

They shall  
abundantly utter  
the memory of  
Thy Great  
Goodness.

THE STORY  
OF THE  
CHINA INLAND MISSION.

BY  
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With an Introduction by  
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## PREFACE.

IT is with a feeling of almost reluctance I take up my pen this evening, to write words that must be the last words I can add to this volume, so soon to pass out of my hands. Let me bespeak for it the reader's clemency. It is not worthy of its theme, I know, and is far even from what I could wish to have made it; but it represents not a little patient and loving toil, and a sincere endeavour to recall in their true light events with which it deals.

This book is my first book, and must bear many traces of a prentice hand. The request from Mr. Hudson Taylor that led to its being undertaken came to me with a strong sense of GOD'S call, bringing also a certainty of His enablement. Nothing less than this could have induced me to accept the task, relinquishing for it at least twelve months of missionary service in the heart of Inland China; nothing less could have sufficed to accomplish it, in spite of all the difficulties that have daunted me; just as nothing, now, but His own blessing resting upon it, can make these pages useful, as I long and pray that they should be.

A threefold purpose is before us in the publication of this book.

In the first place, we desire, as a Mission, at the close of more than a quarter of a century's experience, to raise a heart-felt "Ebenezer" to the glory and praise of GOD, whose faithfulness has brought us hitherto. Oh that His grace toward us—so far exceeding all we could have asked or thought—may be the means of encouraging many others to put their trust more and more fully under the shadow of His wings!

Secondly, the rapid increase of our numbers on the field, and the recent wide extension of interest in the Mission to Christian circles in many lands, have made some such consecutive history of its past an urgently felt need. The little association of workers that began—some twenty-seven years ago—upon an interdenominational basis, has now become practically *international* and world-wide in its sympathies and connections. During the winter of 1890-91, for example, within a period of six months, no less than one hundred and thirty new helpers joined us out in China, either as members or associates of the Mission, representing nine different countries, and speaking five languages other than English. Amongst such newly arrived fellow-labourers there must be many who can know but little about the early history of the work, and far away in Inland China there is not much oppor-

tunity for-becoming further acquainted with it. To help and strengthen such in their work for GOD by the simple record of His goodness in the past—of the difficulties He has brought us through, the needs He has met, the prayers He has answered, and the promises He has fulfilled—and to unite us all more and more closely together in heart-allegiance to those distinctive principles upon which the Mission is based, and whose true spirituality and power the experience of a quarter of a century tends only to confirm,—is one of the deepest desires which has prompted to this service.

And, lastly, our hope is that through the influence of these pages some hearts may be awakened to a deeper sense of the great need of China, of the unutterable privilege of a life of whole-hearted consecration to GOD, and of the wondrous possibilities open to simple faith.

I cannot lay down my pen to-night without earnestly thanking all those who have helped and strengthened me in this work. They have been many; and amongst them I may be permitted to mention Mr. and Mrs. Hudson Taylor, Mr. Stevenson, and not a few of the older members and friends of the Mission, who have patiently submitted to frequent cross-questionings, and all the blundering interrogations of my ignorance in seeking to follow out the details of this story. With these I would link also the many others whose kind and patient

co-operation has meant so much to me. Precious memories are interwoven with these pages, of some who have already entered into the rest that remains for the people of GOD, and of others whose life-pathways, though still leading to spheres of earthly service, have diverged from mine. How much this book is indebted to the help thus generously afforded none but the writer can fully know.

And now, in committing it to Him of whose unchanging faithfulness it is but one among so many records, I do so with a very grateful sense of all that this Story has been to me. Personally, I have not been able to touch these facts—in which GOD lives—without finding blessing, and my heart's desire is that a similar experience may be the portion of all others into whose hands the book may fall.

M. G. G.

HARLEY HOUSE, LONDON, E.

*November 23rd, 1892.*

## INTRODUCTION.

*They shall abundantly utter the memory of  
Thy great goodness."*

AS a record of the LORD'S great goodness the story of the China Inland Mission has been written.

Its history now covering more than a quarter of a century, its stations now scattered over an almost continental area, its missionary workers now numbering five hundred and fifty, together with over two hundred native helpers, supply an ample illustration of the feasibility and safety of relying upon GOD'S power and resources for the carrying out of His purposes.

Interdenominational from the first, and now international, the work has afforded full scope for testing the principles on which it was based ; and as a small contribution to the history of missions we trust that this record will not be found without interest and value.

It will be seen that the firm belief in the plenary and verbal inspiration of GOD'S Word lies behind

the whole work ; it is assumed that His promises mean exactly what they say, and that His commands are to be obeyed in the confidence that "all things are possible to him that believeth."

A personal experience of more than forty years has growingly confirmed this confidence, and has shown us ever new directions in which to apply it. We were early led to trust the LORD to supply *pecuniary* needs in answer to prayer, and then to obtain in the same way *fellow-workers* and *open doors* ; but we did not learn till later what it is to "abide in CHRIST," and find *spiritual need* all met, and *keeping power* through faith in Him. More recently the infilling and refilling with the HOLY SPIRIT has taken a place among us as a mission that it had not before ; and we feel that we are still only beginning to apprehend what GOD can do through little bands of fully yielded, fully trusting, overflowing filled believers.

Thus we have come to value missionary work not merely for the sake of the heathen, but also as a spiritual education for the missionary, who in the field learns as never at home to find CHRIST a living, bright reality ; nor is the education confined to the missionary, but blesses also the beloved ones at home, who, having "nothing too precious for the LORD JESUS," have given up their dearest and best, and share in the hundredfold reward. Such prove that it is indeed "more blessed to give than to

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receive," and the whole Church at home is not less blessed than the heathen abroad.

With great pleasure I commend this book. The greatest care has, I know, been taken to verify the statements and to make it what the LORD might own and bless. That He may accept and use it for His glory is my expectation and my prayer.

J. HUDSON TAYLOR.

MILDMAY, *October* 1892.

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PART I.

*PRELIMINARY.—WHITE UNTO HARVEST.*

“BEHOLD, I HAVE SET BEFORE THEE AN OPEN DOOR.”

“Bless the LORD, O my soul : and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”—PSALM ciii. 1, 2.

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O most High : to show forth Thy loving-kindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night.”—PSALM xcii. 1, 2.

“Thus will I bless Thee while I live : I will lift up my hands in Thy name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness ; and my mouth shall praise Thee with joyful lips.”—PSALM lxiii. 4, 5.

“Because Thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice.”—PSALM lxiii. 7.

## CHAPTER I.

### *OUR POSITION AND SPHERE.*

THE story of the China Inland Mission is peculiarly one of the grace of GOD in using the very extremity of human weakness—absence of wisdom, or wealth, or any power but that of simple faith—as an occasion for His own almighty working. It is a story that never could have had any existence apart from His faithfulness ; and in its present record it seeks to be nothing but a simple utterance of the memory of His great goodness.

More than a quarter of a century's varied experience has taught the workers in this Mission deep lessons of their own utter inability to do or to be anything, in themselves, that could bring glory to GOD, or blessing to the souls they seek to save ; but it has taught them also the far deeper lesson of the wondrous enabling of His indwelling SPIRIT, through whom the weakest is made more than conqueror, and who is ready to take full possession of every life that is truly yielded to Him. This is the open secret of any measure of success that has so far attended the work of the Mission ; and this is its only hope for future blessing—till JESUS comes.

One among more than forty Protestant agencies at work in China for the spread of the Gospel, the Inland Mission cannot rank with those whose privilege it is to have led the van in this great enterprise. Far down the list its name appears, midway almost between the London Missionary Society—first in the field, and for twenty years alone in the work—and the most recently arrived contingent of the gathering hosts that now embrace British, American, and Continental societies and workers, all toiling together in the service of our one LORD to hasten the coming of His universal kingdom.

But although comparatively so young in experience, the Inland Mission has witnessed great and rapid changes in the growth of the missionary movement throughout China—changes full of deepest interest in their indication of future possibilities along the line of development and advance. That GOD is moving mightily in these days for the speedy evangelisation of that whole great land, who of us can question, face to face with facts such as the following, culled from the surface merely of a wide field for thought?

The dawn of the wonderful century in which we live revealed to the Church of CHRIST one unbroken pall of heathenism shrouding from end to end the greatest empire of the Eastern world. Faint gleams of light had commenced to penetrate the gloom of idolatry and superstition in some more favoured lands, but China still lay neglected in her age-long

spiritual night. It was not until the century was seven years old that Robert Morrison, first of Protestant missionaries to China, set foot upon its shores, to spend the seven-and-twenty years of his devoted service, amid difficulty, loneliness, and painful limitations, in seeking to open a way by which others might find a freedom of contact with the people that he himself was never permitted to enjoy.

In 1834 the death of this devoted pioneer left two young American missionaries, Messrs. Bridgeman and Wells Williams, the only Protestant workers in the whole of China. They could not travel anywhere beyond Canton, and even there were sadly hampered in their efforts. And the visible result of their labours was small indeed, for at that time the native Church in China consisted of *only three members*.

Fifty-six years later, how marked the change when, in the summer of 1890, the General Missionary Conference assembled in Shanghai, and rang out to the home Churches across the seas its trumpet-like call to advance! Representing a missionary body nearly thirteen hundred strong, and a native Church of over thirty-seven thousand members, the Conference made its memorable appeal to Protestant Christendom for reinforcements to the number of at least a thousand men, within the next five years, to carry forward the evangelisation of China, now open to such efforts from end to end.