

**SKETCH OF THE HISTORY
OF PROTESTANT
MISSIONS IN CHINA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649261512

Sketch of the History of Protestant Missions in China by D. Willard Lyon

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

D. WILLARD LYON

**SKETCH OF THE HISTORY
OF PROTESTANT
MISSIONS IN CHINA**

SKETCH OF THE
HISTORY OF PROTESTANT MISSIONS
IN CHINA.

By D. Willard Lyon,

*For Two Years a Secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign
Missions; and, a Missionary to China of the International
Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations.*

FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY,

NEW YORK.

CHICAGO.

TORONTO.

Publishers of Evangelical Literature.

(C.C.P.)

BV2470
C6L87

Copyrighted 1895, by FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
I. THE EPOCH-MAKING EVENTS,	5
II. PERIOD OF PREPARATION,	15
III. PERIOD OF ENTRANCE,	19
IV. PERIOD OF OCCUPATION OF COAST PROVINCES,	25
V. PERIOD OF CO-OPERATION AND OF OCCU- PATION OF INLAND PROVINCES,	30
VI. PERIOD OF EXTENSION AND DEVELOPMENT,	34

NOTE.

This booklet has been prepared primarily for the use of Missionary Classes studying under the direction of the Educational Department of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions. It may however prove of interest to many others who are praying and working for China's evangelization.

SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF PROTESTANT MISSIONS IN CHINA.

I. The Epoch Making Events.

China Closed. At the opening of this century China was as effectually closed to Protestant missionary effort as human power could close it, nor did there seem to be any immediate probability of a change favorable to the introduction of Christianity. Centuries of isolation had deprived the Chinese of any appreciation of the value of contact with Western nations. Consummate self-conceit kept them from seeking to learn of those who knew more. Furthermore, the examples of the Christianity of the West which the Chinese saw illustrated in the lives of many of the American and European men of commerce tended in no way to increase their admiration for Christianity, and left them perfectly satisfied with their own religions. Not only did these obstacles appear when Robert Morrison first landed in China, but the very nature of Christianity itself was such as to make its introduction a most radical change, for by it the very foundations of China's government and social life were threatened. Had Christianity been able to enter China as a fourth religion, and take its place on a plane co-ordinate with Confucianism, Buddhism

and Taoism, she might have hoped for a ready entrance; but being a religion which can tolerate no equal, claiming a Christ who is the only Savior of the World, and carrying a Bible which is the only revealed written word of God, Christianity could expect nothing but the greatest opposition.

God only could open the doors. Clearly then, only men of faith could predict that the rusty hinges of China's massive doors should ever swing open to receive the Christ; and in God's providence the men who first stepped upon Chinese soil in this century, to lay the foundations for the propagation of Christianity, were pre-eminently men of mighty faith. But even such men did not and could not predict the way in which these doors would be opened. Only God knew. His servants could only wait and watch for the leading of His hand. We who are privileged to live in the closing decade of the century, as we look back upon the wonderful way in which China has been opened, can truly exclaim,

"God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform."

Four Epoch-making events. Four great events mark the history of missions in China. Two of them refer to the opening of the country to missionary effort, and the other two bear upon the better and more thorough preparation of the missionaries themselves to do the great work of reaching China for Christ.

Opium War. The first of these events which God used to break the bars of seclusion that imprisoned

China was the first war with England. Through her merchants, Great Britain was sending to China in vast quantities the vile drug, opium. Some of China's keenest and most far-sighted statesmen saw clearly that opium meant the ruin of that great nation. Consequently, with true patriotism, they bent their energies upon the work of prohibiting its importation. In desperation large cargoes of the drug were seized and thrown overboard. England, incensed at this act, which on the part of the Chinese was merely in self-defense, opened a war in 1839 to force China to legalize the iniquitous traffic. Much blood was shed, and England came forth victorious.

**Treaty of
Nanking.**

The result was the forming of the Treaty of Nanking, which required China to give an indemnity of \$21,000,000, to cede the Island of Hong Kong to her Majesty, and to protect the traffic in opium, as well as the importation of other commodities. But God made the wrath of man to praise him by guiding the minds that formed the treaty to throw open five of the great seaport cities of China to foreign trade and residence, and thus to Christianity. Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo and Shanghai, in 1842, became entirely accessible to foreign nations, and Christianity was able to enter and lay foundations in these great centers of influence.

**Significance of the
Treaty.**

Previous to this year, "trade had been carried on by sufferance, and traders were subjected to many restrictions. Foreigners were not allowed to take up a permanent residence on