

Asiatic Division Mission News



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NO. 1

TO-DAY

Sit we with folded hands to-day,
No work to do, no word to say?
Up, soul! the hours are speeding
on,
And, ere we know, the day is
gone.

No work! The fields, already white,
Stand waiting for the sickle bright.
Hast thou not heard the Master say,
"Go, in My vineyard work to-
day"?

God has a place for all, and He
Has work to do for you and me.
No work, while yet one human
soul

Goes down in ruin? Ah, the whole
Of our to-day is not too long,
If we would join the harvest song;
That song of toil forever past,
The wheat all garnered safe at
last,

Where naught that harms may
ever come,—
That glad, sweet song of "harvest-
home."

To-day—'tis passing! ere it flee
Forever from our grasp, may we
Ask God above, and our own heart,
If faithfully we've done our part,—
If we, with willing hands and
brave,

Have done our best the world to
save.

Is there one home we might have
brightened,

One heart whose grief we might
have lightened,

One soul, not going far astray,
We might have shown the better
way?

God knows; and whatso'er of sin
Or wrong in our to-day has been,
Let us redeem, with all our powers,
The little time that still is ours.
Each task we do, each cross we
bear,

Will fit us for the morrow's care.

The future leave with God;
As from His hand we take it,
'Twill be as He sees best, and as
Our life to-day shall make it.
Then let us work with heart and
soul,

And God will bless and shape the
whole. —Selected.

The Malasian Field

An earnest band of devoted laborers are bearing the message in this field with moral courage in the face of Mohammedanism, Confucianism and Buddhism. These old systems of religion defy with satanic resistance all attempts to turn the feet of their adherents into the pathway of peace. It requires patience and Christian fortitude to toil for those who care little for the labor bestowed; the health, meantime, being taxed by constant tropical heat which near the equator holds a deal level hand on the thermometer throughout the year.

Our loyal workers toil on uncomplainingly, the fruit of their labor indicating the superior power of the gospel over the religious customs of many centuries.

At Padang, Samoa, Brother Judge and his faithful companion are carrying the work beyond the time their furlough is due. Their love for the work will not allow them to leave until the arrival of others to carry the work. Their faithfulness will bring its reward. A native brother is opening the work in the interior of that island under difficulties, but we believe that success will crown his effort.

Java has a good work in progress at Batavia under the superintendance of Sister P. Tunchheim, assisted by Brother and Sister Vande Group and a band of faithful native workers. Elder and Sister Wood, with a company of good native helpers, are winning a number of souls to the truth in Soerabaya.

Brother Duckworth and family are continuing the work begun by

Elder Montgomery at Kuala Lumpur; and Elder Montgomery and Brother and Sister Chang are opening the work in North Borneo. A native young man who has not yet accepted the faith has sold three large shipments of books in the Celebes. Thus the Lord is indicating that the time has come to open the work in that field.

The tithes and offerings received from the Malasian field the past year has reached \$5000, and \$400 was received on the Ingathering Review.

R. C. PORTER.

Institute at Changsha

The institute held at Changsha, March 4-14, was the largest and most encouraging meeting yet held in Hunan. People came from twenty different counties. On the first Sabbath the dedicatory service for our new chapel and headquarters was held, which was followed by the afternoon prayer and praise meeting at which a large number reconsecrated themselves to God.

The coming of Christ and the needful preparation in view of that event was kept before the hearers throughout the institute.

The evening services were conducted for the benefit of the outside public. Such large crowds attended, that after the second night, we divided our audience into three. The women met in the school chapel; special enquirers, and those preparing for baptism, met in the guest room; while the meetings in the main chapel were held the same as usual. In this way, from three to five hundred people were given the opportunity of listening to the gospel each

night. About two hundred people entered their names as inquirers. Special arrangements were made to continue the evening meetings each night during the next few weeks, at least. The addresses of the new inquirers will receive careful attention by visits to their homes. To this end it was necessary to considerably strengthen the force of workers in the City of Changsha.

Sabbath-school work received much thought. Papers on the different phases of Sabbath-school methods, officers and their duties, teachers and reviewers, primary and kindergarten work, etc., were read. We trust that these papers may be edited and appear in the form of little leaflets. The attendance at the first Sabbath-school was two hundred twelve, and the second Sabbath one hundred seventy-five.

Near the close of the meeting twenty persons were received, upon baptism, into church fellowship. The spirit manifest among the workers was that of harmony, earnestness, and a desire for greater consecration and efficiency.

R. F. COTTRELL.

Wuchau, Kwong Sai

We have been here just one month, and already we can see that the Lord has gone before us and prepared the way.

We arrived in Wuchau about noon on Friday, and had just time to get the most necessary things done before the Sabbath. We, of course, were unsettled, and our goods simply piled into the house to get them under cover as it was raining.

We had not planned on holding any Sabbath service under the conditions, but about eleven o'clock several men came in to hear the truth, and so we were compelled to have a meeting. These men have been here several times since to study the truth, and one has already begun to keep the Sabbath.

Two weeks ago I went with a brother who has been down here waiting for me to visit his village where there seemed to be

quite an interest to hear the truth. We traveled three days by a little river launch up the river. We found quite a little company there. Meetings were held two and three times each day, and on the Sabbath we organized a Sabbath-school of about thirty-five members. After the preaching service, we asked all those who were ready to keep the Sabbath to raise their hands, and to our delight twenty-three adults responded readily. They asked for baptism, but I felt it safe to wait until another visit to them, and left the brother who took me up there in charge of the company to further teach them. Several have been keeping the Sabbath the best they knew for sometime. I remained with them one week, and we had a blessed time together.

This brother first heard of the truth through his son who was working in Fatsan. He had dropped in to one of our Sabbath services and went home and told his father. The following Sabbath the father came also, and after the service he secured some of our tracts and went home to Knong Sai to study. Later he became convinced of the truth and began keeping the Sabbath, and taught it to his family and neighbors. Some time later he became acquainted with Brother Wilbur and others of our workers. He has been waiting for some time and earnestly calling for some one to be sent to his country to teach them more of the truth.

He with two others attended our general meeting at Fatsan last November, and all were baptized. Everywhere he goes he tells the truth to others. While waiting here for us to arrive he scattered literature all over the city, hence the interest we find here now.

We are glad to be here and believe there will be a quick work done, as the people seem more simple-hearted and ready to hear the truth. Pray for us in this corner of the vineyard.

DR. LAW KEEM.

Smallpox

We have not strongly advised that children under six months old be vaccinated. Until the recent death here in Shanghai of Brother Hall's baby, we had had no experiences to call to our attention the great risk that one runs here in the east by waiting until the baby is a few months old before vaccinating it. It has been demonstrated over and over again, that in an epidemic of smallpox, if an unvaccinated individual is exposed, there is only the barest chance that he will escape contracting it. Smallpox is epidemic in China at all seasons of the year. As a rule it is more prevalent in the spring than during the other seasons.

Smallpox is highly contagious, and it is not necessary to be in the same house with a smallpox case in order to contract the disease. The contagion may be carried in a multitude of ways; e. g. some member of your family who is already immune to the disease by having been vaccinated, may come in contact with a smallpox case (it is not uncommon in most parts of China to see people going about the streets with a smallpox eruption on the face that is in the pustular stage), in the tram cars or in the railroad cars, or in the course of traveling or visiting may visit a home in which there is smallpox, and in this way carry the contagion home in his clothes, and so cause your unvaccinated baby to contract the disease; or some Chinese workman may come to your house and carry the disease, or the clothing that you send to the laundry may be washed in the same water with the clothing from a family that has smallpox. Laundries are supposed to boil all their clothing but it is a well known fact that this is not carried out thoroughly. It is evident from this that one cannot live in China for many days, even if you stay within your own door, without being exposed to smallpox.

Seventy-three per cent of all

cases of smallpox in infants under one year of age are fatal, and if the infant contracts the confluent form of smallpox it is almost invariably fatal.

Children may be vaccinated at birth. Instances are on record of women in the smallpox pest house giving birth to children, and by vaccinating the babies at once they escape having smallpox. Recently we vaccinated two infants here in Shanghai, one was one month old, the other two months. A healthy infant may be vaccinated at birth and not cause the infant any more disturbance than it will if the child is six months or a year old. In the case of very small infants we find that two very small spots and a very small amount of the vaccine, gives just the proper amount of reaction for such a tiny patient. Needless to say the greatest care should be taken to see that the skin is clean before scratching it, and that a piece of sterile gauze is applied to the scratch after the vaccinating is completed.

With regard to revaccinations, we have found a number of "takes" in the case of those who have had a previous "take" only four or five years previously; therefore frequent revaccinations are advisable.

A. C. SELMON, M.D.

En Route to Manchuria

When we see the great need around us here in China, we often wish that the time had already come when we could take a more active part in bringing the glad tidings of the gospel to these needy millions. But we must be content for sometime yet in remaining here at the language school.

We are trying to do our best in soon acquiring a knowledge of this language. We are using the Chinese teacher more than we had the privilege of doing the first few months. The characters and idioms seem to be constantly on our minds. When we awake in the morning we can almost see the

characters standing on the bedposts staring us in the face telling us to arise; and during the day they roam around in our heads trying to find a definite location.

Some of the members of the language class have already left us; among these are, Brother Warren, who accompanied Brother Allum to Szechwan, and also Brother and Sister Ryd, who have just left for Hankow. Brother Grundset and the writer are looking forward with happy anticipations, when we, in a short time, shall be able to go to our appointed field, —Manchuria.

It is now about three years ago since our Danish-Norwegian brethren in America accepted Manchuria from the General Conference as their mission field, and still we have not reached our destination.

Some years ago Russian believers settled in Harbin, Manchuria, and as a result of their missionary efforts, a young Chinese brother and his wife accepted the truth. This brother was formerly an evangelist for the Presbyterians.

When he wrote of his desire to attend the training school in Shanghai, we felt it was God's providential opening for the work in Manchuria by giving him a better preparation, and so we invited him to come. Both he and his wife are attending the school. He is a very earnest Christian, and is one of the best students.

B. AND BERTHA PETERSON.

Items From Japan

We were all glad to welcome Elders Porter and Butterfield, and Bro. C. N. Woodward to our field on the 4th instant. The studies of the two first named brethren have been very much appreciated at the institute, a number not regular members of the class attending. Each subject has been intensely interesting, practical and timely, and has been the means of raising the spiritual interests of the institute to a high level. Brother Woodward has been busily engaged in the audit of the mission books, and started on his return trip Friday the 13th. While

we were together, there being a quorum of the committee present, considerable business was transacted. Elder Butterfield left us on the 15th, and Elder Porter still remains at the time of writing.

These are very busy days with the Japan mission. The institute continues from 8 a.m., with an intermission for dinner, to 5 p.m. In the evening some member of the class is chosen and he presents the subject of the morning's study on doctrinal topics in the form of a sermon. At an after meeting, the subject matter presented and form of delivery, etc., is discussed. We have found this exercise very wholesome and beneficial to our young workers. Besides the work of the institute, the members of the mission committee who are teaching, have been looking for land upon which to locate our institutions and headquarters. On account of the high price of land near the city, we have been obliged to search some distance from the center of the city proper. Some favorable locations have been found but no purchase has yet been made.

During the month Brother Anderson has been suffering from the effects of an abscess in the ear, and has been confined to the house the most of the time. Last week he and Sister Anderson went to the treatment rooms in Yokohama and have been under the care of Brother and Sister Herboltzheimer. Brother Anderson expects to take up his work in the language school soon again, as he is much improved.

The 11th inst. Sister Hoffman underwent a minor operation by a physician of Yokohama at the treatment rooms, and is progressing rapidly toward recovery.

Sister Yarnell, of California, made us a few days pleasant visit while on her way to Singapore where she is to engage in school work. We are very fortunately situated in the Asiatic Division field, having the pleasure of greeting the friends as they pass to their fields, or are returning home.

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We are always glad to have them drop us a line telling us when they are going through, so that we can meet them at the ship's side at Yokohama, or at the railway station here in Tokyo.

F. H. DE VINNEY.

Shanghai Notes

On Feb. 16th we opened a special series of a month's meetings at our out-station at Ying Ziang Kong, and the Lord has richly blessed our efforts there. Although the weather has been stormy throughout the whole period, yet we have had excellent audiences, the people have listened attentively and there are a number of earnest inquirers whom we expect will take their stand soon.

One man has commenced to keep the Sabbath and faithfully closes his shop at sundown on Friday. Although there are a number in the village who belong to other churches, yet none of them close their business on Sunday; so this action on the part of a leading man of the village has caused a great amount of questioning in regard to the reasons for such a procedure. In fact the man was afraid that the people would think that he had gone out of business, so he asked our evangelist to stand by his store on Sabbath afternoon and preach to the people and explain to them that he had not gone out of business but that he was shutting up his shop on the seventh day of the week in accordance with the commands of the Creator. The evangelist spoke for about two hours and had a large crowd around him all the time.

There is another man who has proved to be an earnest inquirer, and he recently said that as the store he had was a candle and sundry shop, and nearly every thing he sold was for the service of the devil in worshipping idols, he has about decided to change his business and sell foreign cloth, so he can have a clear conscience to worship the Creator and keep His commandments.

Sister B. Miller and her Bible women are doing excellent work among the women of the village who listen readily to the gospel. Thus we endeavor to save whole

families, and where the husband and wife both accept the truth it makes a much stronger work than where they are divided.

The tract society and free reading room is proving to be very popular among the Chinese student class, and many older ones as well. Business is increasing and as we become better known the inquiries and demands for literature increase. Besides Chinese and English, we now carry a small stock of tracts and papers in Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, Malay, French and German. Last week a Turkish man came in and bought an English Signs magazine. Not long ago a Chinese gentleman who was passing through Shanghai on his way to Peking bought \$2.00 worth of books, including an English "Steps to Christ". Thus we get a little idea of the work that could be done if we had some one here who had the time to push the book work.

Our latest move in the Shanghai Church is the organization of a Church Missionary Society which meets the third Tuesday night of every month. The donations from the first Sabbath in every month is turned over to this society and they buy 50 to 100 of the Chinese "Signs," wrap them and send them out with prayer. Follow-up letters are written and every interest maintained. A visiting committee has also been appointed for the purpose of visiting all the church members once every month, and as many of the inquirers as possible. A committee on Finance has also been appointed to call upon any who are backward about tithes or offerings. These committees report at the Missionary Meeting and recommendations are made such as will help every church member to be a "working member" of the body of Christ.

F. E. STAFFORD.

Notes.

—We arrived Ichang on Sabbath, March 21. All well.—F. A. Allum.

—Well, I have live news: a baby girl on March 15.—J. P. Anderson.

—Sister F. A. Allum has moved into the house vacated by Brother J. O. Gibson.

—Brother C. L. Butterfield of Korea, attended the meeting in Japan March 1-15.

—Brother H. Kuniya speaks of his appreciation of the good instruction received during the institute of several weeks' duration in Japan. He says "We anticipate to win many souls after dismissing the institute."

—A letter from Elder W. C. Hankins dated Feb. 12, says if all is well they will likely sail from San Francisco about the middle of August for China. Sister Hankins is feeling better than for some years, having gained seventeen pounds in weight while on furlough. They are very happy in the thought of again returning to help give the last message to China's millions.

—Brother O. J. and Sister Gibson left Shanghai March 19 to connect with the Central China Mission field. They will reach Hankow in time for the institute beginning the 19th. Brother Gibson will fill the vacancy made by the return of Brother J. J. Westra to America. Six foreign workers have left Shanghai in the last two weeks for active field work, and eight others are still busy with their preparation to go.

—The boys' school at Wai Chow has an enrolment of fifty-one with others coming in continually, so making it necessary to hire a second teacher. A school building is greatly needed there, so writes Brother Anderson. The new church building at Wai Chow is now completed and will be dedicated early in the spring, when they hold their general meeting.

—March 12, Brother O. J. and Sister Ryd left Shanghai for Hankow to connect with the Central China Mission field. Since their arrival in China last November they have applied themselves diligently to the study of the language, Brother Ryd reviewing, and Sister Ryd taking it up for the first time. They were very much pleased to get into active service again, and were willing to face danger for the work's sake. They will reach Hankow in time for the institute March 19-28.

—We anticipate an agreeable surprise for our readers with this issue of the News Letter. Vol. 3, No. 1, has put on her new dress for the occasion. She has also slightly changed her name, and will be known now as the ASIATIC DIVISION MISSION NEWS. The work of setting the type is done by a Chinese in our office who is just beginning the study of English. The editor, Brother O. J. Gibson, having taken field work in the Central China Mission, Mrs. R. C. Porter has been requested to act in that capacity for the present. She asks that the same hearty co-operation be given her that was so liberally accorded her predecessor.

—The Religious Liberty tract in the Wen-li is now ready.