

I have been able to drop altogether. It is more than a year now since I have gone to look for any of the children. They do not stay away *en masse* any longer, and they attend, perhaps, as well, all things considered, as could be expected.

This fault, however, lies in the home, therefore it is both unjust and useless to punish the children. I tried that some but gave it up. I have gone round sometimes after 10 o'clock and found the mothers not up. Lack of punctuality also seems to be constitutional with the Chinese people. We open night school at half-past seven, but it is not until a quarter to nine comes that our school may be said to be fairly in. It is the same with the Church. Service opens with a handful. One by one they keep dropping in, until by the time the sermon is half through the congregation will have gathered. The nervous system of our Chinese preachers, I have almost come to the conclusion, must be constructed on a somewhat different plan from ours. An English preacher would be distracted at the continual clack, clack, tramp, tramp, going on during the sermon, but our Chinese pastors take it all as a matter of course, and as a necessary part of the proceedings, and do not appear to be in the least disconcerted over it. Our missionary generally likes to give some instruction to all, consequently our sermons are apt to lengthen out considerably until these June evenings when everybody comes later than usual, it is quite a common thing for our sermons to run on to half-past nine. I get home from church these Sabbath evenings in the neighborhood of 10 o'clock. Fortunately we have no sweltering heat here in the evening, so we manage to survive.

On account of this lack of punctuality in our school work all the exercises which should, properly speaking, come at the beginning of our school—to be consistent, too, of course, with Chinese usage—have to come at the end, such as roll-call, singing, prayer, Scripture, etc., so that after all our pupils miss only the secular part of the teaching, which, of course, is their loss and our primary object is accomplished.

The present disturbances in China do not seem to be affecting our work any here. Our night school is very largely attended, as the bulk of the boys who work here in the city have their evenings, part of them, at least, and seize every opportunity of learning English. The Boxer element here—and I learn we have similar organizations amongst us—keeps very quiet. I pass by the rooms of the Reform Association every night and there seems to be an unusual amount of excitement going on there. They are, I believe, favorable to our work. I think the bulk of Chinese here would like to be under British rule, and in all the patriotic demonstrations here over British