

and of both sexes gathering for worship and instruction, where formerly there had not been one. This was the work, under God, of the man who for two years had seemed to me among the least promising and least useful of all our preachers.

In that pentecostal meeting was another young man who was chapel-keeper of the church in the city when we came to Hinghua in the fall of 1890; and often it seemed to me he did that very indifferently well. He had been to the theological school in Foochow, but had not done well; he had been admitted into the conference on trial, but had been discontinued because of failure in his studies. Surely here was a case where further trial would be waste of money and time; yet we continued him in a subordinate position for two years, hoping for fruit, but had finally decided that further trial would be useless.

But he had been in the presence of the cherubim, "his lips had been touched with a live coal from off the altar" in that pentecostal meeting, though we knew it not. After conference we were in great need of a man for a new place. The preacher in charge of that circuit, who was a friend of this young man, Ta Ling, asked that he be sent there as junior preacher. After much hesitation I consented, chiefly because Ta Ling's wife was a capable woman and was wanted there to teach a girls' school.

Soon the word came that the little room was crowded. I granted a little missionary money to rent a larger place, and before long this too was filled and overflowing. By the third quarter we baptized a class of twenty seven of the most promising young Christians I have ever seen baptized in one body in China.

But Ta Ling was ripening for a higher service. Consumption was eating away his life. Yet he toiled on. He might have gone to his home to rest and, perhaps, prolonged his days a little, but he would not. He stayed among his people to the last; and soon after the

abundant fruits of his labors had been gathered into the Church militant, Ta Ling was received into the Church triumphant.

I cannot forbear one more illustration: In the spring of 1891 I found a young man teaching school whom I learned had been in the theological school at Foochow. We were much in need of pastors. I asked the presiding elder if we could not make use of this young man. The elder, who is a keen judge of men, smiled and said, "He is just like Ta Ling." That settled it, and I said no more. However, last year I was prevailed upon to appoint him to another place, where he would have some preaching to do, as well as teaching a small school. Later there was a promising opening at another point on the same circuit, and this brother, Deng Hong, was sent there.

At about that time we held a ten-days' home camp-meeting for all the district workers in Hinghua City. This young man, with many others, received an anointing from on high. Three months later, at the quarterly meeting on that circuit, we baptized fifty-four adults from his place, and this young man reported having preached in the church sixty times!

Is it necessary to explain the lesson? If our native helpers, as a class, are of little use, let us obey the apostle's command, "Examine yourselves." There is a great deal of philosophy and Gospel in the advice of the wise old circuit rider to the young junior preacher: "When anything goes wrong, blame yourself."

Then let us go to praying for them and with them until the fire comes down from heaven.

Now, these three are but examples of at least twenty-five preachers in Hinghua. They are gathering converts by hundreds. This year is opening with by far the best prospects of any year since we began. And the news comes that the missionary society has been compelled to cut down 11 per cent because of the financial stringency. Last year we had but \$500, at present exchange, from the society for all these men and their families, or about \$30 each. The money raised by the native Church and a few special donations from friends enabled us to close the