

Zealously resolved to teach those books, & yet ~~was~~^{now} was undetermined
led. now we hear that you have landed & settled, which alarms
us not a little. And if the report be indeed true, we fear
we shall be unable ^{not} specially to supply you with provisions,
& thus be obliged to transport against pleasure, our expense
& fatigue also will greatly increase, & the country could not
stand it. we have therefore respectfully laid before you
the condition of our poorest country, each particular
respectively explained: & begging you to grant us the
every great countries are wont to exercise toward
smaller ones, & condescendingly to consider the comparison
owing to our helplessness, & to give up the intention of
stopping here, & taking Peking with you at once
to return to your country, & the able of Cookoo,
both mandarin & people will for ever be obliged
& grateful. — An urgent petition

(Hien-Fung 4. 1. 18)

Feb. 15th 1854.

It struck me while translating this letter, that not only it stands
forth as a good testimony of my labours, which none of my ene-
mies will be able to gainsay, but at the same time contains
the plainest evidence that I never made any promise of
leaving this, a promise which my shameless enemies at home
will first find out I had made while compulsorily accepting
a present offered to me in the most honourable way by
the mandarin here.

and ->

What worldly & blamable practices our present religious Committees
 venture upon to be detraiment of God's cause on earth! I'll
 think me forcibly when glancing over this evening the life of Mar-
 tyn, the missionary to India, that he was a consumptive subject,
 that his awful disorder had been hereditary in his family; that
 his parents & two sisters had died of it, & that he had previous-
 ly attacks even before he left England. Suppose now this God-fear-
 ing man had presented himself to some of our present mission-
 ary Committees, who, according to a nefarious rule, recently
 passed even in my own Committee, & without even asking
 my consent, had sent him (as if he was to engage for
 a soldier's life) to the Doctor for a Certificate, poor
 Martyn would have been refused a missionary's em-
 ployment, unless he had had strength enough to go on his
 own hand. Judson, an eminent American missionary,
 in his writings, as is Martyn's, ^(I understand is ordained) as a skilful physician
 can scarcely be off detecting the fluctuating sensitiveness
 of a cachectical fever, would neither have been capable
 of serving God with his life in the missionary cause. Of
 George Muller I lately read, that his only chance of becoming
 a missionary was that of being declared incapable for he being
 poor want of health. What are the present worldly Com-
 mittees about in doing to refuse missionary employment to
 a man who perhaps like Finckhous may have to take some share
 want for his stomach's sake, but who still is moved by
 God to consecrate to His service what remains him of life &
 strength. As long as I live - I will vote against Committees

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which they return to the condition of the Philippine Com-
mission (Phil. W. 15.) who were happy to supply Paul's
needs. We may be sure, without writing a medical certificate as to
his health, or even an examiners' certificate to his abilities. We
must get our missionaries from God's hand. Any pious man whom
God moves to go out to the heathen is welcome. If really a pious
man, he will be the best judge as to his abilities, & the place where
they would be best employed. If desirous of going out in connection
with any particular church that church should be most happy
to send him out acknowledged as a minister of God; & any
four five men in that church should promise him to act as
his Deacons, & help him as far as they shall be able, but,
of course, they must not neglect their duty because not bound
by any special agreement. I disapprove entirely of
missionary Colleges. Let none of the students of Divinity
be admitted to a pastorate at home before they have shown
their love for the ministry among the heathen. Let true
missionaries be honored by the churches when they return,
let the prospect of a return in heaven will enhance their
zeal while out on the missionary field. We would thus
have the best missionaries & ministers, all taught &
called to the work by the spirit of God, & no worldly con-
siderations would be allowed to check God's progress.

Heard his evening at 11 o'clock for the first time since
his return observe: This is harder work than that of any
labourer. "What will he say after eight years of such work?"
That he feels the hardship is a sure sign he labours hard. He has my
daily prayers & all the - and I can give him. & I fear long he'll soon
get into the language, which is now the most important point.

It was well we had carriers for Mrs. Morston, for the tide was still up so high that in ourselves had one, by one to use the Rague to cross part of the salt-plain, in our way would have been much longer. - Mrs. Morston again read prayers, & I preached from: "If ye were Abraham's children ye would do the works of Abraham." Felt refreshed as the service proceeded, & the audience was very attentive. - ~~For~~ The prayerbooks & Bibles I had taken with me today for the better accommodation of the congregation, greatly contributed to increased devotional spirit & attention among them. With exception of one (American) prayerbook, I left all the rest with the men, briefly but seriously commending the books to their perusal. - On our home way we soon parted company with Mrs. M. & looked out for work, our first meeting being in a house, where we spent about a quarter of an hour, men, women & children all attentively listening till the enemy manoeuvred them off. - We had another hearing in a house, into which a number of women had entered. myself planted in the door, they had no escape & they heard nearly the whole gospel, some boys also, listening to it. - Had a brief exhortation to a woman in another house. - Had an excellent congregation of boys - about ten - & two adult hearers in a respectable hall, Mrs. Morston taking up a position so as to prevent communication from without. Nothing could exceed the attention of the boys. They were perfectly riveted to my lips. The neighbourhood being a village in the salt plain, which I had rarely visited, the novelty of the gospel facts, no doubt, had a large share in eliciting attention. After half an hour, however, boy after boy came in, pulling at my boys, one which they left one by one. But now I turned round to the adult audience, which by this time had increased to five, & for some they heard & read page after page with every possible expression of deep emotion. I have no doubt but the spirit of God was with us & blessed it was one of the most sanctified meetings I had. Concluded with a long & hearty prayer, & left with ^{my} blessing bestowed on each of the hearers apart. - We now thought it best to change neighbourhood. - Went the upper bridge back towards Hapa, turning

March 1854. into a house. Here: immediately an audience collected in front, but
that 508. & densely crowded in the back, men, women & children, all most
avidly listening. Sometimes the enemy caused a diversion, & a few left,
but again the crowd rallied. Three times, poor creatures, they were dispersed &
rallied again, till, at last, with broken hearts, I saw the whole mass forced
off themselves being left alone in the house - Entering another house, rather
improbable. I had often before been there & knew all the windings, no means
advantageous in securing a good, sheltered locality for the audience. Mr.
Morrison did excellent service in keeping guard at the point most
exposed; we had also taken the precaution of shutting the door behind
us, & thus we secured the hearing of those youths, from about 15-18
of the summer class. How I prayed in my heart the Lord may
grant us a peaceful meeting, & I was heard in that I heard. My
dear young men heard & read all I wished, only that I had often to
hide the page when I desired to fix their attention the better on the
topics ~~well~~ explained. They are in the habit of almost mechanically
scanning down the whole page without rightly considering the ground run
over, & removing the books is the only remedy of gaining attention
to what is said rather than to what is on the page. I believe these youths
spend at least 40 minutes in a state of mind which they soon
forget while they live. There is no death on my mind but the gospel
with such rich harvests among this sweet tempered nation, ~~providing~~
but the thick of the opposition is first broken. I concluded
our long conversation (for my dear heaven often to rely expressed
his own thoughts on what they heard) with a hearty prayer for their
conversion, & the sowing of divine truth on their thirsty souls.
I felt almost entranced while praying for them & all the
children of God in London, & left this house happy & satis-
fied for all my troubles here & the bodily pains under which I
suffered. I could have kissed Morrison for the excellent - job
service - as he himself calls it - by which this meeting was secured.

In the evening we had home service, prayer read by Mr. [unclear] myself
at request expounding part of Matt. 4. the subject bearing on level.

8. Had the two days past much reason to complain of bodily infirmities but
am thankful to say that I feel this morning much improved. I think
my night's rest was in great measure owing to the fine evening spent yet-
terday with my boy, Firdah. He expressed himself so well & satisfactory
as to his understanding & approval of the gospel, that he greatly delighted
me. A new boy, we now have in exchange of one who left, he called near,
almost forced him down on a chair near him, to belabour his thighs, & him-
self giving him explanations of truths which evidently startled the boy, who
now for the first time in his life heard of a Creator, Father & Sanctifier.
There is nothing more ~~valuable~~ ^{calculated} to cheer me than to see the missionary spi-
rit of my children, though only babes in the faith, & their love of truth.
This is some more evidence of their standing in the Lord, than if I saw
them napping & groaning & sneaking. They venture to speak out for
God against the foolish notions of people around them, just as their
teacher has often to speak out against established foolish notions
among christians, his regarding worldly prominence, more than selfish
ease, & fear of temporal disadvantage. Picked up under the honorable
name of humility, have done more injury to truth & the cause of
foolish simplicity than the straightforward attacks of the adversary. The
church has become prudent & careful to be simple & upright, &
in proportion as christians, from regard to some temporal injury
that might follow, gave up their sincerity, & endeavoured to benefit
God's cause by means that might equally benefit a theatre or car-
nival project, God has withdrawn from them. They may have large
churches, colleges, universities, missions, but I am sure it would
be a more indication of divine favour if they had small, or at any rate
few buildings well filled, & many missionaries instead any societies whose
funds are wasted in building houses instead of being spent by every
pious man whose heart God moves to go forth to do work.

Plain news. Being asked to-day: what news? I answered, the sun
was awake before me, this is so near with me, that I consider it a great piece
of news.

9. We had today a ramble to Shing, including Mr. Standell of the American
naval depot; walked in the glare below the palace, where with the exception of
the spies forming a circle in the distance, we were left quite to ourselves. The
mopolitan taking a few steps for himself stopped they had entered a yard, upon
which her husband was clapped into their face, & a host of cables gentlemen
surrounding them, without ability to ^{communicate} in language or either side, they
withdrew. This was the only adventure of the day. The sky becoming densely
overcast in the afternoon we made haste homeward but could not reach Naga
before being thoroughly drenched. Felt greatly the absence of my dear wife on coming
home is such a state & none at all to attend to me. But remembering that
the son of man had not when to lay ^{down} his head "while on his mission on earth."
I felt gratified indeed for the change of regimen in which I sought myself up
& for the beach on which I could stretch my limbs. There is no situation in life
in which the Saviour's example does not give comfort to those who love him.

11. But this week four applications for medicine, & am happy to hear that my
medical practice is considered very beneficial, & deeply regret with the sightless
themselves that fear should detain many from availing themselves, as they
otherwise gladly would, of our assistance.

12. Today. Rose after a double night, mostly interrupted by a long waking
interval, & ached out towards morning by a dazing sleep, which had
now brought me up this morning poorly fresh. As Mrs. Norton is some-
what indisposed & she wanted for some visiting, she did not accompany us
to Tsumai, where we found our congregation ^{had been seized} with the melancholy of the
weather, & half of them preferring the warm kitchen to the damp rooms in
which we meet for worship. Preached from: "The snare is broken & we
are escaped." Ps. 124. & much more, with exception of occasional spiri-
tual remarks, to the unprofitable state of mind under which I preached,
though the sermon appeared to me good.

Our first preaching among the natives was in a respectable house in
Naga, where we had to wait a good while before the congregation first two
then one third, began to arrive. They heard found all I wanted to say,
and only concerned themselves with the state of law in the country by which
they are forbidden, in fact, even to hear, & much more to promise, that
we say. - The second hearing was excellent, in the house of a married
the master being an old heathen, & at last the only one remaining of
five heathens, now having been abstracted by manoeuvring from us.

out. It was truly a refreshing season, & I was grateful to feel, as I usually am,
when feeling that I am still his messenger & that I love his Commission not
withstanding all that men have done to set my heart against it. I feel I
am a shepherd when he has made me a sheep, I delight in feeding it, & he keeps
himself my voice & delights itself ⁱⁿ upon pasture upon which I lead it. It
is remarkable to myself to find that rich food some Lord's love keeps require
to feel satisfied, not indeed mental speculations but refined sensual enjoyments.
In due I enjoyed my 40-50 minutes service & prayer, & then was even
worn for Mr. Merton, who to prevent further desertion of hearers had
gone out into the yard to keep the sheep alert, whilst I was preaching within,
& ^{he} found these customers for a few brief exhortations in the native tongue,
which he had noted down ^{from mine} on a paper. - In a house we had rather a bad
reception of an old married woman. - But there was something in a rich blessing
in a very respectable house, where the son of my old acquaintance Sand's was
staying on a visit. We were immediately introduced to the master of the house,
a young, but at the beginning somewhat nervous man, who very perhaps to
my abruptness in declining tea, pipe &c. declaring our visit on the
Lord's day, or strictly official, & that I could not lose time with
slow ceremonies. By & by the example of young Sand's began
to tell on the new hearer although as he inquiringly looked
at him found him delighted with what he heard & glad. Remarks
likewise now began to give the matter his undivided attention,
which I begged him to do, as he to-day came for the first time
into so near contact with the gospel, & knowing the divine message
on being first brought into his house, a blessing would remain
on it, besides that he afterwards would be enabled to hear with more
ease if not he attentively listen to the whole plan of salvation
in a connected form. In short Sand's plainly told his friend
that he long since approves of our doctrines, that he never joined
to any thing except the invisible God, & that he believed in the
sacrifice of Jesus for the remission of his sins. This was a glorious
confession, & I hope I shall hear many more before he shone
of God & from glorified Lord's love. Young Sand's being one

March 1854 } intimate acquaintance of Matsui I do sincerely wonder at the
theat. 574. } deep sense of the value of the gospel he manifests, as I believe
Matsui to be a sincere believer & one who speaks for the Truth, especially
by his acquaintances. I need not say that we concluded this service
with a hearty prayer; the solemnity being increased by Mrs. Morison also
joining me in prayer. What a ^{striking} spectacle to see two foreign Christians bend
their knees in prayer, & opposite ^{to} two natives, at least as to form, also
engaged in worshipping the living God. & that too in a Japanese territory,
more striking, yet respectable members of the literate class being the very worship-
pers. It is indeed only the poor class of the literate, who exclusively depend
on government for their rice, who are so bitter against the gospel. In such
houses, when once admitted, I have always found a respectful hearing.
I should mention our way of salutation shook hands with us on leaving in that
his friend ^{affectionately} joined him, & Mrs. Morison called this the first oppor-
tunity he had of shaking hands with a Lorchovan.

We again concluded the day with a service at home which
proved pretty refreshing.

being a month after their arrival.
15. To-day, Mr. & Mrs. Morison wished to be admitted as contributors to the
house expense, or, if I wished so, to live altogether as their guest as they had
had at mine. When they had been here a few days they honorably came to ask
me how they stood for ^{their share in the house} expenses, but knowing they had not much to throw away,
& that their salary is very small, & being quite overburdened with their arrival,
I was glad to be able to ^{make them} ^{of} ^{their} ^{share} of considering themselves my guests till the
end of the first month, by which I understood the end of the 1st Chinese month.
Falling upon Feb. 25th after which I settled my house accounts in the presence
of Mr. Morison, when indeed he much looked astonished at the wonderful
misstatement the Committee had made even in their printed report, as to
our living here quite free of expense. The Morisons, however, took
the wise course & let their month run on as they intended it
i.e. to the end ^{of the month} of their presence in Lorchov, which was to-day. Now to
I report it, as it appears to me a missionary residing abroad at a
distant station should be introduced every way cheerfully. With the
good presents I had received during the last year I should indeed not
at all have grudged a heavier expense, were it not that I must con-
sider it was quite possible my family, though perhaps for a short