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Missionary Work  
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*Among Hills and Valleys in Western China*, first published in 1901, is a detailed and accurate picture of missionary work undertaken by Miss Hannah Davies, who had made it her life's work to tour the Chinese provinces and preach her Christian belief, as well as encouraging local people to build places of worship and also helping those in poverty. Some of the sketches of life and character are extraordinarily descriptive and beautiful, and a remarkable journey is described in this series of letters and journal extracts. There is, amongst other stories, a fascinating account of an assembly addressed by Bishop Cassells, the first Protestant bishop in western China, and his heartfelt pleas to the people to help build a new church. The book is well illustrated, with an introduction by Isabella Bird, the nineteenth-century British missionary, travel writer and historian.

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# Among Hills and Valleys in Western China

*Incidents of Missionary Work*

HANNAH DAVIES  
ISABELLA BIRD



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,  
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108013888](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108013888)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1901

This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-01388-8 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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H. DAVIES.

F. M. WILLIAMS.

[Frontispiece.]

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# AMONG HILLS AND VALLEYS IN WESTERN CHINA.

*INCIDENTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.*

BY

HANNAH DAVIES,

OF THE CHINA INLAND MISSION.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

MRS. ISABELLA BISHOP, F.R.G.S.

“I will make them and the places round about My hill a blessing ;  
. . . there shall be showers of blessing.”—EZEK. xxxiv. 26.

“The valleys also are covered over with corn ; they shout for joy,  
they also sing.”—Ps. lxx. 18.

LONDON :

S. W. PARTRIDGE & CO.

8 & 9, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1901.

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*Affectionately Dedicated to my Fellow-Worker,*

F. M. WILLIAMS.

AND TO

C. I. MARRIOTT,

WHO HAS LABOURED WITH US IN PRAYER.



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## P R E F A C E .

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A FEW words of explanation are necessary as a preface to this book. The letters and journals, from which extracts are here given, were never intended for print, and were written to personal friends, generally in haste and often under trying circumstances. It is only in accordance with the earnest wish of one who has generously supported me whilst in China, that I have been persuaded now to publish them. In preparing these letters for print, I have realised greatly their imperfections and incompleteness; much has been curtailed, whilst here and there facts have been supplied from the journals of others.

During the greater part of my seven years in China, it was my privilege to work with Miss F. M. Williams at Sin-tien-tsi, a small station in North-east Si-ch'uan, opened in 1892. Many of my readers will have seen the interesting account of the beginning of the work there in "A New Thing," written by Miss F. M. Williams in 1895; and I trust that the interest already aroused in the work will deepen through reading of the "greater things" which God hath wrought since.

I greatly regret that, throughout these letters, so little reference is made to my fellow-workers and their work in other stations. This is owing largely to the fact that they were personally unknown to those to whom the letters were written.

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And now, in committing this book to God, a threefold desire fills my heart.

In the first place, that it may speak forth God's praise. "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth's sake."

Secondly, that it may call forth prayer for all of whom I write.

And thirdly, that it may arouse in many hearts a deeper sense of the great need of China, and that some may be led to consecrate their lives to God for His service in that land.

"Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one Shepherd."—(John. x. 16.)

H. D.

LLANGWSTENIN RECTORY,  
CONWAY.  
Oct., 1901.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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I HAVE much pleasure in writing a few lines of introduction for this volume. I spent seven months in the great province of Szech'uan, to which it chiefly refers, where, at Sin-tien-tsi, I made the acquaintance of Miss Davies in the midst of her work ; and my memories of that fair upland home and of Pao-ning-fu are among the most vivid and delightful of a very delightful journey. I saw the bright, kindly, and intelligent faces of several of the converts mentioned in these letters, and those of many others, "whose names are in the Book of Life," and learned on the spot of their changed lives, their self-denying liberality, their strong spirit of brotherhood, and their propagandist zeal.

The volume gives an accurate picture of mission work and its surroundings ; it is remarkably free from exaggeration ; and the discouragements, which are many and various, are told as faithfully as the encouragements. Some of the sketches of life and character are very beautiful, notably that of Mrs. Uen, who whitewashed the inside of her house after she had destroyed her idols, lest her Lord, when He came, should be grieved by the lingering odour of the incense which had been burned to them. Among many descriptive passages which will arrest the attention of the careful reader is that of the assembly in which Bishop Cassels put before the people the necessity for a new house of worship, and the results of his appeal.

The question which will occur naturally to the thoughtful

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reader after going through these unaffected pages is : “ Are these Chinese converts, who have but lately emerged from the thick darkness of heathenism, a whit behind ourselves, who have a history and heredity of a thousand years of Christianity ? ” And a further question suggests itself to me, after two years of journeyings in China : “ Are not very many of these Chinese converts *in advance of ourselves* in the simple translation of precept into practice, in self-denying liberality, and in actively making known the Gospel which they have received ? ” The lives of many of these people bear witness that “ if any man be in Christ he is a new creature,” and that the old Gospel is still “ the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.”

I cordially commend this unpretending book to all who are interested in the much-discussed subject of Christian missions. It casts many useful side-lights on the complexities of Chinese character, and is an instructive contribution to our knowledge of the Chinese by one who knows their language and has lived among them, and who possesses that insight which love alone gives.

ISABELLA BISHOP.

PETERCULTER, ABERDEENSHIRE.

*September 22nd, 1901.*

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As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them  
into the world.—JOHN xvii. 18.

“From the brightness of the glory,  
Go ye forth,” He said;  
“Heal the sick, and cleanse the lepers,  
Raise the dead.  
Freely give I thee the treasure.  
Freely give the same;  
Take no store of gold or silver,—  
Take My Name.

Thou shalt tell Me in the glory  
All that thou hast done,  
Setting forth alone; returning  
Not alone.  
Thou shalt bring the ransomed with thee.  
They with songs shall come,  
As the golden sheaves of harvest  
Gathered home.”

*From “Hymns of Tersteegen.”*