

The Presbytery met the day after our arrival and we had the pleasure of all dining together for several days while the Presbytery lasted. We all felt most thankful for the gracious unity of the Spirit granted to us. May the Holy Spirit indeed keep us from all disunion.

In coming back to the work the terrible poverty of the people strikes one as almost hopeless. What can we say to poor creatures starving and almost naked? For three seasons their crops have been destroyed and it is simply impossible for me to give you any idea of what that means. Even when the harvest is good the people can scarcely live, and now that their crops have been destroyed their condition is most pitiable. Oh that the friends at home who sometimes feel tempted to grumble and complain at their lot could see what we see every day! We have a poor woman in the hospital here now—a Christian and a church-member—there is little hope of her recovery—she has only her little daughter to attend to her and it is most affecting to see the distress and care the poor mother has for her family of little ones at home with no one to care for them. We try to do what we can to help, but after all what we are able to do seems no more than a crumb of bread would be to a great starving multitude. But though their temporal condition is so hopeless how much more pitiable is the darkness of soul—no hope in this life and none in the life to come! Oh friends! let us be faithful and work *now* for their salvation. Just before leaving Canada I was asked more than once why should I be in such a hurry to get back! Oh why should we act as if the salvation of the heathen were a matter that could wait for *our convenience*! Generations are passing away—every day we hear of some one having died since we went home, and now God has so graciously given us the privilege of working again in this far dark land.

Pray for us—pray that God's Holy Spirit, the only source of power, may be ever with us to accompany the words and indeed to *give the right words*. Thank God for the encouragements and for the progress we hear of from all parts of the field. In a number of places women are asking for some one to go to them. We pray for you that God may bless all the Auxiliaries and Bands. May there be many *model Auxiliaries* in our Church.

I will try and write you about our reception in Chang-te-fu as soon as possible after reaching there.

Miss MacKenzie and I have most pleasant times at the language as I have constituted myself her teacher until we reach Chang-te-fu when our teacher Li will teach her. She is most diligent and has made progress that surprises us.