

Asiatic Division

Mission News



VOL. 5

SHANGHAI, CHINA, JANUARY 1, 1916

No. 1

Old-Year Memories

Let us forget the things that vexed and tried us,
The worrying things that caused our souls to fret;
The hopes that, cherished long, were still denied us,
 Let us forget.

Let us forget the little slights that pained us,
The greater wrongs that rankle sometimes yet;
The pride with which some lofty one disdained us,
 Let us forget.

Let us forget our brother's fault and failing,
The yielding to temptations that beset,
That he, perchance, though grief be unavailing,
 cannot forget.

But blessings manifold, past all deserving,
Kind words and helpful deeds, a countless throng,
The fault o'ercome, the rectitude unswerving,
 Let us remember long.

The sacrifice of love, the generous giving,
When friends were few, the hand-clasp warm and strong,
The fragrance of each life of holy living.
 Let us remember long.

Whatever things were good and true and gracious,
Whate'er of right has triumphed over wrong,
What love of God or man has rendered precious,
 Let us remember long.

So, pondering well the lessons it has taught us,
We tenderly may bid the year "Good-by,"
Holding in memory the good it brought us,
 Letting the evil die.

—Susan E. Gammon.

The Awful Responsibility

Sir James Paget, late Surgeon-Extraordinary to Queen Victoria, in one of his addresses to students, uttered the following striking words:

"We sometimes see the beam of life and death so nearly balanced that it turns this way or that, according to the skill that may be cast into the scale of life. And surely, if we could gather into thought all the issues that are involved in the life or death of any man, the anxiety of ignorance at such a time would be intolerable. All is permitted to depend upon the skill of one. Conceive that one yourself: what would be your remorse if, when in their confusion and distress they looked to you, you felt helpless as themselves; your hand paralyzed by the fear of ignorance, your mind confused in that half-knowledge, whose glimmerings only show that more skill might save the dying man!"

Yet this must be the remorse of every one who will neglect the study of his profession, and yet dare to undertake its responsibilities."

If every physician realized the solemn responsibility laid upon him, surely he would study most earnestly to be successful in his life-work in which are involved the issues of life and death. If the responsibility of this temporal life be so great, what shall we say of the responsibility of the Christian teacher; of him who holds in his hand eternal destinies; who may by a word turn souls toward heaven and eternal life, or may lay a stumbling-block over which souls may stumble into eternal death!

And every Christian, even the most humble, is indeed a "savour of life unto life" or "of death unto death," and "who is sufficient for these things?" Not only our own eternal destiny, but the destinies of our friends and even the most casual acquaintances, are in our hands. Christ solemnly warns us that for every idle word, we shall give account in the day of judgment.

May the solemn, the glorious responsibility be realized, be accepted by every one of us, and we enter into the joy of the Lord in the great day when He shall see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied. Oh, in that day when the mists of time and earthly imperfections have vanished, and we see clearly the eternal reality, how worthless, how empty will appear those vain things which fill the minds of men, while the unseen everlasting reality is utterly neglected or made only secondary. In him who would speak the word of eternal life, the King of eternity must reign alone, absolutely, even to the uttermost.

"The last reserve of earthly dross,
Means countless souls' eternal loss."

J. S. WASHBURN.

We are but children, the things that we do
Are as sports of a babe to the Infinite view,
That sees all our weakness, and pities it too.

And oh! when weary, may we be so blest
As to sink, like an innocent child, to our rest,
And feel ourselves clasped to the Infinite breast.

—F. Burge Smith.

"Where Are the Reapers?"

As we draw near to the end of the year, and I take a look back at the advance of the Honan Church, I find that there has been most encouraging progress along most every line. Back in January we called all our workers in to an institute, and at that meeting they consecrated themselves to a more earnest effort to win souls to the truth. We are now glad to look upon the results, as we believe, of that meeting.

At many places the Sabbath school's attendance has been more than doubled, and at every place progress is seen. And as I count up the baptisms for this year, I find that 107 have received this rite, and entered the church; this being more than two and a half times the number of last year.

Many little companies have been started in new places, there being a total of eight such new places this year. This does not include four or five places where there are companies of new Sabbath keepers in the three provinces to the north and west of us. Thus we see many new lights bursting forth, not only throughout the darkness of this Province, but also in the dense darkness of new places which have not yet received this message. These lights, though they are faint at first, become stronger and brighter as we have time to fan the flame. I doubt not that these small flames in the Provinces of Shensi, Shansi, and Chihli could be fanned into fires that would sweep these countries with the message and win many souls to the truth. Now is the opportunity. Where are the workmen?

Three men from Shensi were baptized at our Honan meeting, and they go back to the hundreds they know with their hearts stirred by the truth. Where are the shepherds who are to lead these new flocks that will be coming into the fold within the next few years.

At our Honan general meeting 250 believers were in daily attendance, our accommodations not being nearly enough to care for them properly. There was a new spirit in their hearts, making them more liberal than before. The donations at this meeting, including pledges for our new church building, amounted to over \$500 Mex.

I am thankful that we can see the beginning of a movement that is soon to sweep these central-northern provinces with the last message. Who are to be partakers in this movement? As I look still farther back over the last six or seven years of the work in Central China, I find that there were more foreign workers here when the church membership was not fifty, and the Chinese workers not more than twenty. Now the work has increased to the number of 1000 members, and nearly 200 Chinese workers. How much longer is this rate going to continue and the work advance? If God has to do the work alone, He will hold someone accountable for not sharing in the work with Him.

FREDERICK LEE.

Foochow General Meeting

In the latter part of October we held another general meeting for the Foochow section of the Province. We went to Foochow early in the month, but spent a few days in the country at a new station in the village of Sin-chiu. Here we held a short meeting, after which we baptized nine men. There are now fifteen baptized members in that village and two boys' schools conducted by our people, so we will probably organize a church there in the near future.

The Foochow meeting was well attended, having an average attendance of about one hundred and fifty. The Spirit of God was present in power to touch the hearts of the hearers, and when the day set apart for baptism finally arrived there were nineteen who went forward and were buried in the watery grave.

One interesting feature of the meeting was the afternoon when an opportunity was given the people to make pledges toward building the new church and school for Foochow. After a short talk explaining the object of the donation and telling something about how our people at home gave to help carry forward the message to the ends of the world, the people were invited to come forward and make their pledges. One after another they came forward and wrote their pledges for amounts ranging from \$10.00 to \$100.00 Mex. In all about \$600.00 was pledged.

The work in the Foochow section is very encouraging, and we hope by the blessing of God to have a very strong work built up there. We hope our brethren throughout the field will remember this work in their prayers.

W. C. HANKINS.

The Singapore Training School

It gives us all pleasure to know that others think well of our lines of gospel work. The following is the substance of a talk that I had with the School Inspector in Singapore.

When our school was first started an application was made for government recognition. This recognition was granted, and soon the School Inspector came to make his visits. He was very business-like at the first visit, but each time he has been more kindly. On his last visit, during our talk after going through the school, he told me that when the application for recognition was first made, there were several deputations—he did not say from where, but presumably from other mission schools,—asking that the government refuse the application. He said that he had given a favorable report, and that his recommendation had been heeded.

He then went on to say that our school came more nearly to his ideal of a missionary school than any in the city. He said that if he were to start a school for his own denomination, he would carry it out on the lines that we were following. He seems pleased with the teachers and their work.

A man's character is like a fence—it cannot be strengthened by whitewash.

When he left, he shook hands, and said, "Well, Mr. Adams, I wish you luck." While we can not work for the praise of the world, yet it is good to feel that even those who are not of our faith have an interest in our work and policy.

The school enrolment is eighty. Everything is going beautifully. Teachers, students, all are working with a will to accomplish the work in hand. We hope that all the workers will pray that God's blessing may continue to rest on the school as it has in the past, and that it may successfully perform its work of preparing efficient laborers..

K. M. ADAMS.

Central China Notes

Over 130 people have been baptized in Central China during the last two months.

At the present time there are Sabbath keepers and a number of interested people in each of the two northern provinces of Chihli and Shansi. In Shensi Province there are three baptized Sabbath keepers and the best opening for the preaching of the message that has come to my notice at any time since I have been in China. In Kiangsi there is an organized church with fourteen members. There is a large number of interested people in various parts of the Province. And there is not a single foreign worker in any one of these four provinces.

At the Honan fall meeting there were over two hundred in attendance. Forty-four were baptized. Three of this number had come all the way from Sian-fu, the capital of Shensi. One of the three is an ordained Chinese minister, who is the leading minister of several companies of Christians of the Independent Chinese Church. The truth reached these men through the agency of a faithful colporteur from Honan. The largest building we have in Yencheng was far too small to accommodate the crowd, and so seats had to be placed outside the building near the windows and doors. The need of a suitable building for a meeting hall and a school was keenly felt by every one. And when the proposition was presented to those in attendance they responded most liberally. Four hundred thirty dollars in cash and pledges was raised to help in the erection of a combined meeting hall and school building. This will probably be enough to put up the walls, windows and doors of the first story. We encouraged the people with the hope that if they did this much, our faithful people in the homelands would come to the rescue and help us with sufficient funds to complete the building. To appreciate just how big an offering \$430.00 is for the Honan believers, it would be necessary for you to have been present at the meeting and seen the people. Some of them were dressed so plainly that you would seriously question in your minds whether they had ten cash to spare or not. But some of the poorest among them gave as much as four dollars to this enterprise.

I have recently spent ten days in Kiangsi. While there a meeting was held in the capital, Nanchang. Seven were baptized. There are three more who are keeping the Sabbath and fifteen or more who are counted as enquirers. We have a very suitable place for a chapel, and Brother Hwang and his wife are doing faithful work. Following the meeting we took on another man as an evangelist to help Brother Hwang, and also two young men for the colporteur work. We now have five colporteurs at work, and they are getting a large amount of literature into the hands of the people.

The outlook for the future of the work is most encouraging. The Kiangsi people are a very nice people to deal with. In Nanchang I was especially impressed that the people did not have that big "framework" about them that we commonly see on those who live in the capital city of a province.

I must mention one incident that demonstrates that there is a vital power in this message that is not found in the message of any other denomination. There is a well educated man of about thirty who now attends our meetings regularly. He was once a police captain, but after being shot through the chest at the time of the revolution he decided to study Christianity and see if he might not find the Christian's hope. He began attending meetings held in one of the mission chapels in Nanchang. Although he attended their meetings regularly, yet he continued to worship idols. He was not ready to give up his pagan religion for the religion of the Westerner. One day he chanced to pass our chapel, and came in and chatted with the evangelist. After this he attended every meeting held in our little chapel. One day he told Brother Hwang that the things he was now hearing had a definiteness to them, and there was a certainty about the message we preached, that compelled him to get rid of his idols. His wife was bitterly opposed to everything Christian, and would not allow the husband to destroy the idols in the home. One day when the wife was out visiting, this man took a hatchet and made kindling wood of the goddess of mercy; he did not even spare his ancestral tablets. I now have in my possession some of the broken fragments of the idol and the ancestral tablet. This incident has been a great encouragement to the little company of believers in Nanchang.

A. C. SELMON.

Our Sabbath School Work

The Spirit of the Lord has said, "Let us cooperate with the Lord in every line, and set in operation every means whereby the powers of those connected with the Sabbath school may be developed for usefulness." By diligent effort some are heeding this admonition, by training capable men and women for useful service, and through their influence many more will become enlightened as to the soon return of our Lord.

During our general meeting regular services, two hours each day, were conducted, when different topics

ASIATIC DIVISION MISSION NEWS

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY
THE ASIATIC DIVISION MISSION
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

EDITOR: MRS. R. C. PORTER; ASSOC: FLORENCE SHULL
ADDRESS: U. S. BOX 523, SHANGHAI, CHINA

were presented, followed by profitable discussions. Demonstrations in primary work were given in connection with some of the studies, while charts, maps, and other helpful devices were used to create an interest.

The plan of visiting outstations, accompanied by competent native help, to advance the interests of the Sabbath school work is a splendid one, and is being received with favor by some of the leading workers. Institutes are held for the purpose of giving necessary instruction, that the people of these countries may know how to labor more successfully for their own race.

Pamphlets filled with valuable instruction to Sabbath school workers are being translated and printed, which also give black-lined charts showing the progress of the Sabbath school work from the beginning. Eight Picture Rolls will be used in one field during 1916.

It is encouraging that during the third quarter 173 souls coming under the influence of the Sabbath school have been baptized.

Our membership is increasing, and let us not forget that the Lord has said, "It is more blessed to give than than to receive." By donating to the great fund planned by the General Conference we will receive the blessing.

NANNIE L. WOODWARD.

NOTES

The Sabbath school statistical report given in the last issue is for the third quarter 1915.

The stork visited the home of Brother and Sister J. P. Anderson on the 16th of December, and brought them a little girl.

Mr. and Mrs. K. H. Wood, of Shanghai, announce the arrival of a little daughter, Janet Evangeline, to their home on December 18.

News from Hongkong tells us that Mrs. George Harlow is on the way to recovery from her attack of typhoid fever although she is still in the hospital.

Our work in the language school is progressing slowly, but we trust that our advance is sure. The work with the foreign teachers is all that we could ask. —B. A. Meeker.

Brother and Sister R. P. Montgomery left Borneo the last of November, for a year's furlough in America. Their health was quite seriously impaired from their many years of labor in that trying tropical climate, and they were much in need of rest. We trust they may obtain the relief sought for, and may later return to their work in Borneo.

The news has doubtless already reached all our readers of the call of Pastor C. M. Snow, of Washington, D. C., to Australia. Brother Snow has been for many years connected with our publishing houses in the States, and has for the last nine years been associated in editorial work on the *Review and Herald*. He goes to assume the editorship of the Australian *Signs of the Times*.

We have been holding this issue open till the last minute hoping for a report from Sister Porter regarding proceedings at the General Conference Council, but as the mail on which we expect her letter has been delayed in arriving, we will give the few items which her last letter (dated November 15) contained, and hope to publish a full report in the next issue. The Asiatic Division retains its name, but has been enlarged to include India and Australasia. Pastor R. C. Porter has been elected president, Pastor J. E. Fulton vice-president and secretary, Brother Henry Barrows treasurer and auditor, Brother C. E. Weak is to have general charge of the book work. The China field has been divided into two divisions—the north and south. Pastor C. W. Flaiz has been invited to take the supervision of the south division. Pastor R. F. Cottrell was chosen superintendent of the north division, and Brother C. N. Woodward secretary-treasurer. South America has been organized into a Division, with Pastor O. O. Montgomery as president.

It is with extreme sadness of heart that we record the death of Brother C. C. Hall, of Tokyo, Japan. His wife had but a week previous, at a hospital in Tokyo, given birth to a little child, who died at birth, and Brother Hall was caring for the two older children at home, and going daily to visit his wife. No one knew that he was ill until one day when he did not appear at the office as usual, and one of the members of the mission compound found him sick in bed at home. A doctor was immediately sent for, and Brother Herbolzheimer telegraphed for from Yokohoma to care for him. A severe cold developed into pneumonia, and for two or three days his fever ran high. On Sunday, December 19, the fever had diminished, and he was thought to be near to recovery. That night, however, his heart began to show signs of weakness, but treatments by the doctor and nurse seemed to relieve him. At midnight he began to show signs again of heart failure. The doctor was sent for immediately, and he and two nurses worked over him for three hours, but he did not rally, and the crisis came about 4:30, when he suddenly passed away. Sister Hall, who was still at the hospital, and had not seen her husband for five days, was brought home in a taxicab that afternoon. She is prostrated with grief, but is sustained by the hope of seeing her husband soon again. Death truly is a cruel monster who reaps with relentless hand, but we are cheered by the assurance that this enemy will ere long be destroyed. We are sure that the prayers of all our workers will ascend in behalf of Sister Hall, that she may be sustained and strengthened in this hour of severe trial.