ABSTRACT

Using Tianjin as a case study, this paper illustrates the interaction between Christianity and the Chinese government and intellectuals. This interaction is reflected in the government, the intellectuals’ writings, like Tianjin’s local gazettes and biographies of intellectuals, and the missionary publications. This paper aims to find out how the interaction is reflected in the writings and analyze changes in attitudes towards Christianity in a local area like Tianjin during the late Qing to early Republican period. As the society of Tianjin underwent changes at the turn of the century, new ways of thought and ideas tend to influence the change in attitudes towards foreign religions in Tianjin. Also, political issues like the Opium War and the rising of Japan caused shifts in attitudes as well. These changes in attitudes of the locals are also reflected in the shift in the function of missionary publications, which reveals the transformation of missionaries’ status in China between the late Qing and early Republican period. Pieces of evidence in the writings and publications also reveal a change in women’s status in China during that
period, which demonstrates a change in the status of Christianity China as a result of the interaction between Christianity and the local society.