

NEWS LETTER FOR THE ASIATIC

DIVISION

Volume 1

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Letter III

ASIATIC DIVISION NEWS

China

The Home Board has recently voted "That the Central California Conference be asked to release S H White and wife for China." Brother White and wife are asked to come to China to take the place made vacant by the death of Brother Esta Miller. It is not probable that they would be able to come to this field until late in the summer, after the heated season is over.

In response to the call for some one to take charge of the periodical work in the China Union Mission Field it was recently voted by the Home Board "That W D Fleming and wife, of San Francisco, be invited to make China their field of labor, engaging in the circulation of literature." Brother and Sister Fleming are successful colporters, and are doing splendid work at present in San Francisco.

C N Woodward and I H Evans left Shanghai, the evening of May 4, for Hankow, in response to a telegram from brethren in Honan calling them to look at a prospective site for the China Union Mission Training School. At Hankow the brethren met Elder R F Cottrell, and stayed one night with Dr Larson's family.

Leaving Hankow Thursday morning, they reached Chowkiakow Friday evening, where a general meeting had been in progress for ten days. A tent had been pitched in one of the compounds, and was well seated and lighted. The attendance of our own people was about two hundred. The outside attendance was large, and the results of the meeting were very gratifying. Revival efforts were conducted, and more than one hundred twenty-five came forward for prayers. Some of these were most promising cases, and it appears, judged by human standards, that some of these converts will make excellent workers in the cause of God.

On Sabbath morning, May 11, thirty-two precious souls were baptized in the baptistery in the chapel. During the forenoon the ordinances were celebrated, the services being conducted by Elder R F Cottrell. All enjoyed this service. The afternoon was taken up by talks given by Brother Woodward and Elder Evans. Sunday was spent in committee work, and early Monday morning the brethren left for Shanghai. Owing to our inability to secure a suitable location for our central China training-school in the vicinity of Hankow, it was voted that we locate the same about two miles from the railroad station, Loan-ho, where we leave the train for Chowkiakow. The committee has about twenty acres of good farming land in sight. This location may be changed, but most of the brethren present were favorable to it.

The many friends of Mrs Esta L Miller will be glad to know that a little son, weighing $9\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, arrived safely on April 28. Both are doing well.

Walcutt Wilfred Gibson, weighing $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, was born to Brother and Sister Orvie Gibson, on May 10. Both mother and child are doing nicely.

Brother Bach still writes of stirring times in Pakhoi and outlying districts, but reports his little flock as being faithful to the truth.

Elder Keh and family arrived in Kulangsu, Amoy, May 6. Our sympathy and prayers go with this family to their new field of labor.

Brother J P Anderson reports things still very unsettled in the Hakka field. He feels quite secure himself in remaining in the field, but says that little aggressive work can be done until the government is more firmly established, and thieving and plundering are put down.

The Fat Shan work is going along well. The new chapel is filled nearly every night, and it is expected to see some take hold of the truth from the efforts put forth there.

Brother Wilbur visited Ngoi Hoi and King Moon recently, and reports a full attendance in our little girls' school there--about thirty pupils in all.

The spiritual condition of the pupils of Bethel School has been exceptionally good. The girls seem eager to do what they can to win others to the truth. The school has now thirty-four in attendance, of whom twenty-three are in the school home, and eleven are day-students. Sister Anderson is planning to take the girls out and teach them how to do personal work. If they can gain an experience in this kind of work, good results will certainly be seen.

Sister B Miller, of Shanghai, reports an excellent interest among the women, and has more applications for Bible readings than she can fill.

The sixth month's paper is finding a ready sale in Shanghai, our canvassers one day selling sixty-five copies, and taking three subscriptions.

Sister Louise Roberts reports a good interest in the school conducted in connection with the chapel effort in Shanghai. Already one woman is keeping the Sabbath; and her husband, who used to be an instructor of English in the Yale College, Changsha, is taking a course of Bible studies in English, under Brother Gillis' instruction.

Brother Harris is taking hold of the work in earnest, and is making good progress in the language. He is acting as treasurer of the Shanghai Station, and also finds time to give treatments. Last month he had a wealthy Chinese as a patient, who took a treatment every day, and greatly enjoyed it. This man said he wished we had a sanitarium here, where he could get a regular course of instruction in healthful living. Brother Harris is also spending some time in the interest of the canvassing work, selling our paper on the street and in the shops with good success.

Brother Stafford reports that the interest in Shanghai is growing rapidly, and the attendance at the street chapel meetings continues to tax the limits of the room, and often it is necessary to open the guest room in order to accommodate the crowd. The people who attend are well behaved and orderly, and many manifest a deep interest in the message. The preaching service is always followed by an after-meeting in the guest room, giving an opportunity for those who wish to make a start. The Lord has especially blessed in these after-meetings, and the presence of the Holy Spirit has been manifested on many occasions, as men have wept and confessed their sins, and besought the Lord to open the way of life to them. At the Sabbath service, May 11, an opportunity was given for those who wished baptism to make it known, with the result that fifteen men and five women asked to be buried with their Lord. Among these are several who will develop into good workers, including an evangelist and a colporter from the local field, and two Bible workers and a school-teacher from Szechuen Province.

The book and periodical reports for the first four months of 1912 show the total number of periodicals distributed in January to be 7,105; in February, 30,568; in March, 38,118; and in April, 25,639. The number of tracts and leaflets distributed was as follows: January, 3,094; February, 126,627; March, 9,380; April, 54,300. It is hoped this good work will still further increase during the present year.

From Hongkong, Sister Ida E. Thompeon writes: "We set out to take eighty annual subscriptions here in April, but instead, we have taken over one hundred, and still have a few more days to work. We have been saving our papers, so as to take as many annual subscriptions as we could, but have only a few more left, and then our club of six hundred will all be in the hands of the public. We now have more than two hundred annual subscriptions. Sixteen came out to Sabbath-school last Sabbath. Tsui Po Ying was married to a man of the U. S. Mission one week ago. They are here at our house now. He expects to return to Australia after about one month. She is firm in the truth, and has already begun to teach him."

Brother Hills writes, from Swatow, under date of May 1: "I think we told you how the soldiers and others were launging in our yard, playing cards in our summer-house, etc. Well, it kept getting worse until we had to put a stop to it. They would use the swing until ten o'clock at night, and when we would ask them to go they would only laugh at us; and would never close the gates, so our chickens were always out, and at times we could not study for the noise. For this reason, I put locks on the gates. Last Thursday A. M., early, the bell was rung, and they kept ringing it until we got dressed and I went out. By that time two of them were on top of the high gate, and about two hundred more were waiting to come in. They had just tried to pass through the Standard Oil Company's compound, but were repulsed by their armed guard, so they were angry, and determined to pass through my place. I refused to open the gate, and to my surprise and horror they not only smashed through the fence, but two of them loaded their guns and forced me into the house. They told me that if I did not open the gate, they would shoot me; but I could not understand what they said. Those who saw it say it is a wonder that the crazy fellows had not shot me. Well, they all passed over our lawn; but while they were doing it, I reported the matter to the American consulate. These fellows have made life so miserable for the Chinese that the city has been practically deserted, and only now are the people beginning to return. The officials have been here three times since the trouble, and yesterday they said they had the guilty parties in jail, and asked me if I wanted to see them shot, and said that they would bring them here to do it. I shall do my best to see a different kind of punishment meted out to the poor fellows. We are praying God to bring good out of this in some way, and believe that he will.

"Later. The officials were just here, and were planning to shoot the offending soldiers today, but I asked them not to do it. They consented to abide by my request provided I had the consul sign his name to a written request, so I will hasten to see him and have this matter settled. I had a good talk with these men. They could not understand why I did not want the offenders shot, until I had my teacher explain to them why I was in China; then they said that if they did not shoot them, they would have to give them one thousand slashes with a bamboo whip. I will do away with that punishment also, if it is possible. These officials will do whatever the consul orders, and I shall do my best for the poor fellows. May God bring good out of even this."

Concerning the progress of the work in Nanking, Dr M M Kay writes: "The dispensary work here started in with a very small patronage, but I am glad to say that it is much more encouraging at the present time. Quite a number of the patients are much interested in the meetings. A number seem to be really in earnest."

Brother Henry Lam, who returned to Honolulu a few months ago, writes under date of April 2: "I am connecting with the work here now, and go out canvassing every day. This place is very hard to work, yet the truth must go. The Lord has blessed me greatly. I am canvassing for 'Coming King,' and am making good at it. I believe I can get enough money to carry me to the Coast and through school. My folks were glad to see me home, but I find home life very hard. My father wanted to lead me away from the truth, and to have me join him in his work. I expect to go to the United States about the last of August. My sister and two other young people are also planning to go with me. My heart is in China, and I am anxious to go back there soon."

Brother B L Anderson writes from Kulangsu, Amoy, May 7: "About ten days ago I made a trip inland about forty miles to a large walled city, where we have a young man working with literature. He has been located in an out-of-the-way place; but we have now found a good, respectable place on the main street of the city, where the people will be able to find the Seventh-day Adventist mission worker very readily. There is also room in which those who are interested can meet on the Sabbath. As we were walking along the street, I was pleased to hear the young man say that "all these shops are regular subscribers to the 'Signs of the Times.'" While we shall have to pay a little more rent by making the change, yet I believe the move is a good one, and will benefit us in the long run.

"Since our general meeting two souls in Kulangsu have decided to keep the Sabbath.

"During my recent visit to the company of believers at To-Kang, I was informed that rice fields could be purchased very cheaply right in the neighborhood of the hill we have bought for chapel and school site. The figures that were given me were certainly very low as compared to the prices of land in other parts of the valley. Several of the brethren have already bought rice fields in the neighborhood of the hill that we have secured.

"It has just been reported to me that one of the out-stations, about ninety miles north of here, has seven hundred inquirers and one hundred Sabbath-keepers. A very encouraging report, indeed. I expect to visit this station soon."

Cheering reports of the meetings in Hupeh are received from Dr A C Selmon and Brother F A Allum. Under date of April 25 Brother Allum writes, from Chang Chiang Pu: "Our hearts are full of thankfulness for what the dear Father has done. Night after night, men and women have expressed their desire to learn of Jesus. UP to the present, one hundred and one names have been handed in. We are holding meetings for these inquirers every night, and feel assured that God

will give us a strong company in this place. Of the above number, about twenty are women. Sister Hall and my wife have been holding meetings daily with the women, and God has blessed their efforts. To thus bring men and women to Jesus is the best thing in this life. A large number of our own people are also present. On Friday, Brother Hall is to conduct a baptismal service, and fourteen adults will follow their Lord in baptism. These are as fine a class of candidates as I have ever seen in China. God is surely leading us in this great work, and teaching us the right way to reach the heathen. Some thought that the first night we should not call upon men to take their stand, but we thought that if we did not start out that way, we might never start. After the first meeting, a call was made after we had prayed, and seven men came forward. From that time night after night the Holy Spirit has done his work. To our dear heavenly Father be all the praise."

Concerning the work of Sisters Allum and Hall, Dr Selmon writes that they are doing very effective service in teaching the women. Both Sister Allum and Sister Hall have a good grasp of the language, and God is blessing their efforts as they try to work for him.

The work in Hunan is onward. Under date of April 30, Brother R F Cottrell writes: "The general meeting brought a great uplift to our work. Over one hundred fifty were present for at least some portion of the time, representing the towns of Hunan province. We greatly appreciated the help that Dr Selmon gave us, and his studies on the message and health topics were most beneficial. At the close of the meeting nine persons were baptized and taken into the church; and on the last Sabbath that we were together, fifty-nine persons united in celebrating the Lord's Supper. At the last service, held on Sunday morning, donations were made to help in the opening of an out-station to the amount of thirty-eight dollars. Had this offering been taken earlier, it would have been considerably more, but the meeting had now practically closed, and many of the people had gone home. The brethren separated full of courage and zeal to push the work as never before.

"It had been my plan to visit the stations as soon as the meeting closed; but on account of the unrest prevailing throughout the province, and the great desire that so many had to continue here for a time for further study of the truth, it was thought best for me to remain. We are conducting three Bible classes a day on the principal phases of our message, and will probably continue the school for five weeks. The attendance is twenty-eight, some of whom are very promising.

"Last Friday I went to Nien Shang (an enterprising city of forty thousand inhabitants), where the people have turned the temple into a preaching hall. It was a beautiful trip of thirty-five miles, winding in and out among the hills. We have just asked Brother Li and his wife to locate at that place. They are living in the temple, but have now succeeded in opening a chapel on a busy street in a good location. I called on the magistrate who had objected to our using the temple, but could learn nothing definite from him. Brother and Sister Li are very happy in the work. The one or two hundred in-

quirers are among the very best and most influential men of the city, and they seem anxious to know the truth, though so far there are only one or two that venture to pray in public. We ask the earnest prayers of our brethren and sisters for Brother and Sister Li, and the work in Nien Shang. If properly conducted, it may yield a rich harvest."

Korea

Under date of April 18, Dr Riley Russell writes: "I just returned from Old Wiju, where there are about fourteen adults keeping the Sabbath. Ten or twelve new believers are reported fifteen miles up the river from that place. Thus we see that the truth is spreading.

"During my visit in the northern part of Chosen, I went over to the Chinese barracks, and bought two Manchu horses from the soldiers. These I brought home, riding one and leading the other, from Antoken, Manchuria, to Soonan—a distance of five hundred li, or one hundred sixty-seven miles, in three and one-half days. The horses are quite gentle, but a little unused to foreigners." While trying to help one of the natives to learn to ride, after arriving home, Dr Russell received a kick on the knee, which laid him up for a day or two. However, he was planning to leave almost immediately, to go out in the country to organize a church.

Brother W R Smith writes: "During February and March I made a trip up through the northern part of Chosen and into Manchuria. Going as far as I could by boat, I then traveled two hundred ten li on a push-car. This took me to the border of Chosen. From there I went one hundred twenty li into Manchuria to the place where one of our people had moved some time before. While in Manchuria, I bought a Chinese pony and returned home overland, stopping a while with the church at Iwon. On this trip I was alone all the way, both coming and going. Part of the trip was quite difficult, the roads being very muddy. Where there was not mud, there was snow. The northern part of Chosen is mountainous, and very thinly settled. In some respects the people live differently here than on the western coast. Here, the kitchen, bedroom, stable, and chicken-house is all in one room; and from appearances I should judge that it was not often cleaned out."

Sister Helen M Scott, of Soonan, Korea, writes of the girls' school in that place. Many donations of cloth, pictures, soap, and various other articles have been sent to this school from young people's societies in the home land, and these are greatly appreciated. A young Korean student in our school at Fernando sent quite a substantial donation to the girls' school, saying that the girls needed help more than the boys, so he would help them this time, but next time would help both schools. Sister Scott says: "Food is very high. Millet and beans are almost double the price they were when I came to Korea; and rice is much higher. Wood is also very expensive, so our boarding proposition has caused us no little anxiety. We have a full school.

There are forty in the girls' department, many of these from the village. We are hoping that Korea's portion of the \$300,000 Fund will soon be in, so we can erect suitable buildings for our school. We are now busy putting in crops and planting trees. In the last mail two hundred packages of flower seeds came. People at home are remembering the mission fields.

"The second term of school opened February 21, with a good attendance. There are now forty-two enrolled--seventeen boarding students, and twenty-five day-students. We have had a good term so far. It is now a very busy time of the year, with all the crops to put in. The boys, however, do the greater part of the farm work. The girls sew. They have been making 'possun' (Korean stockings), and one of our Sabbath-keepers has been selling them for us. They have also filled several orders for clothes. Just now they are enthusiastic over canvassing. The days are getting warm, also longer, and they can go to the surrounding villages. The village people, however, are for the most part very ignorant, and unable to read, consequently selling is difficult; nevertheless, some papers are being sold. Yesterday eight girls sold thirty-nine papers. Considering the territory we think they did well.

"In less than five weeks, school will close. We are planning on having baptism the last Sabbath. Eight of the girls are in the class that is preparing for baptism. We thank the Lord for this, and pray that they will soon be ready to take this important step."

The Straits Settlements

Sister Bella Fox, of Java, has arrived at Singapore and taken up the church-school work.

Miss C Judge, of Sumatra, is suffering with anemia of the brain, and has returned to Australia on furlough for six months.

The cities of Java, particularly Soerabaja, are said to be in an unusually unhealthful condition just now. People are dying by the hundreds daily, of small-pox, cholera, and plague, in addition to the deadly and ever-present malaria.

Brother and Sister R F Montgomery are holding evening meetings in a small hall in Kuala Lumpur, the capitol of the Federated Malay States. Quite an interesting company is in attendance, and it is hoped that a church may soon be organized there.

From Soerabaja Brother and Sister Wood write: "A number are coming to us from surrounding villages week by week, asking for medical assistance. Many of these cases give us an opportunity to visit and speak to the people. Whenever possible, one of our native

school-teachers accompanies me and talks to them. Our school work is encouraging, especially the day-school, which is attended by children from the surrounding villages."

Sister P Tunheim, of Batavia, Java, under recent date, writes: "We had quite an interesting experience here two weeks ago. A Chinese woman started to keep the Sabbath. Seventeen years ago this woman had given birth to a dead child, and during all that time she had kept it in a little box, and worshiped it as an idol. She was now willing to give it up, so after meeting on Sabbath we went with her to the grave-yard, and she buried it there beside its father. I truly felt that the power of God had worked in her behalf."

Upon reaching Australia from Java, Brother R W Munson writes: "I am proceeding with the work of preparing Malay literature as fast as possible. I shall print it at the Avondale School Press. I am first issuing 'Waymarks to the Holy City,' and after that a series of Bible studies containing thirty studies covering the leading points of truth. After that I want to prepare a hymn-book of our own. All these are much needed."

The friends of Brother G F Jones, of Singapore, will be sorry to learn that he has been ill much of the time since returning to his field from the general meeting held in Shanghai. Under date of April 21, Sister Jones writes: "My husband is laid up with malaria, and indeed almost ever since our return from Shanghai he has been sick. A doctor has been attending him the last three weeks. Just before the last attack he visited the rubber estate of Brother Westerhout, and the adjoining one at Alor Gajah, near Malacca, and found them quite desirable for our industrial school. He accordingly sent in an application to the government for a free grant of some land adjoining this brother's property for industrial school purposes, as we need at least a small piece of land next to the rubber estate for putting up the students' quarters, the rubber estate itself being filled with trees. However, the reply has just come, stating that the 'government is not prepared to allow a grant of free land for the use of the mission.' On returning from this trip my husband was again stricken with high fever. As soon as he recovers, he intends going on to Java and Sumatra."

Japan

It is encouraging to know that the matter of the three families so greatly needed in Japan, especially since Brother and Sister Foster's return to the United States, is receiving consideration by the Home Board. It was recently voted that three couples be invited to come to the Seminary in Takoma Park this fall, with a view to making Japan their field of labor. A letter from the Mission Board states that Brother and Sister Hoffman will probably also get off during the next few months, to Japan.

The present address of Elder F H De Vinney is #291 Sanya Yoyogi, Tokyo.

The Tokyo company have secured a site for the tent, and will begin work as soon as the weather is favorable.

Brother Benson and company have again located at Matsuyama, where they were last year, and will soon open meetings.

At a recent meeting of the Japanese Mission Committee the following resolution was moved and adopted: "RESOLVED, That this committee request the Mission Board to send Fred A De Vinney to connect with this mission in labor as soon as possible."

Brother W L Foster and family sailed from Yokohama, April 26, on the "Siberia." Sister Foster was very poorly; but we trust she will make the voyage safely, and will soon regain her health in the dry climate of Arizona, where they expect to locate.

Brother J N Herboltzheimer writes: "The Lord has been very good to us, and we feel like praising him all the time. During her recent illness, Mrs Herboltzheimer missed only two of her meetings with the women. The interest is growing, and new ones keep coming right along."

Under date of April 19 Brother F H De Vinney writes, from Tokyo: "The school has closed, and the students are working in the field. Brother Burden located the young men in Yokohama to begin the canvassing, and has now gone to Nayoya with the young ladies, where they will begin under the care of Sister Cary."

In a little river near Tokyo on Sabbath afternoon, April 13, Elder Burden baptized seven willing souls, who united with the church. Some were the results of Brother Minami's work, and some were students from the Training School. Reports from nearly all the workers say that others are waiting opportunity to be baptized.

Word from Kobe states that Dr Noma and her nurses are all well, and of good courage. Dr Noma herself is strong, and the baby is growing nicely. Last year, besides building a new kitchen and remodeling the men's bath-room, repairs which cost about \$1,600, the Eisei-in paid \$1,200 interest, and \$1,000 on its debt. This year, as there are no extensive repairs to be made, they hope to do still better.

A very pretty little wedding was held in the Mission rooms at Tokyo on the evening of April 30, when Mr S. Miyake and Miss Toshi Wachi were united in marriage by Elder T H Okohira. The rooms were very nicely decorated with flowers, and filled with both Japanese and foreign guests. Elder Okohira first addressed those assembled on the sacredness of marriage from the Christian standpoint, as many present had never witnessed a Christian ceremony. After this, Mrs C N Lake played the wedding march, and the young couple were soon made husband and wife, and received the congratulations of the company. Brother Miyake is working in Tokyo as translator and interpreter, and will assist in the tent work there during the summer. We extend to them our heartiest congratulations and wishes for a life of happiness in doing good in the Lord's cause.

Of the periodical work in his field, Brother Chas Lake writes: "The two canvassing bands, composed of twelve students, just out from our school and under Brother Burden's direction, are doing quite well. The six girls, accompanied by Brother and Sister Cary, have been working Nāgoya. Brother Cary continues to make large daily sales. The six young men under the immediate charge of Brother Burden are the 'stickatitive' kind. They are doing even better than we had expected. Here are the results of one day's work: 34,44,53,11,38,54. I quote from a recent letter of Sister Cary's: 'I was out today with one of the girls; we put out 40. Mr Cary sold 49. Brother and Sister Watanabe came over to Sabbath-school yesterday, and took dinner with us. Our table was made of the two large packages of 'Owari,' one on top of the other, and for knives and forks we had to use chop-sticks. Omoshiroi ne (is interesting).'

"Our Japanese friends in California, who are associated with Sister Swift, are drawing on our supplies in liberal quantities. Nearly two hundred yearly subscriptions to our paper have been received from these workers during the month of April. Brother Nozaki has figured prominently in this good work."

Of our work in Kogoshima, Japan, Brother H Kuniya writes: "Three families are now keeping the Sabbath in this place, with their children. The matter of the education of their children is a great perplexity to those who would keep the Sabbath. It seems an urgent necessity to have a school for the children of the believers. Some families who would otherwise accept the truth are standing out because they do not know how they can educate their children. Many genuine Christians like our people. They know that we are not 'a reed shaken of the wind.'"

Elder Kuniya and tent company are located in a small city near Kogoshima, where he held his last effort in the fall. They have the tent up, and began their meetings, though it has been quite wet weather. They report a good attendance at the beginning. Every night from forty to two hundred are present, and the interest is increasing. Brother Kuniya says: "Last Friday evening I asked those in the audience who were interested to stay and give us their names if they desired that we study the Bible with them at their homes. Eight gave us cards and addresses to be visited. I have called on some of these inquirers, and they were glad to welcome me. The place where we have

started the tent work is a stronghold of Buddhism. Two denominations worked for twenty years, but could not turn the people. However, a number of Buddhists come to listen to the message. We plan to preach until about the fifteenth of June, when the rainy season begins, then a young worker will remain to give Bible readings to the interested families. The young men who came with me from Kogoshima are doing splendidly canvassing. My wife often receives invitations from the better class of people to give them instruction in healthful cooking. This opens the way to give the message."

The Philippine Islands

A letter from Brother and Sister Finster, written on board the steamship "Minnesota," May 7, reports a pleasant journey, only a few passengers on board, and everything very quiet. Mrs Finster is feeling much better, and it is hoped that the change of climate will fully restore her health.

Brother and Sister R A Caldwell, of Manila, recently made a two months' trip in the provinces. He reports little success in his work, owing to the long dry spell the country has experienced, in addition to the fact that the district visited was a strong Catholic center. Both greatly enjoyed the change and the rest, however, and gained somewhat in flesh.

Brother Elbridge M Adams writes as follows of the work in Manila: "We are now conducting a Bible study class for the workers here, with nine in attendance. We are studying four general subjects; the Ministry, Our Message, Doctrines, and the Work of the Holy Spirit. The workers take a live interest in these studies. We have removed our tent to a new location, where we are now holding another series of meetings, with a large attendance and a good interest. It seems to me that there is as great a change in these people when the truth takes hold of them as there is in our own people at home.

"The other day Brother A de Jesus, a native colporteur, came to the office to settle for books which he had just been delivering. He said that he had some Sabbath-keepers in the province where he had been canvassing, and desired to have some one sent up to teach them the truth more fully. When this brother delivers his books, he sometimes spends a whole day with the people, showing them how to study the book. Last Sunday our evangelist returned from this place, reporting thirteen new Sabbath-keepers, and said that they had started a fund to build a chapel. He also said that they were so eager to hear the truth that they would scarcely let him sleep. He spoke from seven o'clock in the morning until noon, and from one until five P. M., and then from seven until one o'clock the next morning; and the last night he was there it was three o'clock before he closed. He was with them about three days, and gave them the most of the important points of our faith. The evangelist received a new experience from this, himself. He came back with his face shining, a new man in Christ.

A few weeks ago he asked to be excused from the ministry; but when he came back, he said, with tears in his eyes, that he was sorry that he had ever made such a request. He said that on Sabbath, while he was away, he was opening his meeting by prayer, and had not prayed long when the people fell upon their faces, and wept. He looked around, wondering what had happened, and could not speak. Then he was strengthened, and finished his prayer. He said as he thought how God had committed to him his Holy Spirit, and also as he thought of his past life, he felt very unworthy, but he desired to yield his whole life to God and be faithful in his service. Last week a man came to us, the second time, asking for some one to go up to his province, as there were some of the people keeping the Sabbath, and they desire instruction. We are planning to send them help in a few days. Truly the Lord is going before us and preparing our way."

Again, under date of May 9, Brother Adams writes: "Night before last Brother Manalo, our evangelist, was out in one of the provinces holding a meeting. He spoke on the second coming of Christ. He told me this morning that when he went to the house after the meeting, where he stayed over night, the pastor there asked him about the Sabbath. Brother Manalo explained it to him. The pastor said that he would keep the next one, and would present it to his church."

GENERAL NEWS

Professor W W Prescott has been appointed secretary of the Religious Liberty Department of the General Conference, and Brother K C Russell has been released to take up city work.

Dr G B Replogle, writing of the increase in patronage of the Argentina Sanitarium, gives for the month of February alone, forty-five persons received for treatment and operation.

Elder D C Babcock writes from West Africa: "Brother Bolton has had quite a long sick spell, but is improving somewhat. I think one cause of sickness with them was the crowded condition in which they lived at Waterloo. The two families lived in a house 24x24. That was rather small in a hot climate."

Elder U Bender reports a good camp-meeting in the South Caribbean Conference the first of March. Elder [redacted] Fool and family arrived during the meeting from the States, receiving a hearty welcome. At the time of writing, Elder Bender was at Georgetown, British Guiana, where he reports a good interest manifested in a series of meetings being held there.

From a letter from Europe, we glean the following: "You will be interested to hear that, according to our reports for 1911, we had a net gain in membership of exactly 5,000 souls; and our tithe has increased more than \$27,000 in the West German Unions alone, so the outlook is encouraging. Offerings are also \$18,000 more this year than last."

The brethren in Burma plan to start a journal for circulation in that interesting field. Under date of January 19, Brother Votaw writes to the Home Board as follows:--

"Because of the success that has attended our efforts in disposing of our tracts, and also because of the high per cent of the population who can read, Brother Shaw has urged us to start a quarterly journal. We expect to do so. We are at present getting material together for our first issue. We are in need of cuts for illustrating the journal, so I am writing to ask your aid. . . . We could use to advantage cuts showing some high buildings in our cities, battle-ships, merchant-ships, air-ships, elevated trains, etc., modern farm machinery, and some that would be suitable to use in connection with health subjects. I know that it is hardly likely that you can get us all these; but every one we can get will be a help. Pictures count for much here. Of course, we will get some cuts with local coloring, but the wonders of the Western world will be of interest to the dwellers in the jungle."

At the time of sending this item to the News Letter, Brother Bowen stated that about twenty cuts had been selected for this little Burmese sheet over in the land of the Judsons.

Writing to the Mission Board, upon his return to German East Africa from furlough in Germany, Brother A C Enns says:--

"I was so glad to get back to Africa again, and the Lord has been with us since Mrs Enns and I arrived here. I have been able to reorganize the school, and we are just starting a new out-station about two hours away. We will then have seventeen schools connected with our four main stations, with an enrolment of about eleven hundred pupils. In the last year, the membership of our church doubled, and we passed the hundred mark. The outlook is fair to double again this year, by the help of the Lord. This field is now very thoroughly worked; this is not to say, however, that there is no further work for us. A hundred million around us have never heard of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus. We must move farther on, until these have been warned of the judgment to come, and told the glad tidings of the blessed hope.

"We have felt the keen need of literature in the tongue of these people. The only reading-matter we have is a primer that I compiled, the Gospel of Matthew, and a small hymn-book. This need would be well supplied if we had a small hand-press. We could then do such work as printing our primers and single books of the Scriptures, also hymn-books and tracts."

Brother Enns then describes what kind of press could be used. In accordance with his request the Mission Board took up negotiations, and ere long a press will be shipped to this needy field.

Brother S N Haskell, who, for the last few months, has been laboring in Portland, Maine, especially in the interests of temperance, says: "The temperance people of the W.C.T.U. are in the right as far as prohibition is concerned, but God has given us a message far ahead of them. The power is in the truth, and not in the people, and when the truth takes possession of the heart, then the people are the power, because of the indwelling of the Spirit of God that accompanies the truth. Our strength is in the truth as a whole, and that portion of it that appears to be the least popular is the portion that God will the most greatly honor. . . . I am greatly cheered when I see how the third angel's message is being carried to every part of the habitable globe at the present time. Africa shall stretch forth its hands to God--this is being literally fulfilled. They shall come from the land of Sinim--this is being truly seen. In fact, the light at the present time seems to be shining brightest in what we have regarded as the darkest portions of the earth. God is manifesting a power in the spread of the knowledge of the truth far beyond our most vivid imaginations in the past. Surely, this speaks in unmistakable tones of the nearness of the Lord's coming."

From Claremont, South Africa, Brother R C Porter writes: "We are seeing some remarkable indications of the working of Providence here. We have just received a letter from Brother W C Walston, of the old Selusi Mission, saying that there is almost a famine in Rhodesia, the drouth has been so severe this year. It has been so dry that farmers who have previously sold as many as two thousand bags of corn will this year have scarcely enough to carry them through without selling any. Brother Walston says that in face of this state of things, they have never suffered for rain on the mission farm. The other day a cloud hung over the farm for two hours, giving a beautiful rain upon the fields, but it did not rain elsewhere. People are saying that the rain must come because the Lord favors this people, and they are asking that we establish missions in their vicinity.

"Just now we are having a battle in Parliament on the question of enforced Sunday rest and enforced military training. From the present indications it is possible that Parliament may grant an exemption clause covering our people. We have not asked for exemption, but have demanded that no religious legislation or enforced military training laws be passed. We have circulated petitions and have also written letters and forwarded literature on both questions to every member of Parliament. Yesterday I suggested to Professor Elffers that he look up the matter of presenting our petition to Parliament, as he was acquainted with the customs here and stood well with the people in authority. We had in mind for this a special friend of his who is a member of the lower house, but found that he was out of town. He then met the member for Wynberg, where he lives, which would be the natural channel through which to place the petition before the House. When he began talking to him, he discovered that that particular member, when the bill was first introduced, had demanded that an exemption clause be inserted to cover people who had conscientious scruples against enforced military training. He said he had our people in mind, so it seems that Providence directed us to the right man. The member then requested him to go and see the committee who

were then in session on that measure, but on reaching Parliament House, Professor Elffers was informed that it would be impossible to see any member of the committee, as they were then in session. He sent in his card, however, and one member, with whom he was acquainted, came out at once to see him. He assured him that the committee would give us a hearing, and possibly would allow us to speak before the House. The petitions will be presented today, then they have to lay upon the table for twenty-four hours, and then referred to the committee appointed to consider the enforced military training bill. After that we shall be invited to give our reasons for the petition to the committee. We trust the Lord will so overrule that we shall not be embarrassed by these measures.

"I leave tomorrow night for a three or four months' trip up into the interior, among the mission stations. It will cost as much to make this trip, and take as long a time, as to go to America and return. Distances are tremendous here, and the cost of traveling is great; but it is much better than in the days of Livingstone, when it all had to be done on foot."

An interesting letter has come to us from Brother Guy Dail, concerning his recent visit to Egypt, Palestine, and Turkey. He says: "I found things greatly changed in Egypt in the last eight years. The mighty engineering works, undertaken to conserve the water-supply of the country, have been completed, and are a wonderful blessing--although I was told by some that the natives do not appreciate it at all. Our workers are of good cheer. They have a hard field--much harder than China, because of the character of the Egyptian people. However, some signs of progress are seen. Since my visit two young men have begun to obey the truth. Brother Bezardjin, our self-supporting missionary there, and a sculptor of no mean ability, is doing what he can to translate our literature into the Armenian language, and in selling our publications. He took me to visit one well-to-do Armenian family. The mother plainly says she loves the world more than she loves God, but her daughters come to our meetings, and manifest a deep interest in the message. The young man of the family is in government employ, and receives excellent wages, but he told me that he was really trying to find the light, and asked me to remember him in prayer.

"I found Brother Keough and Brother Awada at Akhmeem. They are of good courage. Brother Keough is almost ready to begin preaching in the Arabic. They held meetings during the winter, which were well attended, but thus far only one person, a young man, has taken his stand for the truth.

"In Jerusalem, one young man was baptized on Sabbath, March 9. The baptism took place in the Brook Chiroth, where, you will remember, Elijah was fed by ravens. The water was beautiful, clear, and came right out of the rocks, forming a pool that was warm, and just the right depth for baptism. It took us about three hours to go to Jerusalem from this place, and in going we passed through the home of Jeremiah the prophet. I visited Bethlehem for the first time, and saw the so-called field of the shepherds, as well as the Church of the Nativity. Bethlehem is noted in Palestine for its trade in pearls and articles made therefrom. We walked from Bethlehem to Jerusalem in one and one-half hours--we walked fast. Thus you see the Scribes and Pharisees would not have had a very long journey to make in case they cared to visit the birthplace of our Saviour.

"Our institution in Jerusalem is well financiered. Brother Krug has sub-let the rooms of that large building, so that they bring in three hundred francs more a year than the rent cost us, and our treatment-rooms are therefore rent free. In Jaffa we celebrated the Lord's Supper with the little company of believers there. Brother Gregorius, who is continuing his meetings, has made many friends among the natives, as well as among the German colonists. Thus far, no visible fruits of the series of meetings are seen. He speaks through a translator, and the people ask him how much money he will give them to join our church.

"It was a pleasure to visit several of Brother Ising's young men, who had lately accepted the truth, and whose positions had been preserved to them as direct answer to prayer. One is a teacher, employed by the Scotch Mission, with Sabbath free. Another is in the employ of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. Still another is working in a pharmacy at Bagdad. Some of these natives are having a good Christian experience, and still are able to retain their positions.

"On the way from Beirut to Constantinople, we entered the harbor of Smyrna, where Sister Kalfa and her two younger daughters live. I had a pleasant visit in this home. Sister Kalfa's oldest daughter married our French worker, whom we sent to Constantinople last fall. All these girls are bright and intelligent, and their hearts seem to be in the message. Sister Kalfa has been faithful a number of years now, and has done a good work in representing the truth to her neighbors. I did not particularly enjoy entering the harbor, nor coming out of it, for it was said that the Turks had laid mines to blow up the ships of the Italians in case they made an attempt to come in. We went in and out very slowly; and entering the Dardanelles was still more difficult. We began to enter at nine o'clock, and were piloted in by a Turkish boat. There were twelve ships waiting outside the entrance at one time, and it took us till about half past two to get through into the Sea of Marmora. We did not go any faster than a man could walk, and some of the time not so fast. We passed the place where one of our boys is on duty at the wireless telegraphy office of the war department, as a soldier. The Lord has certainly blessed this young man, and helped him greatly in enabling him to have the Sabbath free.

"Our Constantinople school has thirteen or fourteen young native students. The school closes now until the summer of 1913, as the winter time is the best season for the young men to work in the field. The vacation will also enable the teachers, who are mostly field workers, to devote their energies to the field in the right season of the year. We believe in preaching the gospel in this part of the world. I was greatly interested in getting acquainted with these young people, and learning their ideas of things.

"The little publishing house in Constantinople, in charge of Brother Voigt, is doing good work, and the canvassing work is developing as well as we could hope under the circumstances. We have a real hero in that department, in Brother Melchiori, an Italian-speaking Austrian boy, who went there two and one-half years ago with Brother Frauchiger, and who is certainly a splendid worker. He has been in all the police quarters of Constantinople, I suppose, and has had his books all taken from him, to be returned again after they had been examined. He has come home all bloody from the attacks of the mob, but his courage has never failed, and he has kept right at work all the time, and has made money too, and saved some of it."

Many expressions of appreciation of the News Letter have been received in this office. This is indeed encouraging, and we wish to thank our workers who have sent in especially prepared matter for its pages. Let all remember the News Letter, sending one or two items, if no more are at hand, each month. All news must be in this office by the twentieth of the current month, in order to appear in the News Letter for the month following.

The Secretary.