

Tungchow China Sept 15. 1897

Rev W. H. Belden

Dear Sir.

My husband being just now very much pressed with work wishes me to answer for him your letter of July 27. We are much interested in the scheme of simultaneous meetings and hope for great results spiritually as well as financially and are glad to contribute. if my letter proves of any use - to the interest. Neither he nor I have met with any incident which would exactly come under any of your questions. The nearest is a one I condense from my journal of a visit among the christian women in Pingtu in April and May 1895. An inquirer named Chang Hi Hui begged me to visit his grand-

another an old woman in her nine-
teenth year nearly blind - very hard
of hearing and sick in bed, who
he said was very much interested
in christianity. One of the native sis-
ters and I went with him. We had
a wide though shallow and very
cold stream to cross. There was no bridge
and he could not get a donkey so he
carried us across the stream on his
back. We found the old woman worthy
of her grandson's zeal for her. She had
been all her life a religious devotee -
"a seeker of eternal life" as the Chinese ex-
presses it. She had been on pilgrimages
to all the temples within a days walk
in every direction and to some more
remote still. On returning from one
of her pilgrimages about thirty years
before she had told her family she had
heard of two new gods who were called
Jesus and Mary and they were just the

same as the "Ruler of Heaven and earth"
the popular name in this region for the
chief of the gods. There were Catholics in
that region then but no protestants
had yet been there. Her family paid
little attention to her report but they
noticed that from that time she
added these two names to the list of gods
she worshipped. This grandson somewhere
found a gospel and read it and there
discovered whom his grandmother was
worshipping. He told her what he had
learned and that she had made a mistake
that Jesus was God and the Saviour of the
world and could forgive her sins but
Mary was not God and must not be wor-
shipped. She caught at the idea of Jesus
being a Saviour for sinners and always
called him so and addressed him so in
her prayer. This prayer was original - very
short and straight to the point and always
the same. It was "O Saviour save me

from my sins and take me to heaven
when I die and dont let me fall into
hell." When she knew of my arrival she rais-
ed herself on her elbow and stretching out
her withered hand toward me asked "are you
the Saviour come to save me from my sins?
I could not make her hear a word in reply
so I pointed upward - when she answered
"yes the Saviour is in heaven", and prayed
her prayer. Presently she said, "I have
been doing meritorious works (i.e. making
pilgrimages, repeating prayers to Buddha &c.)
all my life and yet how much I suffer".
Her grandson said, "but all your merito-
rious works were sin against Jesus." She
quickly answered and with a very sad
voice, "I didn't know. I didn't know
If I had known I would not have
done it." When asked "How can you
repay Jesus if He forgives your sins
and takes you to heaven?" she an-
swered "How can I repay such love!

How could I ever repay such ^{energy} love
as that!" From the time her grandson
told her that Jesus was the only true
and living God. The compassionate and
almighty Saviour and that to worship
any other than Him was sin against
Him she gave up all her idols and the
prayers she had learned and worship-
ped only Him. She prayed to Him many
times a day in the words I have given
and continued till she died - which
was nearly a year after she first heard.

Yours very truly

Julia B. Matter