

## Biographical Sketch---Lim U-Law

From: Report of FMC June 1895. Appendix No.13 ( p.xxxii-xxxiii)

林雨露 (1829 ~ 1894)是新店教會長老，請參見《史話 669》

Lim U-law died 1894, aged 66 years. He was a native of Sintiam, North Formosa. In 1873 he first heard the gospel at Sintiam Chapel; 1874, was baptized; and 1879, was ordained an elder.

Although a quiet farmer, he was well read in Chinese classics. The first time he entered the Christian chapel, Giâm Chheng Hôa, then preacher at Sintiam, took for his subject: "There is only one God." Mr. Lim's interest was at once awakened. Returning to his house he pondered with fresh interest upon what Confucius has said of God. Next Lord's day he returned to the chapel carrying with him one of the sage's books. At the end of the service he remained to discuss the doctrine of the one God with the preacher. So anxious was he to arrive at the truth, that he did not return home till the Tuesday following; and after that regularly returned to worship. In three months his mind was fixed. At once he began to rule his house according to the Commandments of God. He exerted himself to abolish from it idols and idol worship, also ordered that on the Lord's day hired servants and all should rest. At first his household bitterly opposed him; but in about one year to his great joy their hearts were changed, and they joined with him in the worship of the one true God.

His Christian experience is full of interest and profit for others.

He was a tea-farmer, as were also his heathen neighbors. On the Lord's day he would not pull tea, not even when a day's delay would injure its quality. His neighbors on several such occasions derided him; but he heeded them not, declaring that it was his duty to observe God's commandment, and the consequences he was willing to leave to the Most High. The result of one such occasion I shall relate. When the tea buyers first went their rounds Mr. Lim's tea was rejected at the price, while all the rest in the neighborhood was bought up. Again his neighbors increased their derision and asked "Where is now your God?" He did not become downcast. But ere long there came orders from the principals of the tea firms to buy large quantities of tea at increased prices if need be, as the market was exceptionally good. As Mr. Lim's neighbors had already sold their tea, he was offered a scarcity value for his, and on 200 piculs (1 picul = 133½ lbs.) realized \$4.00 a picul in excess of the price received by his neighbors. The mouths of the scoffers were stopped.

His manner was most unassuming and also *long suffering*. He exerted himself to "live at peace with all men."

Between his fields and those of a heathen neighbor there was a low wall of earth to mark the division. This fell down on one occasion. His neighbor objected to have it built on the old place, and ordered Mr. Lim not only to build it himself, but to place it entirely on his own side of the line. The other neighbors were very indignant, and urged Mr. Lim to go to law and compel his rights. This he refused to do as contrary to the teaching and spirit of his Saviour; but quietly built the ridge entirely on his own property. Strange to say this selfish neighbor was afterwards accused of crime, and in order to be able to pay a heavy sum as the price of freedom was obliged to sell his property to Mr. Lim.

To give another example of this spirit so much like his Redeemer's: Mr. Lim's second son went on one occasion to the mountains to shoot wild hogs, and according to a prevalent custom, though dangerous, set a gun in their track with string attached. As a result three men were wounded. His father and mother were very sad because of the accident, but very thankful that the wounds did not result in death, while they sternly upbraided their son. In the end this son was himself shot by a gun similarly placed. In two days he died. The man who had placed the gun was very much afraid, and a relative of the bereaved family urged Mr. Lim to accuse the man of murder. But both he and his elder son firmly declined to do this.

This spirit he ever manifested. His life was one derided often for its scrupulous sincerity, truth and loving kindness; but ever more and more admired and held in honor by those who viewed it day by day, and there is every reason to believe that this quiet, though well-informed farmer, was instrumental in leading not a few souls to forsake idolatry and with transformed hearts worship the one only true God. He seldom spoke; but on occasions when "his soul was stirred within him," the litterati were made to listen in silence and wonder at the quiet countryman, who in addition to their paltry knowledge had added that of the true God, whom he did not ignorantly worship.

During his last illness, at the near approach of death, he charged his sons to be long suffering towards all men, and be diligent in the worship of God, asking them all to meet him in glory.