

NEWS LETTER FOR THE ASIATIC

DIVISION

Volume 1

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Letter IX

ASIATIC DIVISION NEWS

The East Indies

In company with Brother Detamore, I sailed from Hongkong December 11, on the "Prinzess Alice," reaching Singapore Sunday, December 15, about noon. Here we were met by Brother Montgomery, who took us to the mission home, where the guest room was prepared for our reception. We unpacked our baggage, disposed of our things, and had a meeting that evening. The next evening we started for an all-night's trip to visit some land that has been devoted to a school site. After looking at this land, we returned to Singapore on Tuesday evening, leaving the next afternoon for Batavia, on a small boat. After stopping for a little time in this place, Brethren Detamore, Montgomery, and Sisley, accompanied me on a short visit to Brother and Sister Sharp, at Cheribon. From that point we went to Samarang, where we stayed all night in a Chinese inn. Samarang is one of the three cities in which the government has granted us permission to work, Batavia and Soerabaya being the others. Early Christmas morning we left Samarang for Soerabaya, arriving about three in the afternoon, and staying all night with Brother and Sister Wood at that place. The next morning we departed for Soember Wekas, where we arrived about dark. When I set down my grips, it was with a thought of thanksgiving that at least I should be at this place for ten days. The next day the rest of our workers arrived, and all seemed very much worn out.

The brethren had waited so long for my coming (they had been looking for me since the last General Conference, especially in Singapore), that they could hardly realize that my long-promised visit was at last a reality. All the foreign workers in the Malaysian field, with one exception, met at the mission property in Soember Wekas for this meeting. The workers had never been together before, and they greatly enjoyed the meetings and Bible studies. It would be impossible that this should not be the case, under the circumstances, for these workers had never met together in a general meeting since leaving the home land. They were hungry for the Word of God, and everything was welcomed.

I was indeed very glad to meet these workers with whom I had corresponded for two years, and to look into their faces and hear their earnest testimonies for the Lord. Brother F A Detamore, the new superintendent of the East Indies field, received a most cordial and hearty welcome. Most of the time of the meeting was spent in studying the field and its needs, and many plans were laid for the advancement of the work. The field was organized, and a worker placed in charge of each division, with a good advisory committee. Java was divided into two mission fields, and when we have more help, will probably be made into three. The native workers were placed under different committees, who will not only direct the work, but will settle the accounts month by month. With some changes, adapting it to the local needs and conditions, the policy formulated at the Shanghai meeting was adopted for directing the work in this mission field. It was voted to order a tent, and it is planned to make a strong tent effort in Singapore during the coming season. Brother Montgomery and his wife were asked to take charge of the work in Borneo, where already over twenty new Sabbath-keepers are calling for a teacher. A definite call for three new families was made to the Mission Board. It is hoped that these recruits may soon join the workers already in the field. Some time was given to the publishing work, and as soon as possible a small missionary paper in the Malay tongue will be published. Two schools were planned for, neither of which can be opened at present on account of lack of funds. Brother Detamore is taking hold of the work with courage, and we look for a large ingathering of souls during the coming year..

I spent one month in this field, and was sorry to have to leave so soon, but with Elder Detamore to counsel with and direct the workers, and help to plan the work, I feel that brighter days are before the believers in the Malaysian field. It was with sadness I left this little company of men and women to carry on the Lord's work for the fifty millions of souls in their great, scattered territory, but all felt that we have a mighty Captain, and that our hope and strength are in him.

I. H. Evans.

Sister F Tunheim writes as follows, under date of January 5: "I can not tell you how much we have enjoyed the visit of Elder Evans and Brother Detamore to this field, and the meeting that has just been closed at Soember Wekas. It was the best meeting, I think, that I have ever attended. The Spirit of God came very near, and peace and joy filled all hearts. I am working in Batavia, and am always kept very busy. Of late the work there has become most interesting. We are now conducting three evening services each week,--two in Malay and one in Dutch. We have had a good attendance, and an excellent interest. One Dutch lady told me that she had been praying for many years that some one would come and teach her the Bible; 'and now,' she said, 'the Lord has heard my prayer.' She takes a special interest in the Word of God, and rejoices that the Lord is revealing these precious truths to her. Among the Ambonese and Menadonese there is also a good interest, and we hope a number will come out soon on the Lord's side. A large number of Chinese also attend the services. One Chinese family has taken a firm stand for the truth, and is now ready for baptism. All the members of this family have started to pay tithe, and are also living up to the light of health

reform. It gives us great joy to see one precious soul come out from the awful darkness of heathenism into the marvelous light of the gospel of Christ. Dear brethren and sisters, pray that fifty souls may be won for the message this coming year in Batavia."

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Korea

Brother Butterfield, writing from Seoul, December 26, says:--

"You may be sure that we appreciate our new buildings. It is the first time since coming here that I have had an office to work in, save as it has been in my own house and almost in the living room; at least those who wished to see me had to pass through our living rooms. Now there is no call for any one to go to the house to see me on business.

"We are holding evening meetings here in our new chapel, and have from one hundred to two hundred each evening. Some are coming every night, and seem quite interested, but we can not say yet what the outcome will be. We have no local worker here who can give his full time to the evangelistic work, so we are handicapped to a certain extent. I am only here for a few days myself, and I work in the office nine hours a day, and then preach most every evening.

"Last Sabbath I spent with Brother Wangerin. He is getting along nicely with his work. He has gathered out a nice little company, but it has kept him busy to keep them together and coming along in the truth. Next week I go to Soonan and out in the country with Dr Russell to one of his general meetings, and expect to be away about two weeks. Then we will go to Wonsan about the first of February and hold an institute with the workers in that part of the field.

"The past month Brother Oberg has been working hard with the paper, and the results have been gratifying. He has cleaned out almost all of the back numbers, for about six months back, and there were no extras before that time. Orders are coming in well for this month's paper, too. He has also been out with the canvassers who are starting out with our book on Daniel. I do not know yet how it is going to sell, but hope it will go well."

A later letter, written after this contemplated visit to the churches, says:--

"In company with Dr Russell I have just returned from the quarterly general meeting of the churches in this province, which was held at Sa Kwara, thirty miles from Soonan. We are having very cold weather now, and I feared that thirty miles on horseback would be anything but pleasant, but it chanced that the days going and coming were both nice ones. Representatives from eighteen churches and companies were at the meeting, and we had a good time together. Reports were read from each place, showing the condition of the churches. Some of the encouraging features of the reports were as follows: From the eighteen places only six persons were reported as being discouraged, while sixty-two new believers were reported for the past three months. About seventy are awaiting baptism. The present Sabbath-school attendance numbers more than six hundred. From ten of the eighteen places tithe was paid during the quarter, amounting to 150.05 yen. All present promised to pay tithe from this on. Sabbath-school offerings were reported from all but one

place, totaling 57.22 yen; and annual offerings were reported from eight places, amounting to 97.42 yen, making a total of funds raised, 304.69 yen. These figures are much better than we have had in the past. The quarterly general meeting is proving to be a great help also. The next meeting is to be held here, the last Sabbath in March, and I desire to attend it before starting for the General Conference. Beginning tomorrow evening we shall hold an institute for the workers in this district here at Soonan, continuing five days, then I will go with Dr Russell to Chinnampo to organize a church and also meet with a new company near that place where there seems to be a good interest at present. When Dr Russell visited the village sometime ago, one of the Christians said that all his chickens died because a Sabbath pastor visited the place. But the truth is powerful, and nothing can stop it."

We are sorry to learn that Sister Butterfield has been having some troubles with her throat for a few weeks. It is feared that the swelling on one side may be tubercular. If so, an operation will need to be performed. We hope that Sister Butterfield will make a good recovery from this difficulty.

Not all the experiences in a mission field are bright ones, but the lesson to be learned by the worker in the case of disappointments is so well expressed in a letter from a sister in Korea concerning one for whom she had labored, that it is given here:--

"I have had a severe shock and great sorrow recently. One of my dear little Korean girls--the one I have had the longest and loved and trusted the most--has seemingly lost all interest in Christianity and has gone astray. Her father died recently, leaving her, as his only heir, a little property, and the poor child has chosen the pleasures of sin. As I look back over the past year, my heart aches, as I can now see the times and places where I should have been more firm and watchful,--but I trusted her so. I hope it is not necessary, in order to teach me how to guide and counsel little girls, that any be lost. Please join with me in praying for her."

Japan

Brother DeVinney sends the following items for the News Letter, under date of December 20:--

"The brethren and sisters in Tokyo were pleased to have a short visit from Brother F A Detamore while on his way to his new field of labor in the East Indies, recently; and also from Brother and Sister Wood, who were on their way to China by the S. S. 'Nile.' We should not have known of their coming had it not been for the News Letter.

"From the reports from the different churches and companies, a common expression is that the week of prayer this year was the best we have ever had in Japan. In Tokyo the readings were given in both

Japanese and English, in adjoining rooms, the large double doors being thrown open for the prayer service, all taking part together. The presence of our students, and the deep interest they took in the services, added to the profit of the meetings. This was the first time that we have been able to join with the rest of the brethren and sisters throughout the world at the appointed time for the readings, and this added to the pleasure of the season. It seemed good to know that we were all asking for the same things at the same appointed time; we in Tokyo, of the Sunrise Kingdom, leading out, and as the hours rolled Westward each little company joining with increasing volume until it reached its climax on the shores of the Pacific again. Surely it was good to join with our brethren in offering our tribute of praise and our promise of service to the Master.

"Brother John Herboltzheimer and family have moved from Kobe, where he has been connected so long with the Eisei-in, to Yokohama, to open medical missionary work in that great city, where we have never had any established work."

Tokyo and vicinity had a fall of about six inches of snow on December 28, and has since been experiencing the coldest weather it has had for twenty years.

Brother Matsukura reports excellent interest among the children in Uzawa, where he is holding a special series of meetings for the children. He also reports some desiring baptism among the older people who have been studying with him.

Sister Y Kato, who has been attending the Training-School this winter, and acting as matron for the girls' home, was called home at New Year's on account of the illness of Brother Kato. We are glad to hear that Brother Kato is better.

On the evening of January 5 the children of the Tokyo Sabbath-school gave a very pleasant evening's entertainment, consisting of songs, Scripture readings, and recitations. They all did nicely, even to the little tots, and all received presents at the conclusion of the services.

Speaking of the special New Year's number of the Owari, Brother DeVinney says: "One of the very best and most attractive issues of the Owari, our Japanese monthly, ever put out is our New Year's number. All that we printed were taken before the work upon them had been finished, and more were wanted; but the covers could not be procured. This was a ten-sen number, and we have about made up our minds that a ten-sen issue can be sold just as well as a five-sen paper, if not better."

Elder and Mrs F H DeVinney and Elder and Mrs H F Benson are to sail from Yokohama by the North German Lloyd S. S. "Bremen," on February 8. Brother Benson and wife are on their way home for a furlough and to attend the General Conference; Brother DeVinney and wife, to attend the Conference. They will go via the East, and spend some time in Egypt and the Holy Land, Naples, Rome, Persia, London, and other points of interest on the way. They expect to make a short call upon the friends in Shanghai about February 15.

The Philippines

Brother E M Adams, of Manila, sends the following items for the News Letter:--

"One of our boys is attending the POCO Intermediate School in Manila. He said that just before the holiday vacation the school had a program, the chief feature of which was a dance. He did not engage in the dance, although the children were all urged to take part. This impressed me rather peculiarly, because of the following that appeared in one of our local papers in an editorial, entitled, 'Shield Our Youth': 'The writer has been discussing the question with some of the students themselves, and they all express the belief that it is the dance hall that exercises the most baneful influence upon the lives of their fellows. They tell of companions who spend most of their leisure at these halls or in the company of the young women and others who frequent those resorts. They neglect their studies, squander their money, and fall from the graces of decent living and self-respect. Between the protection of the youth that come to Manila for training and our own young men, and the dance halls and those who own and make them, there can be but one choice, and if there is no other method of protecting the young men, the dance halls and their promoters will have to go.'"

"Another quarterly meeting is in the past. This meeting was well attended, and a good spirit prevailed. Eleven were received into the church. There was a woman present who had been keeping the Sabbath for some time, but had not asked baptism and membership. At this meeting she requested admittance. In the social meeting that followed, she said, in substance: 'When I first heard this truth, I thought that it was not worth listening to, but as I have been attending the Sabbath-school, and comparing this church with others, I have concluded that this is the true church.' She said, also, that the good meeting that we had had that day had especially impressed her, and now that she had fully decided to become a member. The brethren are looking forward to another general meeting when Elder Evans shall come.

"A minister of the _____ church attended our quarterly meeting. In conversation with him I learned that he has been acquainted with our work for some time, and had been deputed to oppose Elder Finster in the first tent-meeting held in Manila by our people. He said that when Brother Finster turned and looked upon him and read some scriptures, he could not say anything; his mouth was shut. When asked by his followers about his experience,

he said, 'That is the Bible.' The result of this incident was some of the best members that we have here. Some of the brethren who stood by testified to the veracity of what this minister said. That was all interesting to me, but the current part of it interested me more. A Protestant body here recently began opposition meetings immediately across the street from our present tent-meetings. This man said that they had come to him to champion their cause. He asked them: 'What is the matter? Are they saying bad things there?' They answered: 'No.' 'Are they saying things from the Bible?' They answered: 'Yes.' 'Well,' he said, 'then we can't help it.'

"It is reported to me that one of our girls is being persecuted by her mother. This girl refused to take food for one day, because the mother was trying to force her to eat unclean meats. Then the girl was beaten by her mother. This girl attended meeting last Sabbath. When the meeting was about half over, the mother came and took her home.

"While visiting some of our interested ones today, a woman said that her husband got a Bible about four years ago, and became very much interested in reading it. He was so absorbed in it that he did little but read. Although he was formerly a great gambler and frequented the cock-pit, he had no time to go there any more for reading the Bible. I have hope that this family will accept the third angel's message.

"Brother and Sister Caldwell plan to sail for Australia about the first of February. While we shall feel lonely and shall regret their departure, still we can not hinder them, for they are much in need of a change. May God's angel attend them on their way. Brother Ashbaugh reports good health and courage. He is placing many of the message-filled books in the hands of the Visayans. The seed is being sown and the reaping time will soon follow. Mrs Adams, baby, and myself, are enjoying usual health, for which we thank the good Lord. The end is near, and as expressed in the week of prayer readings, we want a zeal 'commensurate with the times in which we live.'"

China

Brother O A Hall, accompanied by Brother Han, of Ying Shang, arrived in Shanghai on the evening of January 19. These brethren came to attend a meeting of the East China Mission Committee, Brother Hall returning Thursday, the twenty-third, and Brother Han staying a few days longer.

Brother and Sister B A Meeker arrived in Shanghai on the steamship "Persia" January 16. They stayed in Shanghai until the evening of the twenty-fifth, when they sailed for Canton, their new field of labor. We were very glad to welcome Brother and Sister Meeker to China, and hope that they will be abundantly blessed in their study of the language and in their future work.

Miss Pauline Schilberg and little Thelma visited Shanghai a few days the first of January.

The office of the superintendent of the Asiatic Division has been transferred from the quarters formerly occupied at No. 26 North Honan Road Extension to its new home at Yangtszepoo. All communications for the superintendent, Elder I H Evans, should henceforward be addressed to Corner of Ward and Lahore Roads, Eastern District, Shanghai.

Brother H R Salisbury stopped a few days in Shanghai on his trip around the world, arriving January 21. On sabbath morning he spoke to the believers in the Honan Road Chapel, Brother Stafford interpreting. In the afternoon he spoke to the foreign believers, leaving after the Sabbath for Nanking, where he stayed two days, returning to Shanghai to take a small Japanese boat for Nagasaki, from which place he transhipped for Korea. After attending the dedication of our new buildings in Korea, Brother Salisbury will proceed to Yokohama, where he has booked to sail for San Francisco on the "Persia." Brother J P Anderson will also be sailing for America on this boat.

The Work in Shanghai

The new chapel on Haining Road was opened on January 5, with an overflowing house, and the attendance has continued to tax the capacity of the room every night since, in spite of rain and stormy weather. Meetings are held every evening, and Bible readings for inquirers are given both forenoon and afternoon. A six weeks' program has been planned for. The majority of the people in this district are heathen, and we have been greatly encouraged by the orderly way in which they attend the meetings, most of them staying throughout the whole service, and giving close attention to the sermon. An after-meeting is held every night, where special instruction is given to interested ones and inquirers. Over thirty have handed in their names, and bought Bibles and tracts. At the testimony meeting on Friday four men witnessed to the benefits they had received from the gospel. Two weeks before, these men were heathen, and one of them refused to give in his name the first time he came, as he was afraid of us. Now, with tears, he confesses himself a sinner in God's sight, and earnestly asks our prayers that he may become a faithful Christian. These scenes are very cheering to our hearts, and we long to see many of these souls come out of darkness and prepare to meet the soon-coming Saviour.

F E Stafford.

Brother G P Lillie writes from Changsha, December 16:--

"Elder Cottrell and the writer returned yesterday from a visit to the out-station at Ning Shang. Some of the readers of the News Letter may remember that at the general meeting in Shanghai last winter Brother Cottrell reported an interest at this place, and that he had received a petition from many of the townspeople requesting that the mission open work in that place, and also offering the use of a large temple. No evangelist was permanently located there until

spring. There had been so much wrangling about our mission using the temple that Li Yu Gen, when he arrived, rented a good place on the main street of the town. Many of those who seemed so eager at first fell away, but there has been a steady interest ever since. As the people become convinced of the truth of the gospel, they bring their idols to the chapel. Li has quite a big collection, and it is sure to increase.

"On the day following our arrival, nine men followed their Saviour in the ordinance of baptism. None of these had been members of any other church, and most of them were straight from heathenism. On the day following (Sabbath) Elder Cottrell organized a church of fourteen members. The Christmas offering at this place was \$18.08, Mexican. Sunday we spent in visiting the homes of church-members and inquirers. We had a splendid meeting in the evening. It was good to be there. Brother Cottrell preached, followed by Li Yu Gen, and then an appeal was made for those who wished to give themselves to Christ to come forward. Our hearts rejoiced to see man after man push his way through the crowded chapel to the front. The tearful eyes of many showed that these people were indeed in earnest. Seventeen men and eight women made a public profession of their faith in Jesus by coming from their places. Many of these had never before acknowledged their Saviour.

"We returned home with renewed courage, and confident in the speedy triumph of this message."

Brother W F Hills writes from Swatow, December 18:—

"We are always so pleased to receive the News Letter, and it seems like getting a letter from home. Our health is good, and I believe our courage was never better. We have been here about fourteen months, and as we recount the manifold blessings of God bestowed upon us, we can not but see that the smile of heaven rests upon us. The hard knots in the language study, over which we have puzzled so long, seem to be giving way, and so we feel more at home.

"Elder Ang is assisting in a general meeting which is being held near Amoy. Our new boat is completed, and we expect to take our first trip in it soon. We are truly grateful for this gift to our work here. It will make our work much easier, and will also save many dollars to the cause. The _____ minister, with thirty-five of his congregation, is standing firm for the truth. This seems to be a genuine movement, and we expect to take every one of them into the church soon. We have added the minister to our pay-roll this month, and believe that he will develop into a good worker. I expect to take him with us on the boat for a few months, and thus he will have the opportunity to learn the message in all its details. On the boat will be several of those who need help most, and we will go from city to city holding meetings, selling papers, etc., besides having daily studies on plans and methods of work, intended to strengthen our working force. We ask an interest in all your prayers, for we so much need the help that Heaven alone can furnish.

"Another minister of broad experience has just united with us; his influence seems to be far-reaching, and we believe that this will prove to be a great strength to our work here. He has put his children into our school. We are kept busy following the openings for work. My wife's teacher (Brother C M Lee's sister) has been keeping the Sabbath for some time, and her husband, who is also a minister, says that it is getting harder and harder for him to keep Sunday, and break God's holy Sabbath. We hope that he will soon yield to his

convictions, and unite with us. Our work has more than doubled since we moved into our new chapel, and started our school. We have forty-six children in our school, and have had to turn some away for lack of room. Mrs Hills and her assistant teachers are having splendid success in their work. They make it a point to visit the parents of all the children quite often, and this interest bears fruit."

Brother Frederick Lee writes as follows, from Hankow, December 18:--

"On my recent trip to visit our Siao Gan and Chang Djang Pu companies, I was very much pleased with the prospects of our newly opened station at Siao Gan. As reported before, we had our fall meeting at this place. At the same time we also held a series of meetings for outsiders, where many names were handed in for study of the Bible. I am pleased to report that ten have come out strong, and are very earnest in their study of the truth. Our evangelist there has held studies with these every evening since. He had planned to have them only twice a week, but as all came every night and expressed an earnest wish to study, he formed a class, and has been taking up the book, 'Christ Our Saviour' with them. It is surprising to see the advancement these poor heathen have made in the past two months. Most of them decided to keep the Sabbath wholly. Although they are all very poor, able to earn barely enough for their food from day to day, they have surrendered this day to God, believing that he will supply the extra day's need from the six working days. My heart is touched as I think of the poverty of these poor souls. One man, who spins silk from early morning till late at night for a living, asked his employer for Sabbath off. It was kindly granted, but this means one day's money less to supply a wife and two children with food and clothing; yet they are all of good cheer. Two others are chair coolies, who earn only the bare necessities of life, or existence, perhaps, yet on the Sabbath they stop all work. The wife of one of these is continually urging her husband to work on Sabbath, even sending messages to our chapel, where he stays all day Sabbath, that he is needed on very important business at home. These people show evidence of conviction, and in many ways put us to shame.

"From Siao Gan I went to Chang Djang Pu. There we opened a little street chapel, in the home of the 'devil possessed,' who was healed at the time of our general meeting at this place. This is quite a good place for advertising our truth, as every one in the city knows this man, who went about cursing everybody, and broke up all his household goods until he had nothing left. Now he goes about at peace with every one, and, like the demon-possessed man in the time of Christ, can not keep from telling what God has done for him. He was not contented until we consented to use his home as a place for preaching to others of the One who has done so much for him. The room is small, yet thirty or more come and stay an hour or so, to listen to the gospel.

"Our work here in Hankow and Wu Chang is progressing little by little. In these places we are holding meetings every day with the interested, and find some who seem to be earnestly seeking for truth. Our Hankow chapel is a very cold building, yet our evening meetings are well attended, and several heathen have taken their stand for the gospel.

"We are spending much time and energy these days in trying to secure land upon which to build our houses. We have not yet decided on a place, but hope to soon. Land is very expensive here, and the money appropriated not so very much. We are thankful, however, for what the brethren have done for us. Knowing that a little money must go a long way, we are endeavoring to spread out what we have as far as possible.

"We send best wishes for a happy and blessed New Year to all our brethren and sisters who read the News Letter."

Brother Wilbur writes from Fatshan, January 6, as follows:--

"The last Sabbath in December we held our quarterly meeting in Fatshan, about twenty brethren and sisters taking part in the ordinances. The Lord's presence was with us, and we had a precious season together. On Sunday, at a business meeting of the church, we elected a full set of officers,--an elder, two deacons, and a clerk, who also acts as treasurer. Eleven persons were added by baptism to the Fatshan church the past year, making the present membership twenty-four. The tithe for the native believers for the year 1912 amounted to \$97.10 Mexican. The Sabbath-school also elected new officers to serve for the next half year. The Sabbath-school offerings for 1912 amounted to \$54.15 Mexican.

"The past year has been a hard year for canvassers in this section, our workers finding it much more difficult to sell papers than formerly. Just now the people seem more ready to buy, and our colporters are taking a new interest in this work.

"Our evangelists have conducted meetings in three places in this city, and we have had a large attendance. We find that personal work and Bible readings are the most effectual means of bringing people into the truth. Among those who have recently taken their stand with us is a Taoist priest, about forty-five years of age. His fathers before him for nine generations have been priests. He has undergone considerable persecution, especially from his own family, but he is firm for the truth. He attends all our services and studies his Bible at home, even late at night. It is marvelous to see how the Lord can save men from such heathen darkness.

"I spent the first Friday and Sabbath in January in Hongkong. In about four hours Friday I secured \$31.15, Mexican, from the Harvest Ingathering Signs. In Canton I have also received \$7, Mexican, on the same fund. I find business men (Europeans) quite willing to give something."

Brother and Sister F A Allum and family arrived in Shanghai January 26. They will spend some time here preparatory to sailing for their furlough.

Word has come to us of the birth of a little daughter, Evelyn Louise, to Brother and Sister B A Roberts. The baby was born December 23, and weighed six pounds. All the friends in China extend a cordial welcome to this little one, and best wishes for its future.

A post-card from Dr Law Keem, dated December 26, extends good wishes to all the workers in the China field, and says: "We are planning to sail March 24, 1913, per S. S. 'Minnesota,' for China. If all goes well, we shall soon be back at work again."

Under date of January 9, Brother B L Anderson writes, just after his return home from a trip in the interior:--

"We had some splendid meetings in the interior. There was a good interest manifested at both the places, both on the part of the believers and also from the outside. Heathen and also people from the other missions attended quite regularly. At Tsoan-Chiu, where we have had a church organization for some years, the members are very enthusiastic in bringing people into the truth, and are working hand in hand with the evangelist. About ten new people are attending the meetings quite regularly. One was received into church fellowship during our last local meeting at that place. At Hui-An we had a good meeting. At this place there is promise of a good harvest of souls. About fourteen desired baptism and asked admittance into the church. But after studying and praying with them, we all came to the decision that the ordinance of baptism better be deferred a few weeks, and in the meantime they would receive further instruction, but still walk in the light they had already received. They all felt happy to do this. Hui-An is a new station opened, and is a fairly large city. We are anxious to lay a good foundation in this place, and therefore we asked the candidates to defer a short time. I thank God for the good meetings and bright prospects at the two places named above."

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GENERAL NEWS

From a letter from Elder R C Porter, written November 26, at Plumstead, C. E., we glean the following:--

"My wife has gone to America to spend the winter with her folks, before the General Conference. I hope by that time she will be ready to return again to the work in this field. I really enjoy the work here, although it sometimes goes slow.

"There is one feature of the work in South Africa that is just now taking on a very interesting phase,--the Eastern Question. I have given a few lectures in public halls on the subject, and as there was a demand that they be printed for distribution, we decided to first run them in the Sentinel. The demand continued, and a week ago I gave a talk in a large hall to between four and five hundred people, who gave about ten dollars toward a fund for printing the lectures in a convenient form for distribution. Last Sunday night I spoke in the same hall to about four hundred people, on 'The Armageddon Battle.' Next Sunday night I expect to speak in the Town Hall at Wynberg on the Eastern Question, and arrangements are being made to secure a hall in Cape Town, where I shall speak on the same subject a week from Sunday night.

"We started out to raise a subscription for at least 10,000 extra copies for the Eastern Question number of the Sentinel. We already have orders for 15,000 extra copies, and it looks now as if

the number required would reach 25,000. Our Dutch paper is translating the same matter into the Dutch, and they have orders for 10,000 extra copies of that issue, and orders are still coming in.

"As the result of these studies and other practical work, for the benefit of our churches and at our late general meetings, there has been quite a spiritual uplift among many of our people. While this is a difficult field in some respects, yet taking it as a whole I never enjoyed my work in any field better than here."

After an effort to conduct the Takoma Park Sanitarium and the Foreign Mission Seminary as one institution for a little over a year, it has been decided by the management to dissolve this union, and henceforward run each institution by itself. The sanitarium will open a new training-class soon.

Brother Gobel writes that they were able to baptize ten souls in Iman, Siberia. These are the firstfruits in that town. They have organized a church there now. This city is not far from the Chinese border, being in the vicinity of Vladivostock.--Quarterly Report European Division of General Conference.

In a recent letter from Brother T E Bowen, of Takoma Park, he says: "We are now in the midst of the week of prayer. Brother Spicer is in Mt Vernon, and will go on from there to Berrien Springs, dividing the time of the week of prayer between these two schools. We are having excellent meetings here in the Park. The attendance last night in the school building was very good, the room being filled. Brother F M Wilcox led the meeting."

The last letter from our Constantinople brethren announced their safety. They will go on board the foreign war-ships if the danger should increase. Their chief fears are of massacres by the Moslems. Then they are afraid that the defeated Turkish army may cause them some trouble. But the letter ends as follows: "Anyhow, we feel safe in the hands of the Lord and thank him that he has kept us safely all this time."--Quarterly Report European Division of General Conference.

A Brief History of the Shangani Mission Station

In the year 1910, the workers at the Somabula Mission, Gwelo, Rhodesia, sent Brother T J Gibson into the Shangani Native Reserve to choose a suitable place for a mission site. After a two weeks' tour he returned to Somabula and reported that he had found a good place to locate the mission. After eight months the site was secured, and Brother J N de Beer and family went there to open up mission work. Some of their succeeding experiences are thus given by Brother de Beer:--

"On September 6, 1911, my wife and I left the Somabula Mission for the new mission site on the Shangani Native Reserve, situated about one hundred miles northwest. We took with us three native boys and one girl, and from the Somabula Mission herd we took twelve oxen, ten cows and heifers, two calves, one bull, and six donkeys. We felt somewhat sad to leave those of like precious faith at Somabula Mission, where we had been laboring for almost a year; but, realizing that this message must go to every kindred, tongue, and people in this generation, to gather out a people for the Lord, we took courage and were glad that it was our privilege to open this new place and give the message of mercy to those who knew not God.

"With a heavy load and bad roads we found it a trying journey, sticking in rivers and spruits, etc. On Friday afternoon we arrived at the Shangani River, and finding it a heavy river to cross, we camped where we were for the Sabbath, giving ourselves and our oxen a good rest. Early on Sunday morning we made a start to cross the river. After struggling for two and one-half hours in sandbanks and water, we reached the other side. Our road in most places consisted of nothing more than native paths, and would go up against a large tree which we would have to cut down before we could move on again. The country is wild and the habitation of all sorts of wild and dangerous animals, and we had to keep a lantern burning during the night to keep off the lions.

"We arrived at the mission site on Wednesday evening, the thirteenth of September. Feeling tired and weary, and with a strong wind blowing and no house to occupy, having to make the veldt our home, we realized to some extent the trials and struggles through which the early pioneers had to pass. The next morning we took up our abode under a large tree, but as the trees are leafless at this time of the year, we had very little shade, having to eat our meals under umbrellas. In the daytime we were exposed to the severe heat, and at night to the attacks of wild animals. We were often aroused at night by the barking of the two dogs at some wild animal venturing too near. We were thankful, however, to have the dogs warn us that some animal was near. On the very spot where we were camped, the lions had killed twelve goats, belonging to the natives, a few weeks before we came.

"On our way to the mission site from Somabula, we called on the head chief, Tyogo, told him that we had now come to teach his people the gospel, and asked him to instruct them to help us build our houses. He (Tyogo) sent word to the second chief to receive the teacher and instruct the young men and women to help us build our houses. A few days after our arrival at the mission site, about fifty head men came to see us, following the instruction of the head chief, and for about two hours we had these men around us. I spoke to them, telling them the object of our coming. After asking many questions, they left, seeming quite satisfied with all we said, and they promised to send young men and women to help build our houses. The next morning about six young men came, and I soon sent them off into the forest with axes with Philip, our native teacher, in charge, to cut poles for our houses. Several girls also came, and these my wife sent to cut grass for the roof. In the afternoon Dubi, the driver, Sidubi, the leader, and I started off with the wagon and twelve oxen to the forest and brought back the first load of poles, and the girls came along with neat bundles of grass on their heads. Thus the building operations were commenced. We found it hard to keep the raw natives at the work. Often did I go with our native

teacher, Philip; from kraal to kraal to get these native boys out of their huts. We found it very difficult to make holes in the ground where we had laid out the house, the ground being so hard and we not having proper tools to work with. The only way out was to carry water for a distance of one mile and put it in the holes to soften the ground, and we found this very hard work. All the work had to be done under adverse circumstances, but we kept at it early and late. The Lord prospered us, and after six weeks we abandoned our tree-house and moved in under the shade of our grass roof. Our house was without doors, windows, floor, or ceiling, yet it was a luxury to us and we were thankful for it.

"All the food we needed for our boys and some for ourselves we traded from the natives for such articles as limbo, salt, sugar, matches, etc. One characteristic of the natives is that they will always grumble, saying you do not give them enough for their grain or whatever they may bring to exchange. My wife being in charge of this trading was worried a great deal. So one day I stepped up to a native woman who was grumbling, and said, 'Look here, do you think we have come here to rob you, and give you just as little as we can for your grain?' I went on to explain that this was not our principle, and that we were giving them as much as we could afford to give. The lecture was quite a lengthy one. The woman finally said, 'Don't mind it, unfundisi (teacher). It is only our custom to grumble, and in our heart we are satisfied.' Needless to say from that time we never again took notice of such grumblers.

"We found favor with the people, and soon opened a school of thirty students. At first only a few of us sang the hymns, but before very long we could hear as many as forty to sixty singing our old gospel hymns on Sabbaths as we came together for worship. This was a great encouragement to us considering that only a short while before we found the people in the darkest heathenism, knowing nothing about the true God. A large tree growing near the mission, measuring seventy feet in circumference, was their object of worship. I made it my special object every Sabbath, and whenever I had an opportunity, to point these heathen to the true and living God, and explain his love for all. So we led them up step by step until one Sabbath I gave an invitation to those who wished to turn away from idolatry and worship the living God only. Nearly all expressed a desire to serve the true God, and we felt the presence of his spirit in our meeting. Never shall we forget that day. The next day some of the head men came to us and expressed this desire more fully. We felt that the Lord was with us and giving us fruit for our labors. After that, early in the mornings, as we awoke from sleep, we could hear the people who just a little while before knew nothing about the true and living God, singing 'Sweet promise, I will come again,' as they dug their gardens down in the valleys. Surely the heathen are waiting for the gospel invitation.

"We esteemed it a great privilege to bring the gospel to these poor heathen who had never heard about God, but it soon appeared that we must seek for a more healthful spot to live. My wife was suffering with a second attack of blackwater fever, and I, two boys, and the girl, with severe attacks of malarial fever at the same time, with no one to care for us. As there was no improvement, but we continued to get worse if anything, we decided to leave for Somabula Mission, that being the nearest place where we could obtain assistance. Low as we were with fever and with the severe heat prevailing, it will not be difficult to understand the trying time we

experienced on this trip of one hundred miles in a springless ox-wagon. We could not use the oxen all the way, because of an epidemic of fever prevailing among cattle, so half the journey was made by aid of the donkey team. This made matters much worse, for the donkeys would take the wagon over nearly every large stone, or into ditches, or against trees close to the side of the road. The boys did good driving, however, and in the evening of the fifth day we arrived at Somabula Mission. After staying at this mission four weeks, it was found that very little improvement was seen in our condition, and after due consideration it was thought best for my wife and I to leave for the Cape, where we would have a cooler climate, until we should recover our health. It grieved us deeply that circumstances made it necessary for us to leave the work at Shangani, but it was decided that in our absence Brother George Hutchinson take charge of the work. We were glad that one so competent could be found to carry on the work where we left it. Our prayer is that God may continue to bless, and that many may be seen in the kingdom of God as a result of the work done on the Shangani Mission."

After Brother and Sister de Beer left the Shangani Mission Station, Brother G W Hutchinson continued the work, visiting all the neighboring kraals, getting acquainted with the people, and trying to interest them in our work.

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We are very sorry for the long delay in mailing this copy of the News Letter. For more than a month, the supply of stencils in Shanghai has been completely exhausted, and we were obliged to wait until a new lot arrived on Monday, February 3, before we could get out the February Letter. We trust that such a delay will not occur again, and would ask our friends who read the News Letter to send in at once their items for the March number.

A. B. E.