

April 16th "Day E" Nashville, Tennessee

As we leave early in the morning I write twice today. We left Chin Shong's at about nine this morning. They were very good to us & treated us "lift top" as we Americans would say. They had meat for supper & fish for breakfast. Mr. P. gave them \$1.00 on leaving.

We had not gone far when we saw the natives running out to see the "monkey show". Some one suggested that we stop a time & preach to them. We stopped a while & when they saw that we were to be viewed the mothers came running with their babies on their backs or in their arms, the farmer threw down his hoe, or led his buffalo to the place for the "show", and the dogs came running along with the children to see the sights. We stood a short time when at least one hundred were

here to see but we used their ears to tell them of Christ. We went on a short distance when at least fifty others gathered at another place. There we preached a time. After crossing at Cash (4 cash going two places) to Ling Song Chao we had a good long time selling & preaching after which we took dinner.

We reached here at five o'clock preached about two hours then ate supper.

On the trip we sold 917 cash worth of tracts, gospels & calendars.

The people were curious but polite and attentive. The crops were not far advanced. Wheat roots were very fair.

The people are ready to hear for which we ought to be truly thankful. Let us sow the seed in God's time it will bring forth fruit. A pleasant & hope a profitable trip.

April 17th "Grand Canal."

It is now a little past one o'clock. We reached Yangchow at half past eleven o'clock. I washed my face & hands & shaved; then went down & ate a hearty dinner. After dinner Miss Forbes brought out some cookies & some candy that had been sent to her in a box from America by some of her friends. I also enjoyed some of Mrs. Pierce's nice groundnut candy.

We came by "Soan Lu Sam", "Fah Hai Sz". These are very pretty temples outside of the North Gate of Yangchow. It was a treat to have some views of Yangchow that I had not yet had, but so sad to see the idol worship carried on to such a great extent.

We passed by a hill that is said to have been raised up naturally or spontaneously in memory of "Mong Guang Nei" who is said

to have cried her eyes out & her nose off when crying in search of her dear husband Mong Guang. Compare "Gwoh Ksa Mo" at Chinkiang which rock is said to have sprung up from the ashes of Mr. Gwoh when his son threw them into the river. Compare also the river down in Chekiang Province, compare March 30th, Syao Kuo's legend. These legends are numerous & have been translated in a small book by Miss Safford.

We have a swift water & a favorable wind therefore I am in hopes we will get into Chinkiang soon. I am on a boat with about 13 Chinese. In order to get the "Loo Ban" to go without waiting I give him 200 cash - could have gotten down for 60 if I had waited & been quiet.

Mr. P. bought 14 fowls on the road \$3.80 Mex for the lot. One was killed before it reached Y.

April 19th

I reached home at half past four on Saturday afternoon having left "Day E" that morning at half past four. From here to Y. is considered 60 li, Yangchow to Day E is also 60 li.

When I reached here on Saturday I had a short talk with an inquirer from Tai Sjur whose Messrs Walker & Ferguson were so badly treated some time ago. May the Lord open his heart & lead him to Christ.

Saturday night Mrs T.R. Blalock came up & I had to meet her. The Lord was good & brought the steamer in about half past eight. I got off to bed as soon after I saw her to Miss Mackenzies as I possibly could. Mrs. Blalock will likely stay with Miss M. for some time. Mr. B. is gone on to America. It is a sore trial to them I am sure.

Yesterday, Sunday, we had a good congregation. Mrs. M.J. Walker kindly plays on the organ & takes one of the women's or girls classes. This helps us no little. I did not try to preach yesterday but only gave an account of our works trip then called on Tain the tailor & Tsun S.S.

both members of the C.I.M. to make us short talks.

After that I gave the church members an opportunity to confess their sins before the church (did I confess mine? Must I expect more of them than I am willing to do myself? The Lord in heaven have mercy upon us & help & at last save us for Christ's sake). Linghong said he had not kept the Sabbath as he thought the "custom" was. I told them that we are not simply to go by what "custom" teaches but by the "Word of God"

after that the "doors of the church" were thrown open. Three presented themselves for baptism. Poan S.S. who has heard the doctrine for some years & wanted to join two years ago but sickness prevented at the time. "Lao Dzang" the man who is now acting as cow man for Mr. Walker. A reliable & I believe a thoroughly honest man. Mrs. L.W. Price said she never had a servant that she was more pleased with than him.

A boatman ^{Liang} from Shantung who has heard & is very well posted in the scripture. He was about to join the church up in Shantung some time ago but was unexpectedly called away. Their cases were all held over for our prayer-meeting. May the Lord direct.

Yesterday afternoon I completed

the first half of "Bro. G. Paton's Missionary to the New Hebrides" an autobiography of himself. When I read of what he did & suffered for Christ's sake I feel ashamed of my poor weak self - but I'm looking upward to Christ.

Yesterday P.M. I spent ~~three~~ quarters of an hour over at Ling Shong's. Tien the tailor & Chu both came in while I was there so we had a nice social chat.

Last night Tien the tailor & myself & Ling Shong had a meeting at the Tigger's home. There were about two dozen listeners. They were most of them in bed but seemed to be awake - in fact they sat up.

In the chapel there were Wong Shong Chu Shong & our C.I.M. brother Way Shong. A good large crowd of listeners were there when I preached.

From N.C. Daily News 15th April 1897

Apropos of "a marriage in China" we learn that Mr. Gladstone has written to the publisher: "It is refreshing to the spirit to be carried into an atmosphere so entirely Christian as that of the novel you have kindly sent me, & I also much admire the early portion of the plot, & the drawing of some of the characters."

We hear also that through Mrs Drew, Mr Gladstone has sent as a message to the authoress (Mrs Archibald Little) that he "was greatly attracted by the heroine. He was much struck by the way in which the missionary question is dealt with, & the book gave him much information that was new to him"

April 23rd

I had a nice mail yesterday - eight letters three nice ones from dear mother.

Maner has married Miss Maude. She is said to be a sweet girl, attractive and a good musician. They are living with Bub on the "Wilcox place": May they "be happy as the day is long" and be a power for Christ in this sinful generation.

I was surprised to hear of the little negro boy Origin's marriage. Lawrence Sington's daughter is the happy bride.

Yesterday Miss Katie Hoag, the adopted daughter of Dr. Hoag, a Chinese woman about twenty odd years old was married to Dr. Hoag's adopted son "Alfred". We could not go as Mrs. Blalock received a telegram a few hours before the wedding saying that her husband, F.L. Blalock, who left some

few days ago for America on account of his continued sickness was waiting for her in Yokohama to go on with him. She got her things in readiness & left yesterday P.M.

I felt very sorry for them both having to go back "soon". He came out about $3\frac{1}{2}$ years ago & she about 2 years ago as Miss Emma Humphries. They are under the "Gospel Mission". Well I believe it is all of the Lord. We are all weak mortals & even the "Gospel Mission" adherents are subject to the common ills of man. The people in America cannot expect more of a missionary than what ones health will allow.

As a worker on the field I must learn that we must take care of ourselves.

My head is better but still troubles me when I have too much mental work to do & I lead & uphold & strengthen them.

At present the Cuban war question seems to be dying out & the Cretan question is all the talk. Greece & Turkey are about - in fact have already gone to arms. The Christian world are high in its praises for little Greece which so bravely comes to the rescue of those who are being butchered to death by the Musselmans. The Lord in Heaven reigns.

At present there is a famine out in Hupoh. The officials & others are doing what they can to alleviate the distress.

The wheel-barrow strike in Shanghai is not yet settled. The barrowmen refuse to allow their tax raised from 400 to 600 cash tax per month. The town Council have given in to them but will raise it later.

4th trip for 1897

Baptism of 3

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April 26 Monday Grand Canal

I am now nearing Yangchow. I got up this AM. about five, put away my dress clothes, counted my laundry, wrote six notes, gave an order for two vats at breakfast & left Yangchow at 8.30. I have a large boat which costs me only 300 cash. I have had one talk with the man, Mr. Liw who is in here with me. I have had a nice long study of the "Word of God" in 2 Saml. The Lord he is God." Then I read the N. C. Daily News. The famine in Szechuan & Hupeh is getting to be quite distressing. It is all that the officials can do to keep down the hungry mob.

The Turks-Gracian war about the Cretan question is now raging. Let the Lord make bare his arm; It seems to be Musselman vs Christian.

Yesterday I had the great pleasure

of baptizing three men. This is my first experience in such & so I was a little timid as they were all large men - especially one. I had written to Mr. Pierce to come but he could not. Mr. Herring who came in just after 5.5. & preached a good sermon for us also declined to immerse them but kindly gave me one or two good suggestions & said it was easier enough done & so it was.

The man was; "Poan" who applied for baptism some two or three years ago. He works in a kind of restaurant. He is earnest but not extra bright. "Liang" is a boatman from Tsur Kia Kall in Honan. He does not read but seems to trust with all his heart. I'm sorry that he cannot be near to be taught more. We commit him unto the keeping of the Father. "Gai" is Mr. Walker's cow-man. An earnest, thoughtful, kind man. Lord help us

On Saturday I got my N.C. Daily News letter written, also one to the Barnwell & Sav. River Associations. The latter have given \$431.⁰³ towards my salary for the year 1896. I'm sorry to see Beech Island falling off. May the Lord help them to go to work.

Dr. W. Herring wife & little girl are on their way to Australia to visit Mrs. H's relatives.

A curious freak came over me last Saturday - the first I've had since being in China. The desire to go home for the summer came over me so strongly that I actually began to plan in my mind how & when & where. Shame on me - but I may go yet if the Lord so wills. I'm not homesick at all but they say I need a change & why not so horrible!!

April 27th 1897 Grand Canal

I went up yesterday & took dinner at the house, then Fan S.S. Mr. Pierce & myself came on down to the boat that they had hired. We left Yangchow at 2.30 o'clock. Sold a few books at "Wan Der" then went on to "Mar Year Bon" (Pile kiln village) where I saw Mr. K'ong from whom we had bought the tiles for the Yangchow house. We stopped a little on this side of that place. Today the weather is rather cloudy & I think my cold was freshened some last night by the wind blowing on my head. The "Lan Ban" (load boat man literally "old plank") has been a little inclined to be troublesome but in a short time he gets better. His wife & two children are on with him also a young boy & another older boatman. The boat costs \$1.50 to Fan S.S. then 400 cash a day after that. We passed "Schuen Mu Mior" this A.M.

April 27 "Yang Ai"

We have just tied up for the night at this place "Always peaceful". It is six o'clock, rainy & unpleasant outside. I've been sorry that the boatmen had to work through the rain but they have not objected. Mr. P & Gan S.S. are

out selling a few tracts. I have been sick most of the day so considered it best to stay in. The wind blew on my head during the night & thus my cold was freshened. I hope I will be better tomorrow.

There are pretty trees growing on the left side of the canal which gives us a picturesque landing place. The little birds are flying happily over the canal, just about the water. Truly man alone is vile & sometimes it seems that civilized man is the vilest. Why? Because we have the Bible to tell us what wickedness is. The contrast of good & bad is greater in Christian lands

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April 29th "Chiao Su"

Yesterday we reached "Fan Tsä" early in the morning. It is only 10 li from "Yang Ai". There was a large "Whay" there, and we had a splendid time for selling. Mr. Pierce sold 294 cash worth, Mr. Gan 652 cash and I 754 cash. This was the largest sale I've ever made in one day. Sold 100 gospels & bibles at 6 cash each.

We found the people well behaved. These books that I sold took up about 4 hours of the day, the rest of the time I was on the boat. About five o'clock we left & came back for the night to "Yang Ai". This morning we have stopped at "Wu Dzunthin" which was a nice large place, next we stopped at "Yang Kia Szwong" & just now at "Chiao Su". These last are small places. It is now 2 o'clock. The weather is getting quite warm.

I notice in entry for Oct 6th about Ling Shou's sickness. He after have his leg amputated by Dr. Hart in Muku came on back to Chinkiang & after an absence from church of about five months or more ~~was~~ again able to attend. We are glad to have him with us again.

As to the whay yesterday it was quite good. There were four girls fixed on a frame work borne by a number of men, then some boys in another. Besides there were a number of boys on the shoulders of men. All were of course nicely dressed. Then the large paper dragon, green, borne by a number of men at intervals. The dragon must have been thirty or more feet long one waving in one direction & one in another as if a long snake were crawling along. This occasioned quite a commotion as it passed. Then there were decorations

carried on sticks ~~between~~ the shoulders. The worshippers were plentiful. They would come with a small bunch, with burning incense and a handkerchief. The bunch was to keep from putting the hands on the ground, the knees ~~were~~ wrapped around with paper for kneeling & the handkerchief was to keep the hands from getting sore. The young & old would come & bow before the idol, then go out & bow before each bridge & each alley or street.

A number were seen with red strings in ^{& their eyes tied up} their eyes. This was to acknowledge before the gods that they had not been as loyal as the true devotees should be - their sickness or other calamity during the year had been a just punishment to them for their lukewarmness - this "sack cloth" adornment was an acknowledgment of this fact.

Friday Grand Canal

We left a place on the other side of Shien nu miao this morning early. When we reached "Lok Tsah Tai" Mr. Pierce & Fan S.S. did a little preaching and I walked on to get a view of "Sor Poh" which was about a mile away. The view across the lake was quite good. I was surprised to hear that "Sor Poh" was such a large place - larger perhaps than "Shien nu miao". We reached

Yangchow about one o'clock, took a little lunch, then I came on down & called a boat for 400 cash for Chinkiang. There is a Mr. Tsien on here going on down to "San Yang". He is a "Shien nu miao" man. The Lao Pan ~~one~~ our other boat was named Chin on this named "Shien". Oh that God would help us to be wise in the use of our time for him. I great compliment was

paid me today by a Yangchow man - though he did not intend it as a compliment. I was talking with Mr. Pierce's man about the distance to "Shien nu miao". The row-man did not know so the man ahead overhearing the answer "I don't know" replied "14 li" after which we began to talk. He being ahead of me & not looking back. After going a good distance I walked up with him & as he saw me with my foreign dress on he drew off to one side & with a smiling astonished look on his face said "Why I thought I was talking to one of the Chinese". I have been told that I am getting the language very well but I never thought I could have talked that long with a Chinaman without being detected. My knowledge of the language however is almost entirely confined to the spoken. When you come to books I have to hide my face in silence.