



# Letters from Lottie

## BOXER MURMURINGS

June 28, 1900

Mr dear Luther,

Long ere this reaches you, you will have seen from telegrams the desperate state of affairs in the North. Thus far, there has been no outbreak here & the people seem friendly. Emissaries of the 'big sword society' have been here recently trying to persuade the people to join them, but so far as we can ascertain without success. The people answer, 'We have our small trade.' They don't want things upset. They also have said, "We like the foreigners here. They seem a clever sort of people. Why are the foreigners at other places so bad when they are good here?" Our relations with the people here have been very friendly since the Japanese war. They lookt to us then for protection & help & their leading men askt that we should not leave. Since then they have been increasingly friendly. If there should be trouble, it will most likely come from outsiders.

I go on with my work as usual. I go out to some neighboring village nearly every day. As we go about the streets as usual China is not the slightest token of hostility. We had our mission meeting last week. Two brethren were present (one a Swede) from Kiochow & Pingtu. They had left their wives and children at Pingtu where there were no other foreigners. On the morning of their departure from here, news came of persecution of native Christians at Laichowfu, which lies on the direct road to Pingtu & is only distant from Pingtu City 100 li (about 4 miles). The brethren were much troubled. I urged them to go a different, but more circuitous route. The objection was they were on bicycles. I said they had better walk all the way than run any risk of being killed & leaving their families helpless at Pingtu. The trouble has been all along that the foreign Ministers at Peking did not realize the actual facts of the situation. They persuaded themselves that the troubles were anti-Christian solely, while missionaries & many others equally well informed, knew they were anti-foreign. Now, the ministers are in as great danger themselves as were missionaries in the interior of Shantung last winter. This seems like retribution. If the energetic measures now being taken because Ministers are in danger had been taken last winter when missionaries were exposed to torture & massacre, Ministers would be in security in Peking, instead of having troops sent in hot haste to prevent them being massacred.

Yr. aff. Aunt,

L. Moon

Note: China's Boxer Rebellion in 1900 targetted foreigners, missionaries included. Many brutal acts were reported. Lottie eventually ended up in Japan during some of the hostilities.