



Letters from Lottie

JAPANESE BOMBINGS

April 2, 1895

Dear Dr. Willingham,

The quarter just passed has been full of intense excitement. It witnessed the bombardment of Tungchow & the fall of Wei-hai-wei. The Japanese paid us four visits & their vessels are still almost daily hovering around. For over two months business has been nearly at a standstill, but the city is now recovering from the depression & most of those who fled have returned. There is, however, much poverty & suffering. The price of silver has touched a low point & the cost of breadstuffs has advanced. During the height of the terror & confusion, direct mission work was almost out of the question. Simply to stand at one's post & try to inspire hope & cheerfulness into the terror-stricken people who could not fly, was about all that one could accomplish. Gradually, however, things changed for the better & a wide open door has been found for presenting the gospel to the people. Sympathy with them in their trouble & sorrows has been an "open sesame" to many hearts. For more than five weeks, regular services have been carried on in the church & Dr. Hartwell has preached with great power & tenderness to apparently deeply interested audiences. I have never seen anything like it before in Tungchow. I have been recently visiting daily in the city & have never before been received so cordially & at times even joyfully. There are often eager listeners & it is rare that I do not have opportunity to teach hymns & prayers. In general, the people were never in a more teachable spirit than now. Their reverses have taught them a beginning of humility & they have learned to look on missionaries as their true friends.

I am sorry to learn from your letter of Jan. 19 that there is no hope of early reinforcement. As soon as peace is declared, we hope for advance, & men & women should be here now preparing to take advantage of improved conditions for preaching the gospel. O that the Lord may open the hearts & purses of our Baptist hosts that they may cheerfully respond to the growing demands of the work.

With Christian regards,
Yrs. sincerely,
L. Moon