

Asiatic Division Mission News

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Duty

I sought to do some mighty act of good,
That I might prove how well my soul had striven.
I waited, while days and hours passed by,
Yet bore no incense of my deed to heaven.
Sad, without hope, I watched the falling rain;
One drop alone could not refresh the tree;
But drop on drop, till from its deepest root
The giant oak drank life and liberty.
Refreshed, like nature, I arose to try
And do the duty which should nearest lie;
And ere I knew my work was half begun,
The noble deed I sought in vain was done.

—Anonymous.

En Route To The Orient

August first our party of forty-two adults and six children, composed of ordained ministers, teachers, doctors, nurses, Bible workers, stenographers and musicians, set sail for the Asiatic Division.

Brother Loveland came aboard suffering from malaria, contracted while visiting relatives in Texas, and Sister Steinel was suffering from inflammatory rheumatism. After prayer was offered for their recovery they made rapid improvement and were soon enjoying the voyage in comparative comfort. The ship's physician and stewardess treated these sick ones more like they were their relatives than passing strangers. No service was withheld, night or day, that would contribute to their comfort and recovery.

The first two days we encountered a heavy sea. This was too much for some of our new sailors, so early in their voyage, and they succumbed to seasickness. Some of our more experienced sea-faring members found it convenient to retire early the first night. With the calming of the sea, this experience was soon over, and all became good sailors.

A Bible study each morning, on principles pertaining to successful mission work, was conducted by the writer. An afternoon Mandarin language class was organized by Elder R. F. Cottrell. These studies continued during the voyage, and the interest intensified as the work advanced. It was a pleasure to witness the eagerness with which our party sought first a preparation for their work, counting all else secondary.

Before reaching Honolulu a wireless informed us that preparations were made for our entertainment there of one day, and true to their reputation, known to so many passing this "Paradise of the Pacific" home, they had a most liberal program arranged. A reserved tram car, just holding the party, left the wharf with all on board shortly after our arrival. We visited Nuuanu Valley, Manoa Valley, Kaimuki, Waikiki Beach, Kapiolani Park, and the world-famous Aquarium. At the park a bountiful dinner was spread for us under the cooling shade of the great wide-spreading banyan tree. Over one hundred sat down to dinner while the employees of Brother Jonah Kumalae's ukulele factory furnished us with some beautiful selections of Hawaiian music, both vocal and instrumental. This was greatly appreciated.

Dinner over, an appropriate service, during which an exchange of greetings between the church and our party, was held. Very touching expressions of consecration for the finishing of the work met a response in all hearts, and the Holy Spirit with its refreshing presence bound all hearts a little closer together and to the throne of God, as we again turned our faces westward toward the Far East.

The voyage from Honolulu to Japan was very pleasant except a couple of days when we encountered the outer circle of a typhoon. Our party had by this time become so accustomed to the sea that most of them passed this test of their sailorship exceptionally well. All enjoyed the experience as it afforded an opportunity to see the large swells with the spray breaking over the vessel.

In Yokohama our stay was prolonged to three days, to repair a broken engine. On our arrival we were met by Elder and Sister DeVinney, Professor and Sister Benson, Brother and Sister Cole, Brother and Sister Burden, Brother and Sister Herbelsheimer, Brother Okohira, and others. We were first conducted to Tokyo, where a very pleasant reception was given our party at the Japan headquarters' compound. All hearts were touched by the words of courage and cheer this large party of new recruits inspired, and all were impressed with the thought that we were entering the field as the last hour reserves

called into service for the final conflict and the speedy finishing of the work. Every hour of our stay in Japan was enjoyed by our party.

Thursday morning Elder DeVinney joined our party and we started on the last stage of our voyage. The sea was quiet the balance of our journey and the closing days of our voyage bound us more closely, as by our separation from Brother and Sister Jacques at Yokohama, we realized that our pleasant family associations were soon to cease, and we would be privileged to meet only at the throne of grace, where each will be remembered as the result of this brief and very pleasant period of association.

We cast anchor at Woosung, fourteen miles from Shanghai, at one o'clock, August 27. Here we were met by nearly every member of our compound, together with the local division superintendents who had been called to Shanghai for a committee meeting. They gave us and the army of missionaries accompanying us, a warm welcome home.

We wish to express our appreciation of the faithful work of our fellow-laborers and of our new official associates in carrying forward the work so well during our absence.

During our stay in America we visited most of our leading schools, a number of our sanitariums, state and union conferences, in our endeavor to secure laborers for the Asiatic Division. In all of these places we were most considerately received, and they very kindly offered to share their workers with us.

The General Conference and North American Division spared no pains to aid us in our endeavors to secure such laborers as would meet our needs without crippling the work in the North American Division, which is the base of supplies.

The keynote we wish to sound on our return, to join you again in this most promising field is, wholly consecrated to God for the speedy finishing of the work. We make advancement most rapidly on our knees.

R. C. PORTER.

Asia as Viewed By the New Arrivals

Having been in Shanghai but three days not very many impressions have come to us. The size, character and strength of the headquarters deepens the impression that our work has taken deep, substantial root in these lands. We see no reason why we shall not enjoy making our home in this land and working for and among these people for whom our Saviour died.

It was very cheering to meet so large a number of strong, earnest workers as were gathered here for council from widely separated fields. We felt deeply grateful for the comfortable rooms and good food in waiting when we arrived.

The next thing about which we are now anxious is that we may quickly learn the language—in school or by the gift of tongues—and hasten into active service.

One thing which has constantly and deeply impressed itself upon our hearts as forty of us have reached these lands is the language study. It will take a year at least for us to learn enough to begin work in a small way, and even then we shall be more or less inefficient for several years while learning it more perfectly.

What a boom it would be to the work in these lands if all this company could receive the gift of tongues and enter at once upon our work with a full and perfect command of the language we need! Are we not in the days when this is due? Why might not such things be expected in these lands where the work is so vast and the workers so few that it cannot possibly be finished in this generation without the coming of the latter rain bestowing its priceless "gifts". We greatly desire to live in such a close daily touch with God that He may bestow these things as He desires. "There is no limit to the usefulness of the one, who putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon the heart."—J. G. WHITE and FAMILY.

We came to China because the great need of the Orient was God's call to us. But just how great that need is we little realized until we reached Japan; and especially as we gazed from a roof in Tokyo upon the shops and houses stretching for miles away, and guessed at the thousands they held. There, a feeling of awe came over us and we trembled because a new realization of the stupendous task set before God' people flashed upon us. On arriving in Shanghai the needs of the Orient broaden our comprehension. However, we know that we are still unacquainted with the Orient's great need and know little of the difficulties that lie before us in attempting to do our little to help supply that need. Yet undiscouraged, we long for battle and anxiously await the onset. We can say that we find a better country and better conditions than we expected.—E. J. and Mrs. URQUHART.

With so many new things before us and such vast throngs of people without a knowledge of God, our lives had been surrendered to a field so needy as Asia.

For months we had planned, studied, and prayed about our work in China, and with a good deal of interest and enthusiasm had looked forward to the time when we would actually be in the land of our adoption. Finally as our boat "China" anchored and we gazed upon the land, nothing but hope and thanks filled our hearts. Hope,—because we could see in the verdant nature the tokens that the Creator had been in this land before us and it seemed as a pledge of His power to bring the gospel to them. Thanks,—because our trip had been so pleasant and without accident, and we were filled with a deeper desire than ever to work for these bright-looking, earnest-faced people. The throngs we passed on our way to the compound surely made us realize that we had a great work before us, and also deepened the impression that it never could be done in our own strength.

We were cordially received at the compound. As we gathered for the welcome in the school chapel we were made to feel that our sacrifice was little compared to the results of the work for Christ. We felt that could we some day see such bright faces worshipping the Creator as the result of our work we would feel fully repaid.—LYMAN and MRS. BOWERS.

During the short month that we have been enroute to our new field of labor we have been impressed by the many wonderful sights, the greatness of our Creator and our helplessness which is expressed in the following verse: "Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and hills in a balance?"

"It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in."

God does not leave us in our helpless condition, but gives us this precious promise: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee: yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness."

As we grasp by faith these blessed promises we take courage and expect great things from this great God.

We shall always have many pleasant recollections of our trip. We have been so royally treated by our brethren at the different places where we have visited and especially at the headquarters here in Shanghai. This is truly a wonderful country! We are anxious for the time to come for us to begin our work in our new field of labor.—H. B. and MRS. PARKER.

Thanks to God-fearing workers and associates who love the truth we hold so dear. We had so assimilated the idea of being missionaries that when we were asked for definite reasons why we came to a foreign field we had to stop and think. To be specific we have given ourselves for missionary work because of the Gospel commission of Matthew 28:18-20. The love of Christ impels us to do so, and all that we are or hoped to be is dedicated to this work.

The reason why we have come to China instead of remaining in the homeland, is because of the great need and opportunity here. We believe that this is the time when Christianity should call in the reserves, and tap all the resources of men, money, and prayer for the evangelization of this, the largest in size and population of any heathen field. Judging from what has been accomplished, and from the many calls still unanswered, we believe that the means lavished upon China's redemption will yield large returns.

As we enter upon our work we do so with a sense of our own helplessness; but our eyes are upon God and we are trusting Him to endow us with a double

portion of His spirit and give us a fitting for successful service. Like one of old we cry unto God: "It is nothing with Thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go against this multitude." — M. G. and MRS. CONGER.

The divine plan of missions which was inaugurated when God called Abraham to go into a far country, and which He tried to develop in stubborn Israel until that nation rejected the Saviour, and which was then placed in the hands of twelve men, who faithful to their charge, laid the foundation of early Christian missionary work, gives us the assurance that this work is the greatest thing for individuals to engage in, providing we follow the example set by the Master missionary.

As surely as success attended the work of Peter, Paul, and others, surely we believe success will attend the labors of those who, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seek to save souls for Christ.

Our first glimpse of Chinese life made us realize how much these people need the news of salvation. The fact that they are so completely in the darkness of heathenism has the encouraging prospect that the farther away from God they are, the deeper in sin and degradation we find them, God will the more manifest His power in their behalf, and the higher He will be able to lift them.

With the following promise we take up our labors in China with good courage: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness."

R. J. and MRS. BRINES.

When I stepped out of the rickshaw in front of the compound houses in Shanghai, a friend remarked, "You are in China at last." After a glance about me I replied, "It looks more like a bit of transplanted America." Of course I know that all China is not like the Shanghai compound, but I am sure it will not be hard to think of China as home, and of the Chinese as brethren. — H. O. and MRS. SWARTOUT.

China always seemed to me to be the land of greatest need. Today we are satisfied that the need of China is greater than we ever anticipated. And to have the opportunity of laboring for these people is a joy indeed. Our idea of hardships in this field have vanished.

It seems that our pathway lies in pleasant places. While we expect to meet great difficulties our help is sufficient. It is God's work. He will not forsake it. Why should we? — C. L. and MRS. BLANDFORD.

China has been so well pictured in articles and books, that our feelings on arriving are of increased interest, rather than surprise at many of the conditions existing here. But there is such a host of facts that must be seen to be believed,—the swarms of tired, toiling men struggling along the roads with their great

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burdens, to earn their pittance, the many crushed and bound feet, disease on every hand entirely neglected, and above all the task of reaching these people with the gospel,—seems immensely greater than we ever before understood.

On the other hand, the transforming power of God in the earnest Christians we find here already taken from heathenism, is a taste of what we may expect Him to do more of in the future. We can but thank God for a connection with His work in this needy land, and reconsecrate our lives to His service.

Dr. J. N. and Mrs. ANDREWS.

NOTES

Born to Brother and Sister J. S. Yates, of Padang, Sumatra, a little son.

A number of excellent reports were crowded out of this issue which will appear in the next. There is joy in anticipation as well as in realization.

Items of interest from the work of the Asiatic Division Committee were not obtainable for this issue. They will appear in our next issue.

Pastor and Sister C. P. Lillie are removing from Chefoo and locating at Tsi Nan Fu. They will now be more centrally located for their work. Pastor Lillie is not in the best of health.

A letter from Professor F. Griggs says: "I am planning to sail from Vancouver August 30, stopping at Honolulu, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia, leaving Australia for India the first of November."

Pastor A. F. Allum returned to Szechwan at the close of the committee meeting. He with his family will return to Shanghai where they will locate, Pastor Allum having been elected as principal of the Shanghai Training School.

Sister O. F. Sevrens is visiting Sister Florence Shull and assisting in the president's office until the "China" returns again early in November. Considering that Pastor Porter is without stenographic help in his office, this kindness on the part of Sister Sevrens is much appreciated.

A letter from pastor J. P. Anderson states that his wife is improving healthwise very satisfactorily, being sufficiently strong to care for her house and the children. Sister Anderson's many friends here in the Orient are greatly rejoiced at this good news. Pastor Anderson anticipates returning to China this fall.

When the party of missionaries from America reached Honolulu, the first familiar face that came to view was Pastor E. E. Stafford, who is now located in Honolulu. He was looking exceptionally well. They are happy in their work but when the Lord indicates that their work there is finished, they hope to return

to China, where they are and ever will be in spirit though absent in body.

The Division Committee have been in session since the 28th of August. Those present are, Pastors Finster, Detamore, Anderson, Allum, Cottrell, DeVinney, Butterfield, Petersen, Hall and Doctor Selmon. Before the NEWS goes to press the committee will have finished their work and the superintendents returned to their stations.

On July 25 Pastor and Mrs. Porter met the party returning to the homeland on furlough, in San Francisco. They were Doctor and Sister Russell and son, Pastor and Sister Wangerin and daughters, Doctor and Sister Larson and son, Sister Hall and children and Miss Osborne. They were looking well considering the time they had spent at the front. Doctor Russell expected to enter at once upon the object of his returning to the States, post-graduate work. Pastor Wangerin, after a short stay in Wisconsin visiting his people, planned to seek a favorable climate for his health with the hope that a year would put him where he could safely return to the field of his choice, Korea.

Pastors A. G. Daniells and W. T. Knox are expecting to leave America early in November, arriving in Hongkong the 19th where Pastor R. C. Porter will meet them, and together they will visit India. Another party from the States visiting our field this winter will include Pastor W. A. Spicer, N. Z. Town, H. H. Hall, and possibly C. C. Chrisler. We hope for a full schedule of appointments for these brethren visiting our field, for our next issue. This rare opportunity of seeing and hearing these brethren will be appreciated by our people in Asia. May the watchful eye of God be over them en route to the field, and they bring a message of hope and cheer in keeping with the times in which we are now living.

The Shanghai compound is a scene of busy activity since the arrival of the large party of missionaries from America, together with the local division superintendents who were called in for a committee meeting. Prof. and Mrs. Steinel and Brother Sevrens, after a day in Shanghai, went forward to their field, Manila. Brother and Sister Barto passed on to the Malaysian field, and Brother and Sister Morris to South China. Brother and Sister Jacques left the party at Japan. Dr. and Sister Andrews, and Brother and Sister Blandford have left for Szechwan; Pastor and Sister Cottrell, with Brother White, wife and daughter, left the 12th for Central China; Brother and Sister Parker are now in South China; Brother and Sister Urquhart will make Korea their field of labor; Brother and Sister Brines, Doctor and Sister Kuhn's and Brother and Sister Swartout, left the 13th to attend the language school at Nanking. The family tie formed en route to Asia must now be transferred to the throne of God, for only there can we meet day by day. This privilege we highly esteem, and it will serve to bind us still closer together and to God and His work.