

Chefoo Sept 13. 1857

Rev. W. H. Bidder

Dear Bro.

Your very welcome
and interesting letter of Sept 13:
reached me about 2 weeks since.
The missionary movement with
which you are connected is
full of hope and inspiration.
You have our sincerest sympathy
and our prayers individual and
united here how soon will be spent
for a great blessing on your
anticipated meetings in Nov.
next -

As to cases in China where
heathen have made application
to have the gospel brought to
them, I hardly know of any.
The Chinese are, as a rule, so

confident of the superiority of
their own systems of morality and
religion, that rather than seeking instruc-
tion and guidance from those whom
they are accustomed to regard as
barbarians, is an idea quite
foreign to them.

I have much to do with one
case however corresponding somewhat
to what you desire, which I will
relate in brief -

In the spring of 1888 while
itinerating in a region about 200
miles from here, previously unvisited,
I was by providential circumstances
drawn aside from the road I
was travelling, and a person whom
I should not have met in the
proposed course of my journey, was
 providentially drawn from his home
to meet me. While the crowd with
whom I met in the market town
where I was stopping sought me

out and listened to me from
men curiosity, this man listened
with intense interest to all I said.
After listening for some time he
introduced himself & addressed me
as follows - "This is what I have
been waiting for, for twenty years. I
have been earnestly seeking for light
and guidance, but without success;
this is the very truth I want. This
man, his name is Yang-yiu-shin
received and embraced the truth at
once, as a person prepared & called.
He has been an earnest and success-
ful student of the Bible ever
since, and he has been God's instrument
in establishing three churches in
and about his home. I have met
with no similar case in my
experience -

but stationed in this province,
of which there are more than 100
mostly connected with Dr Cobden
and my country work an hour
passing through a severe crisis.

A silver mine craze which originated nearly three years ago and has continued to the present time, has reduced many of our Church members to abject poverty. The leaders in this movement who were Christians of some prominence were evidently self-deceived, and succeeded but too easily in deceiving others. They thought that God was in his gracious providence and love for his people providing a way in which they ^{might} better their circumstances, reestablish Christian schools, build Churches, &c. Many of them mortgaged lands & houses paying three and four per cent interest per month. All our efforts to restrain them were unavailing - the extravagant hopes to which they had clung so long had become delusion, and the disappointed, and in many cases financially ruined Church members, are subjected to the scorn & taunts of their heathen relatives and neighbors, who say to them, "this is the happiness you have obtained by being Christians!" Satan has made use of persecution and other adverse influences to check the zeal of the young converts and draw them back to heathenism - Many have relapsed & others are wavering - Many others however are standing firm, and we hope that their trials may yet be overruled for good. Pray for us.

Yours in the fellowship of Christ
John L. Davies