

we only think of trying it as an experiment, and cannot as yet tell whether the feeling of the people would permit of our carrying on such a work. Should the attempt prove successful and we are able to establish a girls' school, then this sum would be inadequate for all our wants. Meantime there would be sufficient to cover all expenses such as securing a room or probably building one, with necessary furnishings, and also providing one meal a day for the pupils.

Perhaps you will wonder why this last item should be required. Let me explain. And first, it must be remembered that the people among whom we labor are pitifully poor, and time to them is money. Even the very little children are sent to glean in the fields after the grain has been cut, and in the colder weather it is quite a common sight to see boys and girls with a basket on one arm and a rake in the other gathering up tufts of grass or dry roots, twigs and dead leaves for fuel to be used in cooking the family meals. Thus you will see that we could not reasonably ask them to come and spend the time that would otherwise be employed in helping their parents, without in some way making a compensation.

Already there are indications that if a school were opened, pupils might be obtained, for two little girls and a boy have been coming daily for a week past. They come about ten in the morning and stay for an hour and a half, during which time I try to teach them some of the hymns, and to-day we attempted the Commandments. So far no inducement has been offered save a piece of native bread or cake, which they eat while here.

It is now drawing near the New Year, when school, business, and everything else is suspended for about fifteen days, and the Chinese, rich and poor, young and old give themselves up to the season's enjoyment. The weather, fortunately for the poor, has been very mild, quite unlike our severe Canadian winter. As yet we have only had two slight falls of snow, which dis-