

NEWS LETTER FOR THE ASIATIC

DIVISION

Volume I

Shanghai, May 1, 1912

Letter II

ASIATIC DIVISION NEWS

The Philippine Islands

Brother L V Finster has the following good word to say of the work in Manila:--

"I have some good news to tell you. I have just come from a baptismal service where twenty-four or twenty-five candidates were buried with their Lord. We have been holding a special class with them for two weeks. Twelve of these new believers presented themselves for baptism nearly three months ago, but we thought it best for them to wait a while. It does our hearts good to see these dear souls who have been in Roman darkness so long take their stand for the truth. Our church is now a year old, and has one hundred members. You will remember I told you that I hoped we would have two hundred by the next General Conference, and I still believe we shall, for God is working here. I am glad for what he is doing."

Concerning his work in canvassing, Brother Floyd Ashbaugh, who came out to the Philippines in December, writes to Brother Finster as follows:--

"I think I have the finest slice of territory to be found in the Islands. People stop me on the street and ask if they can not buy the book. They take the prospectus away from me, and get signers without my saying a word. They call their friends from busy offices and urge them to sign. Influential men write notes to their friends (which always means an order), and so on. God's Spirit is working-- this is the only explanation I can give."

The first week he was in the field Brother Ashbaugh took orders to the amount of pesos 247.40; the second week, pesos 238; and the third week, pesos 324.50.

All the friends in the Asiatic Division will be sorry to learn that the health of Sister L V Finster requires an immediate change to a cooler climate. Brother and Sister Finster have been twelve years in Australia and the Philippines.

Korea

Brother and Sister R C Wangerin welcomed a little daughter, Dorothy Lois, to their home on March 5.

Brother C L Butterfield has this to say of the work in Korea:--

"All are well throughout the field. A letter received this morning from Elder Smith informs us that he had just reached home from a trip of several hundred miles up into Manchuria, where there is a large settlement of Koreans. While visiting among some of the churches last week and this, I was greatly pleased to note the advancement made. They are gaining in numbers, and there is a steady increase in tithe and offerings. This morning I received over seventy yen from one church of about twenty members. This was all native tithe, and only for this one quarter. The church is our most northern company in Brother Smith's territory, and was raised up by Brother Smith and Brother Kim Hyo Sep, who died this month. I also visited Chinnampo, and found a nice company there as a result of Brother Kim Na Chun's work since last camp-meeting. There are about twenty-five faithful believers there, most of whom will soon be ready for baptism. . . . We have secured a good location for our camp-meeting, on the railroad between Chinnampo and Pyang. It is a small station, and the location is quite near most of our churches."

Brother Wangerin writes: "We are all well, happy, and fully content with our lot in Korea. We have a good station in a splendid location, and with our cozy little cottage we feel quite at home. The Lord has truly been good to us, blessing us with health and strength, food and raiment. The work in our portion of the field is onward. Here in southern Korea six million souls are waiting for the warning. These we are endeavoring to reach with the light and truth of the gospel. Our native workers are all well and happy, and of better courage and faith than ever before. They are a real, live, working band, and anxious to see the work move forward, the gospel given to all the world, and all go home."

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Japan

The health of Sister W L Foster, of Kumamoto, continues very poor. It is feared that it may be necessary for her to return to the United States.

Sabbath evening, March 29, there was born to Brother and Sister J N Herboltzheimer, of Kobe, a son weighing 11 pounds. They count him a Sabbath blessing. "Omedeto gozaimasu."

Elder F H DeVinney spent ten days during the month of March visiting the churches and interests in the northern part of the field. He found plenty of snow up that way, and cold weather, something not experienced this year by those living farther south. This was his first experience in Japanese hotels with no heating apparatus except the little "hibachi" with a few sticks of charcoal; but returned home well, and reports a good and profitable time spent with the laborers of that section.

On Wednesday, April 3, Brother Arthur W Cary and Sister Etta A Cornish, of Tokyo, were married at the American consulate in Yokohama by Elder DeVinney in the presence of a secretary of the consul, and a few friends. After the wedding the happy couple took the train for a short visit to the bride's sister, Mrs W L Foster, of Kumamoto. Brother Cary came to Japan at the beginning of the year from California to engage in self-supporting work, and will continue in this work during the summer in connection with a company of young lady canvassers from the school.

The Training School in Tokyo, which has been in operation for the past six months under the direction of Brother F E Benson, closed on April 13. The period of school work was divided at the beginning of the year by a three weeks' vacation in which the students engaged in selling the January Special Owarai as a part of their training in the work of the message. At the close of the school year those entering the canvassing work were divided into two bands; the young men taking the field under the direction of Elder W D Burden, who has also the management of the entire canvassing work of the mission, and the young ladies, under the care of Sister Cary. It is expected that under the supervision and training of these able instructors, these young people will have good success, and gain an experience that will cause them to receive a great impetus. Other students will connect with the tents as Bible workers and helpers in other ways: all the students connecting with active work in some capacity, except one, who will enter active labor as soon as he is able.

China

All will be glad to hear that the health of Sister R F Cottrell seems to be slowly improving.

There was born to Brother and Sister S C Harris, February 21, a fine boy. The little fellow is growing nicely.

Brother and Sister Lillie are much pleased with their new home in Changsha, and are doing well in their language study.

The spring term of the girls' school at Canton opened with twenty-two students enrolled, and many others have registered for admittance. Sister J P Anderson is in charge of the school.

The general meeting for Hupeh was held at Chang Djang Pu, beginning April 17. The brethren were unable to get a suitable building in Hankow for this meeting, or to provide rooms for those attending, so it was decided to hold the meeting in Chang Djang Pu.

During the meeting in the South China Mission Field it was agreed to purchase additional land on either side of the Bethel School, and to erect a school building, a chapel, and a dwelling-house on the premises. It is not certain that land can be purchased, but an effort will be made soon to this end.

Dr A G Larson writes from Hankow that though large numbers of volunteers are returning from the north, and are released from duty, yet the city is orderly and quiet, and people are busy and seem friendly to the foreigners. It is hoped that after the Chinese city is rebuilt, the congested conditions that prevail in the concession will be somewhat relieved.

The meeting for the South China Mission Field was held in Fat Shan, owing to unfavorable conditions in Canton. Both the Hakka and Cantonese workers were present. The attendance was good, and the meetings were interesting from beginning to end. Five candidates were accepted for baptism, but were to be baptized in Canton, after the meeting closed. The work is very encouraging in the South China Mission Field, and the workers are of good courage.

The Amoy meeting was held in the chapel at Kulangsu. All the workers in the Southeastern China Mission Field, except one evangelist and one teacher, were in attendance. It is not known why these people were not present, but it is supposed that it was owing to the roughness of the sea. Five persons were baptized during the meeting. Evangelists Keh and Evans, from Shanghai, and Ang, from Swatow, were the laborers from abroad. On the last Sabbath of the meeting Brother Ang was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry. The meeting was a success and brought encouragement to all in attendance.

Brother F A Allum, writing from Chowkiakow, under date of March 19, has the following encouraging word to say of the work in Honan:--

"On our arrival at Chowkiakow we found everything in good order, and the brethren of good courage in the Lord. Not only has the work not gone back in our absence, but it has gone forward in a wonder-

ful way, and a new company has been added to our numbers at Chen Cheo, a place about sixty li from here. All the other companies report progress, and so far I have not heard any discouraging reports. You remember that while I was in Shanghai, I was afraid of the effect the revolution would have on our workers. However, I am now glad it has had this test, for we may take courage for the future, and know that the church in Honan is built on a good foundation, and that it will stand the test of adversity. Our men are full of courage as we plan to give the message in the regions around us. Our canvassing work is making good progress. We have asked the canvassers to depend upon their sales alone for their support. This they are willing to do, and God is helping them in a wonderful way. They are selling twice as many papers as ever before in the same time. Truly the Lord is with us."

Regarding the progress of the message in Hunan, Brother R F Cottrell writes as follows:--

"On reaching Changsha we found that our people had a sort of deed, or contract, that had been given to the keepers of the temple by a former local magistrate. They felt that they had every right to the temple; and if we had stood by them in the matter they felt that they could hold it. But when we saw that the native magistrate was so decidedly opposed to their doing so, we concluded it was best to yield the point, and look for another place. We have permission to use the temple a few weeks until we can secure something else that is suitable.

"Regarding the other place where the Catholics were troubling, they at length came with a mob of about a hundred and tore the chapel that we had rented entirely to pieces, and smashed up the things that were in the homes of a number of our inquirers. In the melee several persons were injured, and two or three have since died. So far as we know, none of our real inquirers or members had a part in the struggle or were severely injured. Things seem to be quiet in that place now. We sent two of our evangelists down to the place to investigate the matter; and from what they report it would not seem that any blame could be attached to any but the Catholics. There is so much disturbance in that part of the country that it is not thought wise for a foreigner to venture there as yet. In spite of the trouble, we have good reports of the meetings that have been held in that place of late. In all the other out-stations we have growing interests, and we think that we will be able to organize churches in a number of these places before long. Our canvassers are also having excellent success."

Brother F E Stafford reports a splendid interest in the meetings which are being conducted in the chapel on Honan Road, Shanghai, which was opened March 19. A Bible study is conducted every afternoon, and services are held every night. So far, over ninety persons have given in their names as desiring to study the Bible, and learn more of the truth. It is not expected that all will accept the gospel; but the workers take the addresses and endeavor to keep in touch with the people. Between fifteen and twenty come regularly to the Bible studies conducted on Sunday afternoons. Four persons have taken their stand for the truth and are keeping the Sabbath. One of these has been an evangelist for about twenty years, and appears to be

a very strong, intelligent, and well-educated man. The brethren have great hopes that he will develop into a good worker. One of the others who has accepted the truth is from Szechuen province, and he expects to go back there later on and present the truth to his people. We have been wanting to open up the work in this province for years. A special effort is being made to reach the educated class of people. Posters so written as to appeal to them have been placed in the stores and tea-houses down town. It is believed that there are many of this class in Shanghai who will eventually accept the truth.

Mrs B Miller reports a very good interest among the women. She has a class which she is getting ready for baptism. A school in which about twenty women and children are studying, is being conducted every afternoon. We feel that now is the opportune time to present the gospel to the people, as many of them have discarded their idols, and must worship something. We want to improve the opportunity, and tell them of the true God.

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The Straits Settlements

Brother Emmanuel Siregar, a native of Battakland, writes that during the last four months the Lord has shown him some fruits of his labor. He says:--

"The first-fruits found in Batavia are ten people; men and women. When it was sure to me that they ought to have baptism, according to their desire, I went to Pastor Munson and asked him to baptize them. So he baptized them on Dec. 7, 1911, in all happiness. In Soekaboemi, before I got down to Batavia, I taught several families. When Pastor Munson returned, I delivered these brethren to him. After some weeks some of these brethren were baptized, and they are strong in the faith, grasping the doctrine in nearly every subject. All the brethren who were baptized in Soekaboemi and in Batavia stopped using tobacco, and every other bad habit, and are faithful in paying tithe."

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GENERAL NEWS

Dr W A Ruble reports that the work in the Loma Linda College of Evangelists is moving along nicely.

We learn with regret that Brother Eugene A Merriam, who was taken sick during the time of the ministerial institute, in Battle Creek, Mich., last fall, is suffering from pellagra.

Brother H E Sharp, who left Australia about a year ago to do self-supporting work in Java, writes that both he and his wife are well and enjoying their work in the Chinese school.

The missionary spirit in Emmanuel Missionary College has been excellent this winter. The attendance has been the largest in the history of the school, with a good class of students.

Elder S E Jackson, of Minnesota, has been asked to take the presidency of the West Michigan Conference, made vacant by the call of Elder S E Wight to the Southern Union Conference.

The president of the Australasian Union Conference reports excellent camp-meetings held in New Zealand and Victoria, the latter being the largest ever held in the Australasian field.

The sanitarium at Wahroonga is enjoying a good patronage, having at present between fifty and sixty patients. The school at Avondale is also full, and many earnest young people are in preparation for the Lord's work.

Elder George Langdon, president of the Northern Illinois Conference, is reported as being on the sick list. Elder Moon says, writing under date of February 27, "It is feared that he has appendicitis. He expects to go to the sanitarium soon for an operation."

At the recent Union Conference session held in Nashville, it was voted to ask the General Conference Committee to hold the next General Conference session in Nashville. The friends there plead a "central location," and many other good reasons why the Committee should vote in favor of that place. The governor, mayor, and citizens extend a cordial invitation to the Conference to hold its next session in that city; and the Industrial Bureau of the Nashville Board of Trade has made many concessions favorable to holding the meeting at that place.

A letter from Dr H W Miller, written February 28, contains encouraging word. During the first part of February Dr Miller spent some time in work at the Mt Vernon College. He says:--

"When we called the companies together on the last Saturday evening we were there, thirty-four students and two members of the faculty responded to the call to make China their future field of labor. Three of these are going to Loma Linda to take the medical course. One of the most promising young men in the college course is now planning to prepare for the ministry, and to come on to China in the near future. I have great hopes of this company of volunteers, and we felt that the Lord was with us in a special way. My own health is steadily improving, and I hope to be able to return at an early date to China. I have never wanted so much to be in the work as now."

Brother B G Wilkinson has this to say concerning matters in the Columbia Union:--

"We find at the end of this biennial session the Columbia Union Conference shows an increase of about forty thousand dollars in tithe over that reported at the last biennial session. Our institutions are also in better shape. We have closed up the Philadelphia Sanitarium, and sold it. After paying the expenses connected with the sale, the property netted us something like thirty-five thousand dollars. With this, and with other sums received from various sources, we have now reduced the debt of this sanitarium to about twelve thousand dollars. Mt Vernon College has this year had the largest attendance in its history, with a splendid class of students."

Brother A G Daniells reports an excellent ministerial institute held at Keene, Texas. The workers attending this meeting received great help and rich blessings from the Lord. He says:--

"Wednesday morning our devotional meeting opened as usual, at 8:15. I felt impressed to give an earnest talk to the ministers regarding the help they ought to give to our churches and our young people as they visited them. This was followed by a testimony meeting. At an early point in this part of the meeting, Elder McReynolds gave a very impressive testimony, and closed by saying that he felt like stepping down to the front seat for prayer that he might be baptized with power for better service. In an instant almost the entire congregation were on their feet, and inside of two minutes, scores of ministers and Bible workers were pressing together at the front, many in tears, to seek a better preparation for service. The Lord came graciously near, and the meeting lasted until one o'clock. I have never seen such a spontaneous move in any religious meeting before. The next morning we took up the question considered in the College View institute, with reference to pursuing a definite course of reading during the present year, and the brethren gladly united in a covenant to read the Bible, "Desire of Ages," and "Personal and Pastoral Evangelism" through during the year. I believe this course of reading will be a great help spiritually and intellectually to these ministers."

Concerning the success of the Press Bureau in getting reports of our meetings and institutes into the daily papers, Elder Daniells says:--

"This feature of our work is going by leaps and bounds, and it looks as if we shall have to put more than one press agent in the field this summer. Of course, we are working to educate our ministers and workers to prepare reports themselves, but they can not learn this work in a day. If we are successful in making our reports what they ought to be, and getting them printed right along, this Press Bureau work will prove to be one of the greatest moves we have yet made. We learned at Keene that the Associated Press was taking brief items from the Fort Worth and Cleburne papers, and sending them out over the Southwest. Thousands of persons in the vicinity of Keene must have read columns of sober information regarding our message, our history, and our work, both at home and in foreign fields."

Dr W B Holden, of Portland, Ore., writes:--

"We have made quite a change in our Portland work the last two or three months since Elder Pettit went away, and the work has progressed nicely here. Elder Daniells was here yesterday and spoke twice. You remember two years ago when you were here at the Union Conference meeting, that we could accommodate very nicely the people in the East Portland church. Since then we have added fifty more seats to our church, and we have them filled with our own church every Sabbath, so when we have a union conference meeting, we have to rent a large hall down town. The hall we had would seat six or seven hundred easily, and every seat was taken, and people were standing up in the aisle. The work in Portland has made very rapid strides in the last year; in fact, there has more been done in Portland in the last year than in the previous five years. The Bible School is doing most excellent work. Our work in the Sanitarium is getting along very nicely. The patronage has been steady and good, and a good spirit prevails there. Improvements have been put on the building that make it far more presentable than when you saw it.

"We often think of you people in China, and I am doing my best to keep up interest and enthusiasm in our foreign mission work with our people, and our Sabbath-school especially."

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Notice

Some one left a very nice pocket Bible in the dining-hall at the close of our general meeting in Shanghai. The books are located by black markings on the edges. No name can be found to indicate in any way who the owner might be. It may be had by addressing W E Gillis, Box 523 U S Postal Agency, Shanghai.
