

NEWS LETTER FOR THE ASIATIC

DIVISION

Volume I

Shanghai, Oct. 1, 1918

Letter V

ASIATIC DIVISION NEWS

We were sorry to drop out the News Letter for two months, but with the appliances at hand it was impossible to print a sheet that was readable. Of course the news is about a month old when it goes to the mail, but this can not well be remedied, as we can not report news till it is received. We ask each worker to send in some item of interest for the November Letter. All news should reach us not later than October 15.

The East Indies

August 26 Brother and Sister G F Jones sailed for the United States, and Brother and Sister E K G Hungerford left a few days later for Australia. Thus Singapore is left again with only a few workers. It is hoped that recruits may soon come to fill these places.

Good news from Borneo! A Chinese Sabbath-keeper from the church in Singapore has been working as colporter for the British and Foreign Bible Society in Borneo, and at the same time he has been sowing the seeds of present truth. He reports nine Sabbath-keepers now, and others are interested. Brother Chan, our evangelist in Singapore, is corresponding with them, and sending them literature. "They are calling for some one to come over and help them," writes Brother R P Montgomery, "but at present we have no one to spare."

Java's first church was organized in the city of Batavia with twenty-seven members on June 25, by Pastor G F Jones. Two days previous to this nearly all the brethren assembled to witness the baptism of nine candidates in the calm waters of the Java sea. On the following day the ordinances were celebrated in the mission house; and on the following Sabbath there was an ordination service for local elders. The prospects for the work in Batavia look encouraging.

Sister Tunheim, of Batavia, Java, sends the following concerning the work in that place: "Since my last letter several changes have been made in our work. I was glad to have Brother and Sister Jones with me for a few weeks after being alone so long. It was indeed good to see these workers, who have stood so faithfully by the work so long in difficult Singapore.

"About two weeks ago we had the joy of seeing nine more souls follow their Lord in baptism. It was a beautiful sight to see them step into the blue ocean, willing to give up all their sins and old habits. My prayer is that we may all meet on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. A Javanese baboe, Ati, who has accepted the message with joy, as much as she can understand of it, was the first one to pay tithes. Though she gets only four guilders a month and her food, yet she has paid a faithful tithe from the first time she heard of it. Some of these faithful souls teach us lessons. Several are waiting baptism later; among these is the Chinese sister of whom I told you in my last letter, who worshiped her dead child for seventeen years. She seems to be steadily growing in faith, and is anxious to be baptized; but her son has in her house some ashes representing his dead father, and this he worships. The mother does not dare throw them away, for fear of the son. Chinese custom is very strict in such matters, and requires that the ashes must not be removed for three years after the person is dead. If the ashes are taken away, it is said, the person permitting the act will kena tjilaka besar (hit trouble big). However, the son has promised to take them away in a few months, and we have told her that when this is done, she can unite with God's people.

"In a few days Emmanuel Siregar and family are returning to Batakland, their home. They are going to sell literature there, as we have no permission to do other gospel work in that field. Samuel Rantoeng has gone on a trip to the towns of West Java to sell tracts. We hope with the literature to reach some of the millions of this great field.

"As Meester Cornelis does not belong to Batavia, and we have permission to work only in the city, it became necessary to move our mission to its center. When I came here, we did not know that Meester Cornelis did not belong to Batavia. However, we can see that this has all been in the Lord's hands, as he wanted this precious message to enter that place. It has been sounding there for six months, and quite a number have accepted the truth.

"It is a comfort to us to know that so many prayers are ascending up for us in the home lands. Soon the sheaves will be gathered. Let us therefore press on a little longer."

China

We were glad to welcome Brother and Sister E G White on September 24. All our workers in China will surely extend a cordial welcome to these recruits for this needy field. Arrangements have been made for Brother and Sister White to attend the new language school opened in Nanking this fall. It is planned for them to take up work in the North Central field next spring.

The father and mother of Brother W F Hills, of Swatow, stepped for a day in Shanghai, September 24, on their way to Swatow, where they plan to visit their son for a time.

Owing to the death of Miss Gertrude Thompeon, who was planning to take charge of Bethel School in Canton, Elder Harlow's family have moved into the school building, and his wife will take charge of the school during the coming year. Brother Harlow's health is improving.

Brother Nagel and family have spent the summer in Hongkong, Brother Nagel doing active missionary work among the English-speaking people. As the result of the work of himself and the Sisters Thompson, nine have accepted the truth, and about twenty-five are regular attendants at Sabbath-school. Miss Thompeon says: "We have twenty-five at our Sabbath-school. They are all very fine people, and I think come for the same reason that you and I go to Sabbath-school,-- expressly to learn more of the true Way. They are here every Sabbath. They are all very young people. I am pleased with them."

Mrs J P Anderson sailed for San Francisco August 3 on the "Nile," for a year's furlough. Mrs. Anderson has worked very hard, and as her furlough was almost due, she left a month early to escape the heat. Brother Anderson remains to carry on his work. He will have the sympathy of all for his year of loneliness, but he did not feel that he could tear himself from his work, as there is no one to look after it should he leave. In a letter dated August 6 he says: "I am well, and think I shall find plenty to do to keep me from getting lonesome. Just now I have two Bible classes and one singing class every day. There are bright prospects before me up here, and I mean to stay by the work until something is accomplished. Ere this reaches you, I shall be out among the stations. I plan on going away to the north of the province, where there is a company. . . . The canvassers are doing very well this year. I hope to keep at it, until we can pay for our literature."

Mrs Esta Miller sailed on the same boat as Mrs Anderson, for her father's home in Ohio. It seemed pitiful to see her leave under such trying conditions. Scarcely two years ago she came to China a happy bride. During the time she was here, she never complained of the hardships and privations. She was a happy, contented wife and mother, and dearly loved the Chinese. It was with tearful eyes we saw her leave with little Esta, but it seemed for her best good and the well-being of the little one.

Brother F A Allum has had malarial fever for several months.

Brother Wilbur's family spent the hot season at Macao, Brother Wilbur continuing his supervision of the work at Fatshan and the out-stations. His health has been very poor all summer.

Sisters Ida and Gertrude Thompson took nearly six hundred annual subscriptions to the Chinese Signs of the Times up to July, delivering these papers monthly in person. Now that Sister Gertrude has fallen asleep at her post, a double burden rests upon Miss Ida in handling this large work.

Dr H W Miller had hoped to return to China this fall, and take charge of the training-school. The Mission Board, however, thought it wiser that he remain in the home land another year. The Doctor writes:—

"About a month ago Professor Kern sent me a telegram asking if I would teach in the Seminary and take charge of the Washington Dispensary. I referred him to the Mission Board and they selected Dr Menkel from India, as they already had Brother J N Anderson on the faculty to represent China. Mrs Miller and I took it then that the Board meant that we should return to China, and so we wrote the word to China that we were coming this fall. However, only a few days passed till this telegram came: 'Counseled with leaders here, and have decided to offer you position of Bible teacher in Mount Vernon College next year. You will be heartily welcomed by Board, Faculty, and students. Do not disappoint us. We need you badly. Wire answer to Plainfield, N. J.' Signed B G Wilkinson and S M Butler. I replied: 'My plans are China. Will accept if the Mission Board have been consulted and passed favorably on your request.' And then I received a telegram saying that the Board had given their consent and authorized them to make arrangements with me. Elder Spicer also wrote me to that effect. In view of the fact that the China Union Committee have asked that I take the educational work, I thought that a year, or until after General Conference, spent in one of our schools would be a valuable experience to me. Personally, I regret that I am not to spend the time in the medical work, but I doubt if a year spent in a sanitarium would be of as much value to me in my future work in China as to fill the position that has been offered me. Now I can not just tell how my remaining here is going to affect the work in China, as it is being planned. I am truly sorry to be kept from the field during this past year.

"I feel very thankful to be able to sit down and eat a good meal and never have to think of it afterwards. A year ago I had about given up hopes of ever reaching that place, but the driving out in the pure open air last winter and the work in the fields this spring was the best treatment I could have had. Now work and study is pleasure instead of drudgery. The children are growing fast, and before long will be large girls. My hands are calloused and my fingers are so stiff that writing is not very convenient. But school begins the fourth of September, and that will be a change."

Owing to Dr Miller's not returning to China this year, Brother O A Hall was asked to take the school. He will be assisted by Brother Orvie Gibson and Miss Pauline Schilberg. The school will be opened about October 8, at Nanking. Some fifty students will be in attendance.

Brother Wilbur writes concerning the death of the wife of one of our evangelists in the South China Mission field: "Last Wednesday morning our evangelist at Kong Moon, Brother Wong Hok Sam, lost his wife, who died of typhoid fever. These experiences cause us to remember that we are in a world of sin and death, and that we should so live from day to day that we may be prepared at any time to give an account of our stewardship." The workers in China unite in commending this dear brother in his bereavement and sorrow to the comforting grace of our Heavenly Father.

Brother and Sister Bach are working faithfully in their difficult station to spread the light of present truth. Brother Bach writes:--

"My wife had not been to Macao for rest, but she had been to our out-station, called Namhong, for two months. She has visited some tens of villages, and brought the good news and the last warning to many. God has blessed her work, and we see that the older Christians got deeper in all the truth which is so dear to our hearts, and that new ones were gained to the flock. How can we, with the message of Christ's speedy return, take it easy and go for holidays? It would be a contradiction of what we believe and hope. My wife works very thorough; and where she goes, she stays until she has reached just the thing she wants to reach. I wonder to see how she stands it all in a temperature of 104 to 106, but, praise God, she seems to gain health as she works on.

"We here in Pakhoi have had some progress too, gaining the victory in some very hard cases. It seems now as if a time of reaping has arrived, where hard sowing has been. A preacher of the English Mission, and his wife and family, have accepted the truth, and wait for the second coming of Christ. God has heard and answered prayer in many instances, and the church has learned the great lesson, to trust God.

"We are preparing to open up three more stations here. The story of how the Lord prepared these places, and workers too, is really marvelous. We reach in this way the border of Kwangsi on one side, and have already open doors to go over the border of Annam. It is my heart's prayer and desire that all these regions shall be filled with the message, and that the Lord may get honor in this part of the world. We have been kept among sickness and death. It seems that no Adventist can die of plague. Praise God for so many signs of his presence and help, where everything seemed gone. It humbles me much to see how God overlooks our failures and many mistakes, and works with us.

"The work keeps one very busy, and at evening one is tired out after the meetings. Perplexities there are some, too, but one has not to allow the desert to grow. A look to our Father in heaven makes all things right again, and to know that this fellowship is an unbroken one gives strength in all adversities. I have learned by life's bitter experience that the only resting-point in this whirlpool is God, and that the man is blessed who looks up to him and lives a

life of faith and obedience. He calls us to follow him, and if we experiment by running ahead or staying back, we create our perplexities ourselves, and are unwise."

Miss Pauline Schilberg left Shanghai for Nanking, September 18. It was with regrets that we saw her leave the editorial staff of our Chinese paper, but it seemed impossible to carry on the school without her assistance this year.

Brother Orvie Gibson and wife came to Shanghai, September 6, on account of Brother Gibson's illness. For some weeks Brother Gibson had been having attacks of malarial fever. They returned to Nanking the nineteenth. Brother Gibson was feeling much better, and hoped to be able, by continuing the treatments, to make a complete recovery. To date no word has been received concerning his health since his return to Nanking.

Brother George Harlow sends the following for the News Letter:—

"In most parts of this field the strife and turmoil of the revolution is growing less and less, but there still remain sections which it is dangerous to travel. About a week ago Brother Wilbur and myself made a trip to Kong Moon and from there to Hongkong. On the latter trip the workers on the boat kept a constant watch for pirates, and one of the boat hands told me that the pirates fired on them nearly every night. We found the work in Kong Moon moving nicely. The little school has begun with an attendance of eighteen girls.

"The work in Canton is slowly growing. At the close of the first half-year's work in Bethel School, five souls were baptized as a result of the work done by Sister J P Anderson during that time. One student, Miss Leung Pui Lan, was graduated, and will take up work as teacher in the school when it opens. Our little chapel in the city has been the cause of several asking for baptism.

"Sunday, August 25, the little company at Hongkong gathered in a quiet spot by a running stream to witness the baptism of six persons. These will form a nucleus around which we hope many more may be gathered to form a good church for Hongkong. They are the result of the untiring efforts of the Sisters Thompson and Brother Nagel. Others are now preparing to follow in this ordinance.

"Brother Bach has reported ten souls baptized in his field last June. Sister Bach has been inland to Namhong working for the women who came to the meetings there. I hope ere long to visit that field and hold a general meeting.

"The Boys' School in Fatsan has recently opened with an enrollment of fourteen pupils. Brother Wilbur has been working diligently for the people there, and yesterday he stated that several are preparing for baptism. Next Sabbath he will visit Yim Po, where we opened work last spring."

All the workers in this Division will be sorry to learn that the condition of Dr M M Kay's health has made it imperative for him to leave this field. Shortly after his arrival in China two years ago, Dr Kay was stricken with typhus fever, and though he recovered, he has never known a real well day since. Some months ago it began to be apparent to the Doctor and his friends that it would be necessary for him to seek a change of climate if his life was to be prolonged. It was with genuine sadness of heart that the workers in China gathered at the wharf to bid Brother and Sister Kay good-by. Their hearts are in this field, and they have sacrificed greatly in coming here. We pray that the blessing of God may be with them in this necessary change, and that the Doctor may be completely restored to health.

August 24, Brother Bert Roberts and Miss Anna sailed on the "Persia," in company with Dr Kay and wife, for San Francisco. Brother Roberts has been in China about five years. Earlier in the spring Mrs Roberts preceded her husband to America. We were sorry to say good-by to these dear friends who have been so long connected with the publishing work in Shanghai. Brother Gillis, however, had been sent to take charge of the publishing work; and as he was now ready to enter upon this line of work, Brother Roberts felt as if it was unnecessary for two foreigners to be in the small printing-plant that we are operating. As Brother Roberts did not feel that he was qualified to take up evangelistic work, he preferred to return to the home land, though he holds himself in readiness to return to China at any time if needed. We feel sure that we express the opinion of all the Chinese workers, and any who have ever met Brother and Sister Roberts in China at their hospitable home, that we feel sad at their leaving, and greatly appreciate their hospitality and all the service which they have so cheerfully rendered to the cause, and wish them God's blessing in the home land.

Brother J J Westrup sends the following encouraging word concerning his work:--

"Yesterday I returned from a two-weeks' visit among the churches. I visited Fu Kuo Hsien and San Kuo Chiao, staying one week at each place, holding meetings forenoon and afternoon, and caring for the sick. Although in a very busy time harvesting their cotton, beans, and teima, still we had good attendance, and had a real blessed time. I baptized seven in each place, and celebrated the Lord's Supper. After the Lord's Supper we had special prayer for those baptized. I read Acts 8:14-17, and explained the difference between the Holy Spirit working on our hearts, influencing our lives, and taking full possession and controlling our lives. Then we laid our hands on them, and prayed that the Holy Spirit would take full possession and control of their lives and hearts. This was the most touching part of all our meetings, and all were wonderfully touched and blessed. The Holy Spirit was certainly very near to us. I told them that I would pray for them every day, and they promised to pray for me. These two weeks I have lived on Chinese food and kept real well."

Sister Eva Allum sends the following interesting notes concerning the work in the North Central Mission Field:--

"We are just at the close of another summer, and while during the heat we are not out among the companies in active work, we have been kept busy attending to the sick, encouraging and helping the workers as they come in, holding meetings three nights a week for the heathen, and Sabbath services for heathen and believers.

"During the last two or three months we have had six friendly visits from mandarins. Some time ago we sent out letters to the mandarins of the different districts where we have chapels, telling them why we were locating chapels in their districts, and stating our principles in regard to lawsuits. We have received several excellent letters from different mandarins, expressing their pleasure at the stand our mission takes in these matters. We are sure that this effort to place our principles before those in authority will in every way be beneficial to our mission.

"We have recently opened a new station at Yen Cheng, and located two evangelists there. From this central station we are sending colporters to the north and the south, working all the cities along the railway between Sin Yang Djou and the Yellow River. Each colporter has his allotted territory, and so there is no confusion. Several interests have been aroused, the evangelists following up the work of the colporters.

"We have just completed a ten-days' trip among the companies at Hsiao Yao and Hsia Ting Gi, eighty li from Chowkiakow. Daily preaching services were held in the chapel from 9:30 to 11:00 A. M., by my husband, especially for the men; then I took meetings from 11:00 to 12:00 with the women. There was a daily attendance of between fifty and sixty, and on the Sabbath there were over seventy present. The majority of these lived at least eight li from the meeting-place, and some lived ten, twelve, and fifteen li away, making a daily trip there and back of twenty, twenty-four, and thirty li over terribly dusty roads. Some twenty of those making such trips were women, one woman walking twenty li from her village, carrying her fifteen-month-old baby with her. This woman's husband is not a believer, but she is very warm-hearted in the truth, and has previously walked to Chowkiakow to two of our general meetings, walking sixty li here and sixty li back.

"In these meetings we followed the principles of holding meetings with those assembled in the mornings, and then in the afternoon having the evangelist conduct meetings for the men, and the Bible women take meetings for the women, teaching them the memory texts given out in the morning, while we went out in the sulky visiting the different families of believers and inquirers in their own homes and villages. In this way we visited twelve villages, treating one hundred and thirty cases of sickness, my husband holding preaching services from the sulky to the crowds who had gathered to see the foreigners and buy medicine. Short services were held in the homes of the believers, and prayer offered with them that the Lord would daily strengthen them to hold fast till his return. We returned between six and seven o'clock each day in time for the evening meeting. In most of these villages there was but one single family of believers, and in some only one single person. We passed many, many villages where there was not a single believer.

"The following will give you an idea of how busy we were kept on Friday, September 6. At six o'clock in the morning we assembled on the river bank about a mile from our meeting-place, when my husband baptized six men and two women, only one of whom had previously been a member of any other mission. At 8:30 my husband

held a service with those assembled, after which two were ordained to the office of deacon. Following this a committee meeting was called, while I took the meeting with the women as usual. In the afternoon we went to a village eight li out, and my husband performed a wedding ceremony for one of our believers. We visited one other village, and then returned home to make preparations for the Sabbath. The day closed with a good testimony meeting in the evening. The Sabbath following thirty-two partook of the ordinances.

"While at Hsiao Yao one man gave us \$5 tithes on his first half year's crops, and in all some \$12 was received in tithes and offerings from this little company during our stay there.

"Peng Hsien Seng, the teacher who took his stand for the truth at our last general meeting, is proving faithful, and is to be baptized this week. He has met with much opposition from his family and others, but this has only served to strengthen him. He is preparing to enter the Nanking Training-School. 'Gai Er Dzai Heuch.'"

Brother F E Stafford hands in the following report of the work in Shanghai:—

"The Shanghai workers have all returned refreshed and strengthened by the period of rest and study on the mountain. They find a large and growing interest centered in the Honan Road Chapel district, and are preparing now to open an enthusiastic fall campaign. Another native evangelist has been set to work, and a new chapel is about to be opened in the Western Haining Road district. This is a large and densely populated part of the city, and there are no other chapels in that neighborhood. We hope by God's grace to build up a church in that locality. Near the chapel is a plot of ground where we are planning to erect a large mat shed, and hold a series of public meetings as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

"A two-weeks' workers' meeting is now in progress, and is proving a source of strength and encouragement to all our workers, especially the Chinese brethren. Besides periods set apart for prayer and Bible studies in the message, regular meetings have been devoted to ways and methods of work, organization, evangelistic and personal work, the canvassing work, etc. Special attention has been given to the importance of a proper preparation for labor, the necessity of having a living connection with the Holy Spirit, and the constant maintenance of a deep religious experience. Sister B Miller reports a lively interest among the women, and has a class that she is preparing for baptism. Brother Harris will open a dispensary in connection with the Honan Road chapel, and alterations are already under way, to prepare the building for occupancy by the first of October.

"As the Press will soon move to the new quarters at Yangtsepo, the chapel in Pao Shing Li will be shortly given up, and the Sabbath meetings held in the Honan Road chapel."

It is expected that each worker will send monthly some message to the News Letter. None need think they can not write properly, and hence will not write at all. In your own language and way tell about the work you are doing, and it will cheer the heart of some fellow-worker struggling against great odds. The News Letter is a call for a note of news from each worker monthly.

Brother W F Hills sends the following encouraging word from Swatow, under date of September 3:—

"I believe that in my last letter I spoke about a minister who would, I hoped, take his stand for the truth. I had Elder Ang send one of our evangelists out there to stay with him until he was fully established. The evangelist started, but returned in haste, saying that the church of which this man had been a member would horse-whip him or any other Adventist who dared enter its territory. I told Brother Ang that we better pray over the matter, and that I would be willing to go with him, if he thought best. We finally decided that one or both of us would go as soon as we could get ready.

"This minister and thirty-five of his congregation have now kept three Sabbaths, since he returned home from Swatow. I believe that this is a genuine movement, and have felt so all the time since this man came here and studied so faithfully. He did not care to eat, and sleep was out of the question with him until he had settled the matter. When he returned home, he called his congregation together, and taught them day and night until they, thirty-five in number, decided to keep Sabbath with him. They met one afternoon and prepared large charts, placed them over the entrance to the chapel, and in other conspicuous places, that mentioned the fact that Sunday is not, and never was, the Lord's Sabbath, etc. Those who rejected the light of course reported the matter to headquarters here in Swatow, and there is a great stir. This minister attended their school here for many years, and has preached for fourteen years. Brother Ang says that he is a very fine man. Of course his former brethren hate to give him up, and it is harder to lose the congregation with him. They have made awful threats, many times mentioning flogging, etc., but this man has stood so far as firm as a rock.

"He came to my house again this evening, and the peace of Heaven seems to fill his being, although he is suffering from an attack of boils, so much that he can not wear some of his clothing. He came about one hundred and forty li. In the face of all the opposition that they are piling upon him, he is happy, and is as firm as I ever saw any one. His oldest son has attended the - - - school here at Kok-chieh for four years, and now they have shut him out. He came over to see me this afternoon, and I told him I would try to arrange for him to go to Amoy.

"This brother came down this afternoon on purpose to see if Brother Ang would come up and help him. He knew that they were apt to punish him if they dared to, but he had faith to believe that God would care for a good worker like Brother Ang. When Brother Ang told him that we had just decided yesterday that he and I would go out to see them, he seemed to be very much affected. My boils are very 'touchy,' but I feel that if this man has forgotten his suffering, and has to endure the punishment that they are so unjustly heaping upon him, all to learn the truth, surely I can forget self and boils in answer to their call for help. Brother Ang says that my presence, even if I could not speak a word, would do much good. . . . Brother Evans, the joy that fills our hearts tonight fully repays us for all the effort, and the struggle to get the language, etc., that we have passed through. Surely God's Spirit is going before us."

Obituary

Thompson.—Mabel Gertrude Thompson was born in Wisconsin in 1882, and died in Hongkong August 8, 1912. Her parents were both earnest believers in present truth. At an early age, she was converted and baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and has since remained a faithful member of that body. She began teaching school at the age of seventeen, and has taught both public and church school. Later she was graduated from Union College, where she was given the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and took up work as teacher in Maplewood Academy. From here she was called to come as a missionary to China, where she arrived October 18, 1910. After studying the language diligently for nearly two years, she was preparing to take charge of Bethel School, when she was suddenly taken ill and died. There were eight in the family, all of whom save the mother, who died a few months ago, are left to mourn. We laid her to rest in Happy Valley, Hongkong, to await the coming of the Life-giver. Words of comfort were spoken by Brother S A Nagel, and interpreted into Chinese by the writer.

George Harlow.



Korea

Dr Riley Russell reports that he has baptized eighty-one believers this year. Surely if every minister in our ranks could make a similar report, what a "Loud Cry" would be heard.



In June a good camp-meeting was held in Korea. About one hundred fifty of our people and all the workers were in attendance. Elder DeVinney from Japan, and Elder Evans from Shanghai, were also present. Nine small tents were pitched, and one for the congregation. This was the most like a real camp-meeting of any general meeting yet held in the East. The work for the summer and fall was planned, and with good heart all entered upon the campaign with renewed courage and faith.



The new buildings in Seoul, consisting of a printing-plant and three cottages, are rapidly going up. Brother Butterfield writes:—"The building is going nicely. The brick work will be finished on my house in about two days, and on Brother Oberg's by the last of this week. Windows, doors, frames, and finishing lumber are about all finished. They will have the roof nearly on my house this week. We are all keeping well; but a letter from Dr Russell says that they fear Brother Lee's little girl—Lillian—has hip joint disease. They will bring her to Seoul tomorrow for an examination."



The crops on the school farm at Soonan are looking well. The students applying for the privileges of the school ~~exceed~~ its capacity.



Japan

About the middle of August Elder F H DeVinney visited the northern companies and workers in Japan. He reports excellent meetings and six baptized. Certainly this is an encouraging report from Japan.

Brother H Kuniya reports encouraging results from his tent-meeting work this summer. Though the attendance was small, a good class came to the meetings, and one man began to keep the Sabbath. His whole family are studying the Bible. In Kagoshima several new ones are interested and anxious to study Bible truths.

Brother H F Benson writes: "Our field of labor is Matsuyama, on the island of Shikoka. We have been following up the interest aroused at the time of our tent-meeting in the spring and early summer. As a result, quite a number are studying. . . . Several seem desirous of obeying the truth, but have not fully decided to take this stand. One is ready for baptism, and is planning to attend school this year. In a few days we expect to pitch our tent again, this time in a part of town where no Christian work has been done by any of the missionaries. Pray for the work in Matsuyama."

GENERAL NEWS

Professor Frederick Griggs, of Union College, and family spent the summer in California, where Mrs Griggs took special work in advanced Greek and Latin at the State University.

Brother A L Shidler, who went from the Foreign Mission Seminary to Cuba at the close of school, sends the following encouraging report of his beginning of the work in that field:--

"The Lord has given us wonderful success right from the start. While I can scarcely say anything more than my canvass, yet my extremity is proving God's opportunity, and last week in twenty-seven hours I took \$59.50 worth of orders, and delivered \$19.50 worth of them Friday evening. Today I delivered the remainder without losing an order. - This morning, as I was finishing my delivery, I met a lady who had seen a book that her daughter had bought, and she told me that she would like one too. She was the wife of a Cuban senator. Brother Will Spicer took \$89 worth of orders last week. He is working with Brother Brown, and I with Brother Colthurst. Yesterday Brother Colthurst took \$34 worth of orders, besides receiving an invitation to a Cuban wedding. One of his orders was from the daughter of the leading reben general."

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering (March 30) in all Sabbath-schools through the United States and Canada was \$7,530.93. This is to be devoted to city work in India. The average offering per Sabbath is between \$2,000 and \$2,500. Returns are not yet in on the thirteenth Sabbath offering of the second quarter, to be used in purchasing the Selukwe Reserve, in Africa. The thirteenth Sabbath offering in the third quarter goes to homes for missionaries in China. The Sabbath-school donations to missions for the first quarter of this year are \$46,862.04, an increase of \$11,854.24 over the corresponding quarter of last year.

Elder L R Conradi says: "The Lord has not only restored my health after being in bed about twelve days, but I was enabled to carry out my program, and meet with the Siberian Mission workers in Saratow on the Volga, hold general meetings in different parts of Russia, in company with Brother Dail, and visit our workers in Urima, Persia. I then also returned to Riga, in order to rearrange our book business there. I was six weeks on the road. Tonight I shall have to leave for the Hungarian meeting, when the Danube Union will be organized, and the week following the Central European. We had a very successful meeting with the Siberian Union Committee. Three of those fields are tremendous in size, if not so much in population. Each is nearly as large as Europe or the United States, and yet they have but one ordained minister each. But we are happy at our meetings, to ordain three ministers. One of these was sent in the neighborhood of Vladivostock, to look after the interests there, and thus give Brother Gnadjin a chance to extend the work at Irkutsk. The other one went to Samarkand in Central Asia. Our Russian settlers in Siberia experience many difficulties, as in some places the governors refuse to give them any concessions, because they are Sectarians. A whole church which has moved out there, and already had put up their homes, had to leave again and return to Russia. It seems indeed that the time has come in some parts where our people can neither buy nor sell. We are very happy indeed that we more and more extend our work along the Chinese border and thus join hands in the great work. Though we have no property whatever in Russia today, yet thank God we have five thousand Sabbath-keepers and an ever-growing work."

Of his trip to Persia he says: "From our meeting in Saratow, Elder Boettcher had to return direct to Riga, because the Russian government had given official notice to close our depository, with eight other societies of similar nature. We had a meeting in the Caucasus of three days, then another one in Tiflis, and reached the Persian border June 12. Here was the end of all railways, and we had to hire a team to take us three hundred fifty miles to Urmia. We found the whole country full of Russian soldiers, everywhere the Russian flag was flying, and they undoubtedly have gone there to stay. Still it is not the worst, as the Persian government was so unstable and so backward that even Russia means improvement. Our teamster knew but a bit of Russian, but he was very careful, and brought us to our destination in three and one-half days. The inns at night were horrible places, nothing but a mat or capet for a bed, and full of vermin. It was very hot, but when we once reached the interior, we found a fruitful and well-watered country. Brethren Dirksen and Oster were happy to meet us, and we spent three profitable days with them."

Professor W W Prescott, writing under date of July 10, says:--

"There have been some changes among the workers here. Brother K C Russell is now in Chicago, conducting a tent service. Brother Curtiss has gone to Kansas City to take charge of the Kansas City Branch, and Brother Palmer succeeds him in the Review Office. It has been decided to issue the Protestant Magazine monthly. This change has met with approval on the part of all from whom I have heard, and I think that we shall have their cordial support in the work. Brother Spicer and Brother Wilcox have been asked to serve with me as associate editors of the magazine, and we hope to make it a strong factor in the program of the work."

Brother W L Foster, who was compelled, on account of his wife's health, to leave Japan for the home land last spring, writes under date of August 5 as follows: "It will soon be three months since we returned to California. Shortly after arriving at San Francisco, I came to this place (Newhall) with my wife, and have been alone with her ever since. We left our children at my father's home near Sacramento. When we first came here, the doctor gave us hopes that my wife would make a good recovery, and said it would not take very long, but she has continued to get weaker until she does not feel able to move at all. Her sprue seems to be getting better, but we do not notice any change in her lungs. The doctor now says that she can not hope to be well from the tuberculosis within a year. It may be, though, that by that time she will be far enough on the way to recovery so I could return to Japan if I am needed. It seems good to hear about the workers being back to their stations in China. I suppose the change of government is favorable to our work. I am wondering also if any favorable changes can be expected in Japan on account of the new ruler. Perhaps not."

Of the excellent meetings in the North Pacific Union Conference Elder Flaiz writes:--

"The camp-meeting season in this Union will close July 1. We have so far held six meetings, all of which have been well attended by our people. The outside attendance has been the best in the history of our Union. It was estimated that there were from twelve to fifteen hundred people on the grounds in the Western Oregon meeting. In the Southern Oregon meeting a minister of some prominence fully accepted of the Sabbath. He is studying now with a view to uniting with us as a people. Elder Westworth has been called East, and according to last reports was expected to take up city work in Pittsburg. He had practically recovered from his burn; however, the new growth of skin where he was burned was tender, and he had to be very careful. There is no question but he will fully recover, and soon be as well as ever.

"I wish, Brother Evans, that we had some young men to send over to you for the work in that field. We are doing what we can to develop them. We have in this Union a fine class of young men coming on, but they need to go to school for a time yet. We are encouraging them in every way that we can."

Brother J S Washburn, writing from Memphis, Tenn., says:--

"If I were younger, I would be glad indeed to go to China myself, but feel that the work in the large cities is the work to which the Lord especially calls me, and I hope thus to be able to raise funds for the foreign missionary work. I am sure we know little of hardships that you and our brethren in heathen lands meet continuously. I think of you many, many times, and pray for you, that God will give you grace and wisdom and power, that he will comfort and encourage you in time of conflict and trial, and give you light in times of darkness and perplexity, and more than human power for the mighty work that stretches out before you its vast and tremendous outlines."

Brother R C Porter, in speaking of our Solusi Mission in South Africa, and how we secured a mission site, says:--

"Elder A T Robinson interviewed the late Hon. Cecil J. Rhodes, Prime Minister of the Cape Colony and Managing Director of the British South African Company, which controlled the territory of Southern Rhodesia, and secured a grant of 12,000 acres of land for the purpose of establishing a self-supporting mission thirty-five miles west of Bulawayo. Mr Rhodes remarked, at the time, that he gave this grant freely, as he had learned that missionaries were much better adapted to keep the peace among the natives than soldiers, and it was much less expensive."

Surely this is a good compliment to missionary endeavor. Speaking of the sacrifice endured by our workers, Brother Porter says:--

"In 1895 Elder Byron Tripp and wife, W H Anderson and wife, and Dr Carmichael, coming from America, left Cape Town to take the long, wearisome journey to what was then known as the Zambesi Mission. Its name has since been changed to the Solusi Mission. They were met by Brother Fred Sparrow and wife with ox-teams at Mafeking, whence they trekked six hundred miles to the Solusi Mission, thirty-five miles west of Bulawayo. It was a new experience to these pioneer workers. They were far from civilization, with little knowledge of what was needed to equip or how to operate a mission. The farm selected was then a barren waste of sandy bush land, with large kopjes, or mounds of stone, interspersed. It was unimproved, and without buildings save three native huts. It was a slow process to improve a mission in those days.

"The government mail facilities were in a very crude state, and very irregular. In the Bulawayo post-office, all papers were thrown into a pile in one end of the room, and each person had to hunt through a pile of papers three feet high and several feet long to find his own. At the end of each month the papers remaining unclaimed were dumped out into the back yard and burned, and a new pile was begun to be cleared away at the end of each month in a similar manner. In order that the workers might secure their papers regularly, the Solusi Mission provided a mail bag, and paid the postmaster five dollars a month to place all mail, including papers, therein.

"This company of workers had been settled on the mission farm only eight months when the Matabele rebellion broke out. The government sent an armed escort with orders for the mission family to come into Bulawayo for safety. After remaining in Bulawayo for about ten weeks, the supply of food was exhausted, and they were then required to pay Bulawayo war prices for food. They had previously tried to get a room, but learning that a room 12 x 14 cost \$22.50 a month, they decided to live in their wagon. It took some ingenuity to plan for three families and Dr Carmichael, who was single, in one wagon. Necessity, the mother of invention, was equal to the emergency, however. It

was arranged that Brother Fred Sparrow, wife and baby, should occupy the front end of the covered wagon, Elder Tripp, wife and boy, the back end, and Brother Anderson and wife and Dr Carmichael live underneath the wagon. It was these trying conditions under the extreme heat of a tropical sun, continuing over a period of several months, that laid the foundation for the disease that caused the deaths that have since been reported from the members of this company.

"At the end of five months, when their food-supply was finished, they found flour \$37.50 (gold) a hundredweight, mealies (corn) \$25 a hundred, sugar sixty-two and a half cents a pound, eggs \$8.25 a dozen, cabbages and cauliflowers from \$5 to \$7.50 a head, butter \$3 a pound, canned fruit \$2.50 a quart, with the prices of all other foods in proportion. With wages at \$12.50 and \$12.75 a week, it was impossible to provide food for their families in the town.

"Brethren Tripp and Anderson therefore decided to risk making trips to the farm, where they could purchase food from the natives at a very low rate. They could always sell their surplus at the high rate in Bulawayo. As the country was infested by rebels, they always made their trips by night and on foot. The food purchased was carried in by night by native carriers. Brother Tripp would spend one week at the farm, then he would return, and Brother Anderson would spend the next week. They alternated in this way for about ten weeks until the war was over. During this period they were subjected to many privations, with no possible relief available.

"On one of these night trips to the farm a gentleman requested Brother Anderson to ride his horse and leave it with the natives as he could not afford to feed it in the town. Brother Anderson rode to a neighboring native village to see about buying some sheep and goats. On his return, in passing along a range of hills, he heard a voice saying, 'You are in danger.' He put spurs to his horse and galloped off to a near-by fort, and put up for the night. There he learned that a band of rebels passed the point where he heard the warning voice about three minutes after he passed it.

"On another occasion Brother Anderson loaded five donkeys with produce for their own needs, and for market in the city. After loading up and starting he left the donkeys in charge of natives and rode on in advance so as to be more quiet. When within five miles of town, in the midst of the greatest danger of detection by the rebels, his donkey began to bray, and kept it up until nearly into town, regardless of all attempts to induce him to be quiet. Although Brother Anderson escaped detection and arrived safely in camp on this occasion, he never ventured to ride a donkey again when out foraging.

"Immediately following the war came the famine, when hundreds of the natives starved to death. The Solusi Mission opened its doors to the famine-stricken natives, and took into its homes about thirty native children, twenty boys and ten girls."

Elder S N Haskell writes: "The whole world is to be warned of the message of the soon coming of Christ. Africa is stretching forth her hands for laborers. The islands of the sea are calling for living missionaries to proclaim to them the seventh-day sabbath of the Lord. If all of our people would turn missionaries, there would be plenty of room for every one, and the calls would not then be half filled."

Speaking of his past year's work, Elder Daniells says:--

"The last of February, 1911, I left my home, scarcely able to sit up, to attend the Knoxville ministerial institute. During the fourteen months that followed, I traveled over 60,000 miles, conducted twelve ministerial institutes, held one thousand public meetings, and must have had at least one thousand private interviews with our ministers and other workers. I stood this labor real well, yet it pulled on me somewhat. At the close of the Lake Union Conference I caught a heavy cold, and ought to have stayed at home, but I had a string of camp-meeting appointments which I felt that I must fill, so I kept on going until I reached Wisconsin, when I came down with a fever of over 102. I was really very ill for a day or two, and the doctor fearing that I might be coming down with typhoid, advised me to get off from the ground as soon as possible. Elder Knox came home with me to Washington, and here I have been, able to do but little ever since. The brethren here feel that I ought to have at least two months' complete rest during the summer. This will bring us to the Fall Council, which is to convene September 18.

"I wish that you had a much larger number of just the kind of workers you need in China, and I may assure you that we shall endeavor to select quite a number of promising people for that field, but we can not rush this work. We must have some knowledge of the individuals whom we select, and you know it takes time to do this. The brethren believe that before the Fall Council convenes we can have quite a number of families ready to present to the Council for their approval. It may be that some can be sent on before that. I have not been in all the meetings of our Committee since I have been at home this time, so I do not know just exactly what they are planning. But I know they will do their best."

Elder Spicer says of his late trip to South America, where he spent six months, visiting nearly all the stations:--

"I had a good time in South America. There has been growth during the last six years, and yet not the growth that I had hoped to see. Really, the work has turned to the new phase, and is face to face with Roman Catholic darkness. In former years quite a proportion of the work was in those foreign Protestant colonies. But there is progress in every part, and that ought to encourage us, for truly the heathen are more approachable than those fanatical Roman Catholics of the interior. Throughout all Bolivia we can scarcely deliver anything by post, for the priests have instructed the postmasters to throw away our papers. Our canvassers have got to adopt new tactics with our periodicals, for they can not take subscriptions. But our brethren are of good courage, and they are drawing their belts tight to go straight into this Roman Catholic problem."

In speaking of workers for the Asiatic Division, Brother Spicer says:--

"As I get the situation here, workers for the Asiatic Division are planning to get off as follows: Brother S G White and wife, of California, whom you know, to China the last of July. Elder B F Hoffman and wife, of the Northwest, who have been at the Foreign Seminary the last year, to Japan late in August. In August also Brother Fred DeVinney goes to Japan to assist in the accountant's work. All who go to the camp-meetings this autumn will also be watching for candidates; and, taking it altogether, it does seem as though we must

surely get a few young couples off this autumn, to be followed up with yet others at an early date as candidates for the Foreign Seminary come in. What we do need is more young preachers coming into the ranks, and I hope this revival of evangelistic and city work will bring more recruits of this class. Going through the Year Book the other day, looking on this very quest of yours, I noticed that in one California Conference I did not see one young man in the ministerial list. But I do believe the tide is turning, and if only we can get more young men to do thoroughly good work in our colleges, and then turn into the ministry, we shall have more help. There are enough young people to fill the gap, if only they can be kept coming into the ministerial ranks. Depend upon it, we do realize your need of more help, so far as we can who are separated by the wide Pacific from you, and we believe thoroughly in China and its future.

"In your letter you speak of the need of further help in Japan, now that Brother and Sister Foster have left. That truly was a hard blow to Japan. I was sad to hear of it on my return. I have written Brother Hoffman, who is going to Japan, to keep his eyes open up in the Northwest, and to recommend to us any candidates that we can investigate. Of course this general attempt to round up candidates at our autumn council will include the need in Japan.

"Brother Frank Mills, with whom I think you are acquainted, is under appointment to Korea as your printer. He has worked for years at the Seminary printing-plant, and was in a job office before he came here. Immediately at the close of the Seminary year, the Review and Herald took him in training, and they are passing him through the different departments, getting him ready for Korea. They are to finish with him early in November. I fear this may not be early enough to allow him to reach Korea and to do much in fitting up the Korean plant. But our brethren in the Review Office feel that they really need that time to give him what they want to give him, and in the end the delay ought to count for Korea."

Concerning the Loma Linda College, Elder Irwin writes:--

"We have now three classes with fifty-six young people in the aggregate taking the course. At the close of this school year the first class will have finished its third year. The prospects are good to get a class for the coming year, in fact, as many as we can take, because of the lack of rooming facilities. Our laboratory has been completed this year, but as yet we have not gotten around to build a dormitory for the young men. The lack of such a building crowds us very much for room. We are bending our energies this year to put in a central heating plant, costing \$15,000, which seems to be the most imperative need at the present time. We are hoping to finish this plant this year, and also to put up one wing to the hospital, which will be very badly needed next year for clinical work. Since the school is located on the Pacific Coast, the Orient seems nearer us than some other parts of the great field."

Concerning the missionary spirit in Pacific Union College, Brother Irwin says:--

"There is a good missionary spirit among the students at Pacific Union College, due to the fact that so many of their teachers have been missionaries in foreign fields, and feel a burden for this phase of the work. I am glad to tell you that the school is getting

along quite well. A large dormitory has been completed for the young ladies, all of the work upon which has been done by the students and faculty. The building is estimated by outsiders to be worth \$30,000. They are now working on a college building, a portion of which they expect to have ready for occupancy at the opening of the school in September."

Elder Allen Moon, of the Lake Union Conference, writes: "It is really too bad, Elder Evans, that we are not able to send one hundred men to China by the next steamer. If I was a young man, I would volunteer my service for China at once, regardless of the demands in this country. We ought to be developing more men for efficient work. I have fully made up my mind that as long as I am connected with the Lake Union Conference, I will exert my influence to prepare young people and raise means to complete the work in heathen lands. As I view it, the work from this time forward will be to give the gospel to the nearly 1,000,000,000 of people in the heathen lands of the world. The so-called Christian lands have heard the message or are hearing it, and all Christendom should now join in finishing the work in Japan, China, India, Africa, and the islands of the sea. I am hopeful of a great awakening among the people, and a supreme effort, while times are prosperous, to secure the means for the accomplishment of the work."

Elder G F Watson, of the Southwestern Union Conference, writes: "It is wonderful how the Lord has protected our workers and property at such a time as you have lately been going through. It seems to me that it would be a grand thing to make a free-will offering, showing our appreciation of his care. We are plodding along over here in the Southwestern Union, and things are moving on quite nicely. During May our canvassers sent in over \$22,000 worth of orders. If the season holds up as well as it has started, we ought to sell close to \$100,000 worth of books this year in the canvassing work in this Union. We are also trying to pull our Academy out of debt, and we are making a good start at it. We also expect to build another school-building 48 x 54. For these purposes we raised \$7,300 in the Keene church alone, about half of it in cash. We have had three years of drough, but this year bids fair to be a prosperous one, though of course one can never tell how things will turn in this climate."

—000—

It is intended that the News Letter shall reach every foreign worker in the Asiatic Division monthly. Any who fail to receive it should notify Mrs I H Evans, 731 PaO Shing Li, North Honan Road, Shanghai, and it will be sent.
