

down state that they would be uninhabitable without a complete overhauling from roof to foundation. One was a typical Chinese compound of the well-to-do class—high houses built around a small courtyard, so that neither sun nor air could reach the dwellers within. Plenty of buildings for two families could be had, but more like a prison than a home. They asked \$125 a year rent for this. The fourth was more like a human habitation, and with some alterations and additions would do for two families. For this they asked 2,000 taels, about \$2,300. A Chinaman's asking price is never what he hopes to get. We told them that we could not talk with them at such a figure and left the town. On our return they will likely come down. If we would decide to make this place our centre it is very likely, since there are so many empty dwellings, that we could secure enough to house our whole mission, at least those who would work in this end of our field.

Our reception at Wei-hui-fu this time, is very cold. The people seem to be intimidated by the gentry, and are afraid to come out. The people will not come to us this time, and Chinese custom is such that we cannot go to their homes; then the question comes up, how are we to preach the Gospel? Seeing as we do this capital method of boycotting us, and knowing the gentry have the power to keep it up, Mr. Taylor's much talked of scheme for calling a certain number of missionaries to visit a certain number of families every day, and thus to preach the Gospel to the homes of China in a certain time, appears to us ridiculously absurd. I could reach the homes of Toronto by knocking at their doors, but owing to the cast-iron seclusion of the Northern Chinese homes, I have no hope of reaching them in this way. It is easy to talk about these fancy ways and about a missionary living on \$50 a year in China, but practice on these nice lines is not so easy. I have serious doubt about any missionary's ability to live in China on 25 cents a day, as is sometimes stated. I have still more serious doubts about the wisdom of attempting it. No missionary can get on in China without at least one Chinese boy. His wages per day would be at least 10 cents. The foreigner then has 15 cents left to board and clothe himself after the manner of a teacher. It is too absurd for a moment's consideration. It borders close on a sin against the health of the missionary and the Church of God, which ought to support him properly in the Gospel service.