd. kill a G. They tell us + tis G. was a man who ruled heaven when he was on ⊕ They tell us he healed sick &c &c Why if he were a G. did he not prevent before tis was an ailment.

He holds + Nestorians, Mohammedans & Buddhists all h. a common origin. Buddha lived 600 yrs b4 X & X 600 b4 Mohammed He says Xity came fr. Buddhism & Mohammedanism fr. Xity.

He then shows how treaties were made between England France America & Russia - how foreigners are spreading all over China & suggests + tis be sent back & others prohibited fr. coming. He concludes by saying "therefore the sages found outside v world (e.g. China) are not worthy to be discussed

Astronomical inaccuracies are a terrible thing in China, tis was urged vs. sages outside v ⊕ by 1 author In remarks Dr Parker spoke v fact + today no

Chinaman need dare to memorialize the Emperor in order to expel foreigners for it wd. not be done. For even this much progress we ought to be thankful.

The afternoon was an enjoyable one from first to last.

American mail today. Thank God for the dear ones at home & for their prayers & sympathy. May we grow — grow out & self & into Christ.

Jan 4th

Sold eight copies & gospels this afternoon. One man took one & off he went with it not paying a cent. This not often done. A boy annoyed me quite much, first trying to hide a book from me, then taking it & running off after patiently taking it all one & by-standers made the boy give it up. I told 1m American boys were "fh hoa" and Chinese boys were also.

One old drunk man took my hat off & put it on his head & his "Man tze" he put on my head. My hat has been sunning & my head

has had a good washing but to my sorrow tonight in Chapel the same thing was repeated with my cap by a young man — Good way for 1m to make me keep clean.

In chapel tonight I was almost outdone by a boy standing in front & me, feeling my clothes, trying to talk, trying to outlook me &c. I told him to sit down once or twice at last I being almost outdone said "If you please will you sit down" He did so for a time then came back but did not trouble me (much Politeness pays in China.)

Jan 7th

Yesterday (Sunday) preaching at Dr Harts. Dr Hart. St. lead the meeting. Is 40:30 "They + wait upon 1 Lord shall renew their strength" A good sermon, moderately well delivered.

This is 1 week of prayer. Mr. Hays lead this P.M. at Mr Crozers. I am to lead tomorrow at Dr. DuBose Mr Britton next day at Mrs Campbells

I heard Dr. Parker say today that he had almost gotten Dr. Broadus' book on Homiletics translated into Chinese. This is a very fine book as its wide circulation indicates.

Dogs on the st. are very much annoyed when we foreigners come near. Bro Paton's cow does not know what to think of one. It trembles like a leaf & looks so mad that it either makes you tremble or get out of the way. The children are terribly frightened. One poor little girl was emptying some trash, as she reached the door I was just opposite it, a few feet away, she ran off & began to cry – How sorry I was for her & yet I cd. not comfort her. Sometimes we older ones run away from Jesus & then he can't comfort us.

Jan 11th

This week of prayer. I have not been out for three days on acct. of rain & snow. I am not always afraid. Much but I am trying now to be very careful as to health.

Dr & Mrs Hart had a reception given last evening for Dr Hart's father mother sister & a Dr Hart. I was invited but did not go on acct. of weather.

Dr Wilkinson & family have come. I have not seen him but Bro B. has.

I completed "Les Miserables" last evening. What a master writer Hugo is. I think at times he is too minute in Paris descriptions for an American reader but his plot is excellent & so well carried out. He makes Jean Valjean almost a God-man.

Jan 13th 1895

The week of prayer was observed by our missionaries here in Soochow. I enjoyed those meetings that I attended. They were strengthening. On account of bad weather I did not attend three days.

Mr Hays mentioned yesterday that Dr Shedd & Dr McCosh had both recently died. The former is a theologian, the latter was for about 18 yrs Pres. of Princeton. They were strong men.

Bro B. went to Louisa yesterday. The weather is quite cold today. I am sure he must find it hard to keep warm on the boat. American mail came last night. I rec'd. eleven letters, five of them from Louisville. I hear that my little cousin Julia Richard joined ch. during a meeting at Broadway conducted by Rev. White. Quite a revival took place there & also at 22nd & Walnut when Bro Ford Hale held a meeting. May God be with & keep members & lead them safely.

In my letter from home I note the uniting of my sweet little sister Allene with the people of G. Mother says she can truly say Bless the Lord O my soul & all that is within me bless his holy name.

The other day our Chinese neighbors just in front were picking up a terrible racket. Mrs. B. noticed a boy who was talking, or at least trying to talk, to a woman, who was blabbing away at a terrible rate, was bruised in the face & bleeding. The servant girl & Mrs B. said that a boy had ill-treated his mother & a sister had scratched his face for them. So we see women have their way even in China. If the can't have it by gentleness & piety they seem to dominate it over one. Moral: Give religion to China

Thermometer registered 32° today at eleven o'clock in the chapel when we met without a fire

Jan 15th

I went yesterday over to the Meth. settlement Spent a pleasant afternoon talking to Mr. Walters also went into the Meth. gymnasium

Jan 17th

Yesterday Bro. B. & myself went out all day to sell gospels & for Bro. B. to preach. We went north & city to Loame. The day to me was spent very pleasantly. It was the first time that I had taken a trip in the country & therefore every thing was quite novel. Hope to write up the trips. May God bless work done. I sold 18 gospels.