

John Ross, "Missionary Methods," Chinese Record 29 (May, 1898): 247.

transcribed by Sung-Deuk Oak

I came into closer contact with him [John L. Nevius] than with perhaps any other missionary south of Manchuria. From long, varied and thorough discussions on many missionary topics I learned to regard him as one of the broadest and fairest and keenest minds in China; and for him I have long had a great respect and admiration. I had read with a good deal of interest, and not a little sympathy, his papers on native agents as they appeared in the RECORDER. I felt, however, that they were incomplete, and therefore draw up a paper intended—though not avowedly so—to supplement one aspect of the subject which then and now seemed to me of more serious import than the apparently negative conclusions of those articles. That paper appeared in the RECORDER. At a subsequent date, when on my way to the Korean capital, I waited over an entire day in order to discover the whole truth regarding his itinerancy, and especially regarding the manner in which the large numbers of converts then baptized by him had been brought into contact with Christianity. He was apparently as eager to know all the details of our working principles and actions in Manchuria, and especially our mode of utilizing the native Christians in the work. It was an easy task to lay bare to his intelligent vision every matter of importance in our work. When he did grasp the entire situation he said: "Some people think that I am absolutely opposed to the payment of any native for doing Christian work. That is a mistake. If I could lay my hands on men such as you describe, I would be delighted to set them apart to do Christian work and to support them in the doing of it."