

Hills part of Peking
Sept. 6th 1887

Dear Mr. Belden;

Your favor concerning the simultaneous meetings came to hand yesterday. You may be assured that we on the outposts, watch all movements at home relating to missions with the greatest interest; for from the home lands must come our reinforcement and supplies. The intereminary conferences, with the increased awakening which followed, the large number of young men and women in the institutions of learning, who have expressed a willingness to devote themselves personally to the work of foreign

missions, have been a source of rejoicing and encouragement to us all here on the field. And now these simultaneous meetings in the same line and working to the same end, are cordially welcome, and trust they may be the means of heightening and spreading the enthusiasm which seems to have been steadily rising the last few years.

You may therefore be sure the missionaries will not be wanting in their sympathies and prayers as you have suggested. We do not understand why the time should be stated Nov 13-19, when "The Church at Home and Abroad" gives Nov 6-13 as the time recommended by the Gen. Assembly.

I suppose your wish for us

to write any requests Oriental, &c. had made for instruction in the gospel, did not contemplate the case of those who have heard the truth from us and become interested. Of such instances we could cite you many. but I have not met any who without any previous hearing of the way of life, though dissatisfaction with their own systems, have come as earnest seekers for a better. Paganism tends to blunt both moral and spiritual perceptions. With the exception of a few Mohammedan Mollahs or Students we meet with almost none who have any competent apprehension of man's spiritual relations. How could you expect such to manifest concern for the welfare of their souls? One of the great difficulties

difficulties we have to meet is
the practical inability of the
people to apprehend and feel
the force of the most important
spiritual truths. They have
to be educated up to it, but
withstanding the apathy of the
heathen and Mohammedan Chinese
I think a very loud Macedonian
cry could be heard from this
land if one listens aright.
It seems to be assumed by
many that the cry which
called Paul and his companions
from Asia into Europe, was
uttered by a heathen man,
or at least represented the
feelings of the heathen inhab-
itants of Macedonia. But Paul
understood it as the Holy Spirit's
call. When he arrived in the
ippi, he did not find the
people waiting to welcome him.

It was when some knowledge
of the truth had already been
obtained, he had his first
success. The mass of the people
were more ready to beat and
imprison him than to listen
to his preaching and believe it,
Did Paul doubt that the Lord
called him over? ^{no never.}
Today the Macedonian eyes ^{from China}
made known to us in the great
need of the people, and the
open door which the Lord
has set before us for preaching
the gospel. Within the last
week I have visited twelve or
fifteen towns and villages where
there is not a professing Xr.
I have been received with
uniform kindness, and in
several instances listened
to with apparent interest.
One man yesterday after

listening nearly an hour said
"This doctrine has more flavor
than the stories which the
story-tellers relate;" and the Chinese
much delight in listening
to the story-tellers. There is no
limit to the opportunity of making
known the gospel story. If you
would learn more of their need
study Kellogg's "Light of Asia
and the Light of the World". He
draws the picture none too
dark.

But I fear I am trespassing
too much on your time without
giving you what you desire.

Not having the minutes of
the Assembly at hand I simply
address you as you see.

The other members of the mission
are in the city when they will see
your letter.

Trusting that the simultaneous meet-
ings may be abundantly owned and
blessed of the master. I remain

Sincerely yours
J. S. Whitins