Twitter Thread by Dan Hopper

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Faces of Guangyuan. Here are some (previously unseen) photographs from late-nineteenth century Sichuan, China. They come from the unpublished journals of missionary Florence Beauchamp, and I'll add some more when I can. [1/?]



[2/?] Florence and Montagu Beauchamp were missionaries for the (Protestant) China Inland Mission. The story of how they got there is pretty special, but you may need to wait for my forthcoming book to see what I mean! For now, there's this: https://t.co/rPwXUt25Vy

> No Barriers to Love. Here are some more extracts from China missionary Florence Beauchamp\u2019s journals, from New Year of 1900. Perhaps her experiences offer some perspective, if not comfort, to those of us who have had a lonely year. [1/12] pic.twitter.com/4moEjuOCn0
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> — Dan Hopper (@evohopp) December 30, 2020

Florence had guests pose for photos in their courtyard. This is Song Dalaoye [■(?)■■■], the ‘mayor’ of Guanyuan: ‘He is in his robe of office and chain of official rank, and is holding his hand painted silk fan. His man servant holds his tobacco pipe ready for use.’ [3/?]



At Spring Festival, Montagu went to the Yamen (official residence) 'to photo the 'big man' as he came out in his open chair… At the riverside amidst the letting off of crackers, [he] gets out of his chair and prostrates himself in worship of the coming Spring.’ [4/?]



These men might (might!) be Yamen ‘runners’, (probably unpaid) assistants of Song Dalaoye or the magistrate. Runners were despised by foreigners and Chinese alike, ‘squeeze’ (i.e. corruption) being their only means of survival. [5/?]



In Zhaohua (■■, to the south), Mrs & Mrs ‘Thunder’ were working as evangelists. We ‘had a good time among the people. Mrs Thunder and I spent our mornings and afternoons visiting in the houses and everywhere we received a hearty welcome from the women.’ [6/?]



Mr. Tian 'used to be a gaoler in the prison here. According to his own account he used to be a very bad character, torturing the prisoners to extract money from them. He was an opium smoker and came here in the first place to break off… Do pray for him.' [7/?]



‘There are a great many Mahomedans in this city… they never intermarry with the heathen, nor will they eat with them. In dress and general manner of life they are quite Chinese and only their religious customs and ceremonies differ.’ [8/?]



A ‘party of Tibetans came through [Guangyuan] on their way to [Beijing] to pay tribute. A few of the suite came here… The Chinese thought we must be able to understand his words because they sounded exactly like ours - English and Tibetan being equally outlandish…’ [9/?]

