

Diary #5

Oct. 1896

Sept. 1897

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Nashville, Tennessee

5

W. W. Lawton's

Diary

Chinkiang, China

October 1st 1896

Sept. 12th 1897

W. D. Pilgrimage

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Nashville, Tennessee

Oct. 3rd 1896

Today I had a good long talk with Sao Ling, Miss Mackenzie's cook, on the subject of religion. He says he believes, but that he ^{can} not read. I told him we did not have to read in order to believe. He came over and after a short talk on other matters he brought up the subject of how to join a church himself.

This afternoon Goh came again and brought two friends with him. We had a short talk. A man from up the canal, who paid special attention last night, came around this afternoon and had a long talk with Wang Shong, the chapel keeper.

There has been much seed sowing in this city. Would that some fruit could be gathered for our Master. We must be willing to work and wait. Let us never be weary for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

Oct. 6th Trip Yangchow #1

Sunday we had a very good day. We were sorry Ling Shong could not meet with us. His foot trouble him a great deal these days. Had only the morning services in Chinese & in the afternoon Dr. Anderson preached in English.

Yesterday Monday I went up to Yangchow. Reached there about 5 P.M. and left this morning about 9 A.M. Bro. & Sister Pierce have put on Chinese clothes. They both look very well in them. I have said all of the time that if I had been in their place I would have had it on from the first in Yangchow. In Chinkiang it helps if I am a fair judge.

I heard yesterday of the birth of my little niece Margaret Louise Lindsey who was born Aug. 19th 1896. May she be a bright & shining light in this dark world.

We had a nice prayer-meeting (Chinese) this evening. Seven Chinese out. Lao Ling asked to sing "I now believe".

3
Oct. 8th

Yesterday I led the English prayer-meeting at the C.I.M. for Dr. Anderson as he was preparing to go to Shanghai. It was raining so only a very few were out.

Rev. E.F. Tatum & wife of Shanghai are about reaching their homes in America now I suppose. They were so anxious to stay longer - two years longer if possible but it seemed as if a general break down would have resulted from that.

I hope Bro. T.C. Britton & wife have been allowed to come back. If so they will likely leave San Francisco today on the steamer China.

The J.R. Mott's meetings in Shanghai are being well attended and it is said they are very beneficial. I did not go because I thought I had left my work enough.

Oct. 13th

The Chinkiang and the Shanghai missions have united and after the approval of the Board will be one mission - known as the Central China Mission of the Southern Baptist Convention. May the union be for the furtherance of the work in this field.

Mr. Hooker of Penn. who is working in the C.P.M. ^{This was while I was keeping bachelor's hall} took supper with me last night. He is now working in the country about Hankin.

Today Messrs Gibson and Hooker and myself were invited to tiffin at Mr. Kupper. I spent a pleasant two hours up there.

Miss Robinson of their mission has returned and a Miss Daevers has just come out. Mr. H's boys' school seems to be doing very nicely. He has 31 boys there at present. I believe he furnishes everything.

Mr. Walker of the Scotch Bith Soc. has not yet returned

Oct 19th

I have been so busy the last week that I have not taken time to write. I am studying the language, trying to take charge of the little work that we have here, and am also translating some.

Last week Mr. Brown and Mr. Alexander of the "Alliance mission" came in and staid from four until the ~~late~~ ^{late} steamer came. They are just out. Mr. Brown is only 20 ^{years old} from Kansas. Mr. Alexander about 20 an English-American.

Saturday I took dinner at Mr. Gibson's.

Last night (Sunday) Mr. & Mrs. Kupper, Edith & Albine took supper with me so as to be near the river. They go up to Chinkiang to their annual Conference. Bishop Joyce will be there. He will stop over on his way back.

I preached yesterday in English service.

There are several inquiring among the Chinese. May the Lord direct us so as we can direct them.

Oct. 22nd

A nice mail this morning. Cousin Bob Wallingham has been quite sick but is some better now. The banks have cut off giving the Board credit. I am glad to hear it. I do not think we should carry on mission work with borrowed money. The Whitsett

controversy is getting warmer & warmer. I am now up on the hills at night while Mr. Kuffer is away.

Ling Shong is bad off with his leg. The Walkers are back. I am glad to have them here again. They are so sociable.

Miss Mackay was up in N.C. when she last wrote. I am so glad she can have the nice trip.

7
Oct. 30th Grand Canal #2

Today I left Yangchow at 10³⁰. I went up yesterday to see Bro. Pierce & co. I have been having some company at Chinkiang. Mr. Hunt of the Christian Mission took supper with me one night. Mr. Walker took dinner one day, and Mr. Gibson one day. I have been getting on very nicely except I had ^{which casts off the writer} a cold which has not left me. I shall board with Mr. Walker after Nov. 1st. It was so kind of them to take me in up there.

Bro. Pierce is getting everything fixed up quite nicely in Yangchow. The stairs to the back of the house adds much to it.

Miss Mackay, though not much better expects to return to Chinkiang tomorrow. May the Lord richly bless his work in C.

U.S. Mail came yesterday. The Board owes \$37,000 gold.

Oct. 31st 1896

I am twenty seven years old today. Just two years ago today I left America, the land of liberty. Truly the Lord has been good to me all of my life. Day by day I am shown more of His love and mercy and long suffering.

I have been keeping house now one month and five days. After today I will board with Mr. Walker. Lien Teai has been all that I could expect. My board this month including his wages 4.⁰⁰, the boy's expenses about 2.⁰⁰ and coal, oil, &c will be about twenty dollars. I do not think however that it is best for me to be keeping bachelors hall when the Walkers so kindly consent to take me in. Miss Mackenzie is looked for this evening. She is still quite weak. Our day school has an average attendance of 18 scholars.

Nov. 6th

Miss Mackenzie came back last Saturday. She is very weak and looks pale. For two days she has been down with a headache.

Mr. Walker expects to leave tomorrow to be away a month or more to the North East of here.

I enjoy boarding over there very much. They are all so kind & thoughtful.

I am having some painting done on these two houses & the church at my own expense. The Board is \$27.⁰⁰ dollars in debt. I hear that the Southern Methodists are much worse than that.

Li Shien Teun is now going to school at Mr. Kupper.

Rev. W. N. Crozier passed through yesterday on native boats moving from Soochow to Hankow.

Nov. 11th

Mr. & Mrs. Pierce came day before yesterday to do what they could for Miss Mackenzie. The latter seems to be some better this morning. Is able to be up. It is very hard for us to know what to do, as she claims to have such clear revelation from the Heavenly Father. The Dr. and all others think something should be done and say that she is wrong in her position but so far of old she claims that we are all wrong - all are but tempters from the evil one to her to cause her not to do her duty. What can we do.

Yesterday was quite varied. I went to the formal marriage ceremony of Mr. Hu and Miss Hung at the Methodist Mission. It was all done quite decently & orderly. I also went to a feast given by Bro. Chu because of the birth of his son. I also went to the death bed of a young Chinaman 17 yrs old the son of Mr. Walker's cook who had killed himself with a dose of opium because he did not want to work in the jewelry shop.

Nov. 14th 1896

Mr. & Mrs. Pierce, after doing all that they could to get Miss M. to move up in the large house to live with them, went on back to Yenchow to await a letter from Shanghai as to their opinion in the matter. Miss M. was made worse by talking about the matter. She is not near so well today.

I ate dinner at Mr. Gibson's today. Mr. Doucar will likely preach for us in Chinese tomorrow.

I have taken Nu Ling-wher, a boy about fourteen, to live here, cook & go to school. His mother & father have thrown him aside. Neither of them seem to be worth anything.

Mr. & Mrs. P. Ethel & myself took dinner at Mr. Lydenstricker's day before yesterday.

Nov. 17th

We had a nice little prayer-meeting tonight. There were four members out and four others. We had a letter read from the Saling (Shantung) church. I believe it does much good to let them see what other Christians are doing.

I am glad that Miss Mackenzie is improving, come. May it prove to be a permanent improvement.

My cold & cough are still quite stubborn. Dr. Anderson is treating it for me. ^{I took about \$20 worth of} ^{Malt & Cod Liver Oil} ^{for this cold}

I am having some painting done on these houses and on the church. I am truly glad that I could spare the money for the places were needing it very much especially the big door in the church. The painter does good work but I am sorry he smokes opium.

Nov. 27th

I have been so busy for the last ten days & been working so very far from any laid out system that I have neglected some things that should not have been.

Rev. Thos. Hutton formerly a C.I.M. here at C. has returned from England unconnected and has rented this house. I keeping one up-stairs & one ^{later decided to keep only the up-stairs room} down stairs room. The rest of the house goes for \$30.⁰⁰ Mex. ^{about \$17.⁰⁰ gold.}

Mr. Walker's house is also \$20.⁰⁰ Mex. & I have some rooms down stairs. I'm in hopes some changes can be made so that the mission can get \$70.⁰⁰ Mex per month for the two. Two years ago the small house Miss Mackenzie's was rented out at \$12.⁵⁰ Mex per month. And in Yangchow we were paying out \$44.⁰⁰ Mex for the house Mr. & Mrs. Pierce had. The Lord is greatly

blessing us from a financial point of view.

Rev L. N. Chappell has ordered most of his goods sold. What a pity he had not seen to it before leaving. They have been a great nuisance to us all.

Mr. & Mrs. P. are down here now seeing about the auction which will take place today. I hope this is the last time a brother will ever leave his goods in this way. Some have been stolen, some lost, some moth eaten some broken and all more or less damaged.

American mail day before yesterday brought letters from Mother, Maggie, Aunt Jane K., Mrs. Tompkins, J. W. Millard of Rutaw Place Church, Cleveland a lady member of Broadway & W. B. James

I'm having a good deal of work done here in the way of fixing up premises &c. It is a strain on me to a certain extent but

15-
it will soon be over. My head has troubled me some but I am going to study less. My cold is still very bad. Dr. Anderson is treating it for me.

Dec. 1st

Rev. Thos Hutton Family & Miss You Poreck are getting fixed up rapidly. Little Annie is sick today with fever. White-washing is being done in several of the rooms. The parlor I have had painted at \$9.00 Mex. a rather high price perhaps but I hope it will last.

Miss Mackenzie continues about the same. Mrs. Pierce is over there with her at present. Bro. P. went back to Yangchow today. The Dr. seems to think that she will likely have to return home. I know it would almost break her heart at first. Let us pray for her.

This afternoon Mrs. Walker & the three older children, Mrs. Pierce & her two and myself went for a long walk on the hill.