

**TALES FROM THE
MIDDLE KINGDOM:
STORIES OF CHINA**

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Tales from the Middle Kingdom: stories of China by A. F. Willis & G. C. Willis

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A. F. WILLIS & G. C. WILLIS

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MIDDLE KINGDOM:
STORIES OF CHINA**

Tales From the
Middle Kingdom

Stories of China

Collected and Arranged

by A. F. & G. C. Willis

(Second Edition)



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INTRODUCTION

The stories collected in this little book have for the most part been taken from the pages of the magazine, "Messages of Love." Many of these stories were originally written for this magazine, either by Mrs. Willis or different members of her family, and are those things which they have seen and heard.

Their first object is to present Christ, and the way of salvation through Him: but both stories and pictures present, very truthfully, life in some parts of China. And it is the earnest hope and prayer of those responsible for this work, that the stories going forth in this new form, may not only be the means of leading some sinners to the Saviour, but also result in stirring the hearts of some of the Lord's people, young and old,—to "lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal."

"What do you offer?" was the question put to Garibaldi by some young men at the street corner, when he summoned them to enlist in his cause.

"Offer?" replied Garibaldi, "I offer you hardship, hunger, rags, thirst, sleepless nights, footsores in the long marches, privations innumerable, and *victory in the noblest cause that ever called you.*"

And the young men followed him.

The same offer holds good in many parts of China today, with this exception; the cause is more noble, the Victory is more certain, and there are wages from the Lord of the harvest,—such wages that, (as you may see for yourself in "The Standard Oil Job,") a man would be a fool to exchange them for \$15,000 a year.

It is the eleventh hour and after, but the gracious Master that paid full "wages" to the eleventh hour labourers, is no less gracious today. If there is one reader to whom He might say, "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" May that same reader hear *from HIMSELF*, those gracious words, "Go, ye also into the vineyard."

Special thanks are due to the editors of "Messages of Love," (1112 North Taylor Ave., St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A.,) for the use of many of their stories. We would also like to thank the editors of "The Young Christian," and "The Children's Gospel Magazine," for stories borrowed from their pages, and "The Shantyman;" for "Standard Oil Job Not Big Enough."

A map of China is included to show the position of a few of the places referred to, and also part of a very interesting map of Kwang Tung Province, that has been copied from the "Report of The Board of Co-operation, Canton Missionary Conference." In it, the city of Yeung Kong has been indicated, but the *real* object of the map is, we hope, quite clear without further explanation.

Perhaps a word should be added regarding the pictures. We are indebted to Mr. H. F. Collier, of Yeung Kong, for most of these. Some are from actual photographs of the places or things described, while some are merely typical, and while they convey a true impression of actual conditions, are not the persons, places or things described, in the book.

We would like to thank Messrs. MacTavish & Co., "The Photo Bureau," and Burr Photo Co., all of Shanghai, for the use of several of their pictures.

G. C. W.

PREFACE

To the Second Edition.

A second edition of this little work being called for, my son has asked me to write a preface. If I do, it will be the only part of the work that is mine.

Since the first edition went to the press she who collected most of the stories has gone to be with the Lord. "Her warfare is accomplished." Though she did not speak Chinese her life had more influence than words. It is what we are, rather than what we say, or even what we do, that tells.

In sending forth this edition it is desired to return thanks to Him Who has condescended to accept the first, and to ask His blessing on the second.

JOHN L. WILLIS.