

It is the custom after the last sheaf is gathered from a field to allow the poor to glean the odd heads of grain which have dropped. This evening as I stood on the wall I saw several hundred men, women and children surrounding a piece of wheat. The harvesters were busy gathering off the sheaves. Every now and then the gleaners would start up and rush in only to be beaten off by the harvesters until finally the last sheaf was picked up, and then the gleaners in a few moments spread over the field.

The Bible tells us how that Ruth gleaned in the fields. The custom in China is like that of Judea. It is good for the poor.

I know of one family where they can only afford one meal a day, but the mother and her little boy hope to gather several bushels of wheat during the harvest. I am afraid it can't be done by fair gleaning. The poor are too many for any one family to gather several bushels. They all steal if they get a chance and the poor are always looking out for a chance to steal. I saw a load of grain upset on the way from the field. In a few minutes eight or ten women came round to grab a little, but a man with a stick kept them off and one of the women reviled him for it. Then as soon as the last forkful was pitched back into the waggon the people gathered the few scattered heads.

At that time I noticed two boys picking under the load and for every handful they pretended to pick off the ground they pulled one out of the grain on the waggon. It may be hard to believe but it is true that any one who has any grain here must watch it from the time it comes out into head until it is reaped if he hopes to save any of it. Every evening about sun down while the wheat is ripening, you may see many men going out of town shouldering a club, or fork, or spear. They are only going out to watch by their grain during the night, and use these dangerous weapons to keep off thieves. As a rule, women and boys watch during the day.

The poor pluck off the heads even while the grain is green, and bring it home, and after boiling, eat it. Even the girls with their

small bound feet may be seen hobbling home in the evenings with well filled baskets of stolen grain.

This people will steal, and cheat, and lie, without any seeming difficulty. But is it any wonder. They are heathen and know not God.

The farmers here wonder when I tell them that the farmers in our country don't have to watch in the fields by night. I tell them it is because so many people in Canada know God's law.

Pity the Chinese. Millions of them are very poor in this life and have not hope of a glorious heaven in the life to come. Jesus has freely given his gospel to the people of Canada, and will not be pleased if we don't freely give it to others.

Shall not each one of you who loves Jesus, resolve to do your best to tell the Chinese of Jesus who saves people, so that they would not steal or lie, or worship idols. Jesus says, "The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few." His meaning is that the unsaved people in the earth are too many, and that the men and women who know Him and are willing to tell about Him everywhere are far too few.

Although it is now more than eighteen hundred years since Jesus said this, and told all who loved Him to pray for more men and women to go everywhere preaching His gospel, there is only one man in China to preach the gospel to as many people as live in the five cities of Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton and London. We don't mean to say any of these cities have too many men and women, boys and girls, who preach and love Jesus every day, but we do not hesitate to say that China hasn't got a fair proportion of Christ's witnesses.

Now My Young Friends, it is in your power not to give Canada fewer lives for loving service, but to give China more. I am going back to Canada in a few years to plead with you face to face for the scores of millions of boys and girls in China, and I tell you beforehand if you don't want to feel very mean, do the very best you can, not only for Canada, but for the world.