

The American Missionary — Volume 42, No. 05, May, 1888 eBook

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Contents

The American Missionary — Volume 42, No. 05, May, 1888 eBook.....	1
Contents.....	2
Page 1.....	3
Page 2.....	5
Page 3.....	7
Page 4.....	9
Page 5.....	11
Page 6.....	13
Page 7.....	15
Page 8.....	17
Page 9.....	19
Page 10.....	21
Page 11.....	23
Page 12.....	25
Page 13.....	27
Page 14.....	29
Page 15.....	31
Page 16.....	33



Page 1

LETTER FROM REV. W.C. POND.

Our anniversary was an occasion of much interest. The attendance was large, and our brethren acquitted themselves well. The *Record-Union*, the principal daily of Sacramento, published both the addresses in full.

We have good news from our evangelists. They are doing great good, if we can judge at all by what we see: and they are in training, I believe, for larger and better service in the years to come. I shall have much to write about this for the *next Missionary*, much more than I can crowd into the space allowed me.

The new work at San Buenaventura opens finely. It is already one of our largest interior schools; and two or three, possibly *four*, of the Chinese have already been led to believe; so that before Low Quong returns he expects to organize an Association and get Christian work into systematic operation.

I am greatly pleased also with the reports from Tucson. Yong Jin, who has done excellent evangelistic work at Santa Cruz, goes to Tucson next week. He is an earnest Christian, and though somewhat deficient in English is better educated in Chinese and is an excellent preacher.

* * * * *

FOUR MONTHS OF EVANGELISTIC WORK.

BY LOW QUONG.

In January last I was asked to do some evangelistic work in the Northern part of this State. The first place I visited was Oroville. There we have a branch mission with a fine mission house, or, we might call it a Chinese church and school combined. The church has a membership of about fifteen. The evening scholars were usually about twenty or more. This school has a faithful teacher, and all together makes a fruitful mission. Although I was there only about a month—yet I enjoyed the work very much, and my acquaintance with the brethren there and their kindness to me I can never forget. I will now give you some little incidents of my work there. The town has about three hundred Chinese inhabitants, and most of our brethren and scholars live in the town, but there were also a good many outside of the town. These are mostly miners. But even these hard-working men, when they got through their day's work, {138} came to town at night to attend our evening school; and on Sundays also, to hear the preaching of the gospel.

At the end of the month, when Mr. Pond came to Oroville, we had the Lord's supper in our little Chinese church. It was held in the evening. One far-away brother was informed by letter, and he came over a long, rough road to attend the Lord's table. It was about eight o'clock when he reached the church. We asked him what time he



started to walk; he said at one o'clock in the afternoon. He had walked fully seven hours just for the Lord's supper, and early in the morning he had to walk back again to his place, while we took the train for Marysville. During my stay at Oroville, four members were added to the Association and one was baptized and received to the church. We would have had two, but one had gone to work in a place sixty miles from town. He had waited for Mr. Pond to come up for nearly a whole month, so he could be baptized, and he had gone only a week when Mr. Pond came. Lately I have received a letter from him, that he has returned to Oroville.

Page 2

The Chinese inhabitants at Oroville are very kind to the Christian Chinese. They never trouble them and always send their boys to the evening school. I heard not long ago from their teacher, that the whole mission house has been renovated and a new floor put down at the expense of the brethren and scholars.

* * * * *

CHIN GAING IN CHINA.

[EXTRACT FROM AN ADDRESS IN ALAMEDA, CAL., BY CHIN GAING.]

It is over eleven years since I left my home in China. Near the end of 1882 I began to attend the mission school in San Francisco. After being there about two years I joined the Christian Association, and six months from then I was baptized and joined Bethany Church.

Two years ago I returned to China. My friends there knew that I had changed my religion, and so, when I went back they asked me many questions.

My relatives wanted to know about the people in this country, what religion they had and what gods they worshiped. And whether the Chinese who went there believed the same as the American people.

I told them we believed in one God. They said, "Which one?"

I answered, the one that created the heaven and the earth, and all things in the world and the sea. The God who has all power and whom we ought to worship.

My mother then came up and said: "Do not talk such things; we are Chinese and must keep our customs."

I said I could not keep those which were against God. So they said: "If you have anything good, then keep it."

While in China I could not help seeing how much the people spent in {139} foolishness. They have so many idol processions, which cost a great deal of money. The people gladly give to keep up their worship, as they are in darkness and know not the name of Jesus, which is the only name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.

But how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

And so it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace."



* * * * *

BUREAU OF WOMAN'S WORK.

MISS D.E. EMERSON, SECRETARY.

WOMAN'S STATE ORGANIZATIONS.

CO-OPERATING WITH THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

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Page 3

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* * * * *

“Twenty-three unanswered letters look down upon me. Eighteen came to-day.” Such is the burdened sigh of one of our earnest, self-denying missionaries, who is upon the mission field that she may relieve the suffering, teach the ignorant and save souls, and for whom the days are all too short for these duties alone.

Have our readers ever felt the burden of unanswered letters? Pastors, Sunday-school teachers, housekeepers—busy people that you are—have you ever felt the twinge of unrest, almost discouragement, because some friendly letter, which you enjoyed receiving, lay unanswered waiting a spare hour? And have you ever had to “brace up” to what, in a life of leisure might be a pastime, but in a life so full of care and responsibility becomes a task? Then you will surely be ready unselfishly to

SPARE OUR TEACHERS.

How can it be done? Not by withholding your letters from them. If any missionaries anywhere need words of appreciation and good cheer they are those who year after year sacrifice social life and religious privileges to mingle with the ignorant, uncultured—yes, and impure—that they may lift them up into the healthful ways of righteousness. Write to them, encourage {140} them, but do not ask for a special letter for your next missionary meeting. Tell them *not to write*, that you have heard or can hear from them every month through their letters sent to the officers at New York and that you learn of the work through the A.M.A. magazine. Thank them for making this monthly missionary letter so full and interesting.

“But that monthly letter is a copied letter,” some one answers, “and we wish our teacher to write to us, *to us alone, and in her own hand.*” Yes, it is a copied letter in order that it



may be sent to others who are interested in, and helping, the same work, and that the missionaries' time may be given to the work about them instead of being spent so largely in writing. But it is a fresh letter. It has the latest monthly news and was written for you, and if not in the same hand is as truly yours as a typewritten letter, which is the sort most of us receive and give in the high-work pressure of now-a-days.

Page 4

We provide *The American Missionary*, furnish our printed leaflets freely, and will send the monthly missionary letters to all who desire to hear thus from their contributions—as we hope all do—thus giving the very best information that the field affords; but we most earnestly hope the missionaries may be allowed their time for their missionary duties pressing upon them. *The Missionary* is the word from your missionary. Read it, and if you do not like it, write us, and we will try again next month.

* * * * *

RECEIPTS FOR MARCH, 1888.

MAINE, \$146.84.

Augusta. South Cong. Ch. and Soc. \$21.45
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Page 5

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Page 6

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Page 7

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Page 8

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Page 9

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Page 10

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Page 11

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Page 12

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Page 13

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Page 14

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