

MISSIONS QUARTERLY EXTRA

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Thirteenth Sabbath Offering December 29, 1917

Overflow Extra!

for

The Publishing Work

in

India, Malaysia, China, Philippines,
Korea, Japan

“Everywhere Fields are Open, Calling for
Us to Come with the Printed Page.”

\$50,000 NEEDED IN 1918

The Missions Quarterly Extra

This is an eleventh-hour effort to set before our people the latest developments in connection with the object of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to be taken December 29.

Sabbath school secretaries, please pass this on to your schools at the earliest possible moment. We must work for the overflow. What is given above thirty thousand dollars will go to the field as a surprise package,--- a Christmas gift of the right kind.

Will not the ministers and other workers who receive this Extra, make the best possible use of it in encouraging and inspiring all our people to make a liberal offering on December 29? This effort should appeal especially to the members of the publishing department, to missionary field secretaries, tract society secretaries, and colporteurs.

An Unusual Situation

SELDOM, if ever, have our Sabbath schools been called upon to relieve so desperate a situation as that which is presented to us in the object of the next Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. There is no need in all our foreign work more urgent, more appealing, than for literature to be provided for the nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples in the Asiatic Division. Native believers are waiting with outstretched hands for the truth-filled papers, books, and leaflets which they can so easily sell to the millions who must hear this truth before the work can be finished. There is in some of these places a veritable famine—a famine for the printed message of the third angel. One might think that the real difficulty would be to get the literature carried to the homes of the millions in these lands, but, no, the problem now is to get the message printed.

Imagine the tenseness of a meeting like this: The superintendents of these far-away mission fields assemble at a central point with two or three of the leading General Conference visiting brethren. Each man has brought from his field his budget of items with the approximate cost—so much for the wage of workers, so much for the maintenance of the work already started, so much for the absolute necessities, so much to fit out the little printing plant, that willing, faithful colporteurs need not quit their work for lack of the printed page. Each man, in accordance with instructions from headquarters, has already pared his budget of items and costs down to the quick. The columns are added. The totals are brought together. The grand total for the whole field is staggering. It is far beyond the amount that can be counted on as coming from us to the mission fields.

What can be done? — Only one thing. Items in the budget must be cut down. Again the lists are gone over. And with every stroke of the pencil each heart grows heavier.

A superintendent of one of the fields rises and asks, "Brethren, does this mean that we cannot have our little printing plant?"

"That is what it means," is the reply.

And the man who rose sinks back in his seat with a blanched face, tear-dimmed eyes, and a prayer to God for help. Strong men weep with him, but the work of cutting out items from the budgets still goes on.

Now, brethren and sisters, those men *counted* on the Sabbath schools' giving \$30,000 on December 29. But that is *all* they counted on from us. With a burden on my heart such as I have seldom carried, I ask you, Is that all we are going to give? Remember, every dollar given beyond that amount will help put back some item of need in the publishing work which is now stricken from the budget. At the recent council meeting held at Minneapolis, every cord limiting the use of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering was cut, and we can sacrifice to our utmost to swell the offering on December 29 with the assurance that the overflow will be directly used for the specified needs.

How much better than \$30,000 can we do?

MRS. L. FLORA PLUMMER,
Secretary Sabbath School Department.

It's Coming!!

WHAT?
WHEN?

DOLLAR DAY
DECEMBER 29

The Overflow

At the recent autumn council the following question was raised by Mrs. L. Flora Plummer, secretary of the Sabbath School Department:

"Can arrangements be made by which the overflow, above the specific amount called for, shall go on to the field as an extra, above appropriations?"

As a result of the discussion which followed the presentation of this question, the Sabbath School Department was given the "freedom" of the world in soliciting for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. The action taken reads:

"That all the overflow on the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering be devoted to the object set before the schools."

As this action goes into effect at once, not only the \$30,000 which is asked for in the next Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, will go to our struggling mission publishing houses in the Asiatic Division Conference, but also all the overflow which comes in from this offering.

Thrilling Experiences

The remarkable and inspiring incidents of victory and progress in the literature work sent us by our brethren in that division, are convincing evidences that now is the time to place the publishing houses in the Far East in a position where they can supply the great demands made upon them for literature in the vernaculars. In no part of the world and in no branch of the work will money invested bring larger returns or help more in finishing God's work in the earth.

The following thrilling experiences are related by Brother C. E. Weaks in a letter written at Singapore, October 9. Beginning with the work in Malaysia, he says:

"MALAYSIA.—I am now to spend some weeks in this field, and will conduct an institute in the school in Singapore. We have ordered a good supply of the Chinese 'World War,' and hope to have

a canvass of the city carried on by the Chinese students. Before leaving the field I hope to take a short swing up into the Federated Malay States, and then over into Java. This is a wonderful field, and we must get at it with the literature with all our might.

"I note what you say about the probabilities that we will get the printing plant for this field. This is much needed. They paid forty cents gold per copy for the last Sabbath School Quarterlies by having the work done outside. Then it is unsatisfactory to have it done out. We must have a plant, and that soon. No field promises greater returns for the effort put forth. I copy from a letter received today from Brother Munson, editor of our Malay paper:

"I feel that now is our opportunity for the scattering of the literature. Our harvest time is in the future, but it remains for us to sow now, so that we may have a rich harvest in Malaysia. This conviction came over me as we were out recently on our first canvassing trip here in Java. Mrs. Munson and I went out two weeks ago with a bag full of papers and books, and returned empty. Cheribon was our field, and we landed there at noon on Tuesday, worked all of Wednesday, and finished at noon on Thursday. The total of our sales was \$59.48 American currency. I was especially interested to see how the Mohammedan men, *hadjis*, most of them, eagerly bought our paper.' A *hadji* is a pilgrim who has visited Mecca. These men are generally very hard to reach.

"I consider this a wonderful record to make with a little quarterly Malay paper in a Mohammedan field. Just think, 35,000,000 waiting in Java, mostly Mohammedans, and not a colporteur there, so far as I know.

"Brother I. C. Schmidt writes from the same field regarding the great possibilities before us among the Dutch. He uses many English books. On his last two trips out to visit those with whom he studies, he sold fifty copies of 'The World's Crisis,' on the train. The other day, while chang-

ing boats in Sumatra, I worked two and a half hours with the *Signs* and the 'Crisis' books, and took in \$26.80 U. S. currency in cash. It just makes me sick when I think of these great Dutch fields that are going unworked when we have free course, and the colporteurs are even given free passes on the railways. . . .

"KOREA.—Elder C. L. Butterfield writes in high terms about the work in Korea. Subscriptions are rolling in for their paper beyond anything they have ever seen before. Even girls are calling on the magistrates and officials,—a new thing under the sun for Korean girls. He tells of one girl who took fifty subscriptions as a result of a recommendation from a magistrate. Another took forty by the same process. A year ago they had only about five hundred regular subscribers in all Korea. May Korea soon have a leader who can take hold of those thirty workers up there, and assist them in sowing that land knee-deep with the literature now, while we have freedom.

"MANCHURIA.—As you know, we have no man for Manchuria, except as Brother J. G. Gjording, the secretary-treasurer, gets out from the office. He has little time, but recently he made two trips out. A card just received from him says: 'The record for Manchuria in a single house is twenty copies of "Health and Longevity" (a Chinese health book) and five subscriptions. This was in Kirin, where I just spent a few days. Where they took one last year, they wanted five this year.' This is the story coming from every field. I might go on, and on, and on, telling of victories gained in the department, but must not. Everywhere fields are open, calling for us to come with the printed page."

Brother Weaks sends also the following appeal to the General Conference Committee, which presents a graphic picture of the desperate needs of our mission publishing houses in the East:

An Urgent Appeal

“ SHANGHAI, CHINA, Aug. 20, 1917.

“ *To the General Conference Committee.*

“ DEAR BRETHREN: I write you this morning to appeal to you in behalf of our publishing work here in the Asiatic Division Conference. We have reached a time in this department when help must be extended, or we can never meet the demands being made upon us to supply the message in printed form to the waiting millions of Asia.

“ In the past our literature work has been conducted on the basis of yearly appropriations from the homeland to meet deficits. This has meant a heavy yearly loss, because of the fact that the literature was placed at a low figure and was then practically given to the colporteurs. Going back still farther, the men were paid a wage aside from being given the literature. When the work was small, and the circulation of literature confined almost wholly to papers and tracts, the loss did not show up in such a marked way; but as the work enlarged, and the papers grew in number and circulation, it was evident to all that we would in time bankrupt the Mission Board unless we changed the basis of operation. For the past few years we have been swinging from this old basis, and now we are getting to the place where the work is either fully or largely self-supporting in several of our fields. To reach this place, we have increased the prices of literature, eliminated salaries to colporteurs, and reduced commissions. We believe that in time every field will have this work on a wholly self-supporting basis.

“ In years past the publishing houses have called for a large appropriation for loss on literature. So action has been taken, placing the wholesale prices of literature at a figure that covers cost of production plus a small per cent of profit. This distributes losses through the field in proportion to the amount used by the local fields. Now the question of self-support is being worked out by the field

force, and they are the ones who should wrestle with this question, due consideration being given, of course, to the question of manufacturing costs, in order that wholesale prices may be kept as low as is consistent with good quality of output. In order to assure ourselves that this side of the question will have proper consideration, we have strengthened the boards of our publishing houses, and have the field represented on these boards.

"The field is giving diligent study to the question of quickly reaching the goal of self-support. As we get experienced leaders to train the men in efficiency, we can make rapid headway in this direction. We are finding it possible, when the colporteurs are thoroughly trained, to get good prices from the public. Along with our houses in the homeland, our institutions out here have been hit hard by the high cost of raw materials. Heretofore the fact that Japan has produced much paper, has served to keep prices somewhere near the American prices, though we have found it cheaper much of the time to import from America.

"Now comes the word that Japan has exhausted her pulp supply that she has been getting from abroad, and that she cannot supply the trade as heretofore. Immediate sudden rises in paper prices are predicted. Freight rates are continually going up, which means that American paper will soar higher and higher. These conditions have made it necessary for us to keep wholesale prices well up. The field has done nobly to make the headway that it has made. In order to assist in meeting the situation, the entire China field took action some months ago to reduce commissions to colporteurs to forty per cent, whether selling books or papers. Imagine such a move as this in America! Yet these boys are facing it in a field where but five per cent of the population read.

"Now what we are asking for is an operating fund for our various houses. While the present plan, when carefully adhered to, provides against loss to the houses as regards their output, it does not provide them with funds with which to produce

books. When our work was largely made up of paper business, turnovers were rapid and a small amount of money went a long way. Now we are launching out into the subscription-book field, and you brethren realize that it takes capital to produce books. These houses do not have this capital.

“Manila, for example, has brought out books in four languages within the last few months. Recently they have brought out ‘After Death’ in Tagalog, and during the next few weeks ‘The World War’ and a fair-sized medical book will come out in the same language. Aside from a small advance made by the Mission Board to meet the emergency, Manila has scarcely a dollar upon which to operate, excepting as it is taken from other funds. This cripples the mission in other lines, and we must not continue to do this, but instead the Manila house must be given a fund which will enable it to handle itself.

“The Shanghai house is running early and late to meet the demands being made upon it. Yesterday we had a board meeting, and the following were a few of the items brought before us:

“Twenty-five thousand Chinese Harvest Ingathering papers must be ready by October, just a little over a month.

“Ten thousand ‘World War,’ to be out in two or three weeks.

“One hundred thousand (or more) Sabbath Calendars to be ready in thirty days.

“Forty-five-hundred edition of Dr. Selmon’s medical book, just nearing completion. This is the third edition of this book in little more than twelve months.

“‘Coming King’ must soon be ready to rush through the shop. Manuscript to be ready in four weeks.

“The regular monthly *Signs*, 40,000 to 60,000 must be turned out.

“Then aside from all this heavy work, there are a number of smaller pamphlets and tracts that must be ready within six weeks.

“These figures may sound rather small when compared with what our American houses turn out monthly, yet when we consider the fact that we have a plant here that must turn out this large volume of business with practically no working fund, it is a real problem, I assure you. At times we cannot pay either Chinese or American workers until pay day is far past. We have almost lost our credit at times with houses in the city from which we have ordered materials. A Chinese brother who works in the shop, who has a little means, has advanced as high as eight hundred dollars to the shop in order that stamps could be purchased with which to send out the monthly issues of the paper. The press still owes the Division quite a large sum that has been advanced in order for it to keep its doors open.

“In view of the rapidly growing work, we must do something to meet the situation. You brethren have had sufficient experience to enable you to realize that our publishing plants do need capital. We must not borrow in mission fields in order to keep our work going. We must not introduce liabilities into the operating of our publishing work out here. And yet, aside from the Australian house, I do not think we have a combined operating fund of \$10,000, figuring in Japan, Korea, China, the Philippines, and India. This situation must be remedied or the work will suffer and suffer greatly.

“The various fields are looking to the publishing work as their door of hope for placing their schools on a self-supporting basis. The scholarship plan has been put into operation, and the Japan school has closed its doors for a year in order that the young men may have ample time in which to earn scholarships. These boys must have books.

“Malaysia has always depended upon outside houses for getting her printing done. The time has come for the starting of a small plant of our own in the city of Singapore. Malaysia asks for the modest sum of \$8,000 for this purpose. This is to supply land, building, and equipment. This

plant will serve a field containing 60,000,000 people. Can we ask them to start with less? They promise to raise in their field from Harvest Ingathering work \$2,000 for a working capital.

“The Asiatic Division, with a population of more than half the world, is asking for \$30,000 for 1918, this amount to be distributed among its various houses of publication, to be used as a working capital. Do you consider this too much when we have the task of producing literature in so many languages? India alone is producing regular magazines in ten different languages. We have an army of self-supporting colporteurs going to the dark corners of Asia. We must keep their arms filled with the printed page.”

We are all rejoicing that at the recent autumn council the North American Division voted to appropriate \$8,000 to Malaysia for their new publishing plant. Also \$25,000 was appropriated to the Asiatic Division to provide an operating fund for each of the six mission publishing houses in China, India, the Philippines, Malaysia, Korea, and Japan. This will greatly rejoice the hearts of the workers in those lands, but it is only a beginning. Any one of those fields could easily use the entire appropriation that has been made, and still have need for more. We are glad that the opportunity is now offered to give them more in the overflow of the next Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. All that is received above the \$30,000 asked for, will go into this overflow to help these publishing houses in their future work. Some of the workers have already set the mark at \$20,000 for the overflow. Shall we not make this the goal, and work for it?

A story is told of a stagecoach driver who carried first-, second-, and third-class passengers in the same coach. The passengers inquired how it was that he had these different classes when they all rode together. He told them to wait and they would see. When they came to a steep hill, he announced, “First-class passengers please keep your seats; second-class get out and walk; third-

class get out and push." Let us each take a third-class passage in this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering coach, and push every pound possible. There is room for all.

N. Z. TOWN.

The Beginning of the Printing Work in China

H. W. MILLER, M. D.

IN the winter of 1902-03, while under conviction of a duty to go to China as a missionary, I received a few selections of familiar hymns that had been translated into Chinese. The words were carved on wooden blocks and printed by the method of printing which has been used in China for centuries,—that of painting the blocks with lampblack, and pressing the paper upon them. This gives a copy oftentimes indistinct, yet these sheets, when folded and bound in book form, become one of the treasures in the library of a Chinese Christian.

With this copy of our first Seventh-day Adventist publication in Chinese, came a very urgent appeal from Elder E. Pilquist, the only Seventh-day Adventist then located in Central China, that we come to that field and bring with us a small printing press which could be used for the publication of much-needed literature to circulate among the Chinese. The more I studied that poorly printed booklet, the stronger became my desire to respond to his appeal.

Since there were no funds available for a printing press, it was our privilege to seek the Lord in prayer, that some heart might respond and give us money for this purpose. I ventured to call upon some of the printing supply houses in Chicago for such a donation, and was finally referred to Barnhart Bros. & Spindler. When this firm heard of our purpose in going to China, and of what we desired to accomplish, they decided to give us the press and also to furnish some supplies with it.

About two months after reaching China, two

heavy boxes arrived at Hankow, filled with their gift—the first printing press for our work in China. This was moved to the railway freight station, and placed on the cars. I personally accompanied it from the wharf to our mission station in Honan. We met many difficulties in transporting these weighty boxes. They were too heavy for a wheelbarrow, so we placed them on a raft, and finally transported them to a house-boat, where, after a two weeks' journey inland, we unpacked them at our mission station.

The difficulties of transportation were the least we had to surmount. We had no printer. We called for one, but received no response. We had only a smattering of the language; however, we succeeded in translating a few short talks covering very simply the subject of the gospel,—the attributes of God and the plan of salvation. We ordered type from Japan, and made some type cases to contain a font of thirty-five hundred characters. The wood had to be sawed out of seasoned slabs that had been set apart for making heavy coffins, so it was several weeks before we had sufficient cases to hold our type. These boxes had to be labeled with the characters contained in them, and the type then distributed. In collecting our type we occasionally found characters missing. As it would take nearly two months to secure these from a dealer, we tested the ingenuity of the Chinese in making wooden type, carved the same size as the metal type. With this wooden type we had many perplexities when tightening up our forms.

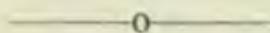
After our make-ready, came the inking of our board, which we had made by flattening out a piece of stovepipe. As it was winter, the ink was stiff. We tried building a fire underneath the ink board, but when applied to the type, the ink would soon cool. It was impossible to warm a Chinese printing office in a native house, which was the only room available for our work. After many experiments we decided to try thinning the ink. I went to my stock of drugs, and finally discovered that castor oil was a splendid remedy for this difficulty. Little

by little we developed our work, learning things there in inland China much as men had had to learn them in developing the art of printing in its beginning. Finally we were able to print a paper every month, now called the *Signs of the Times*.

There were but few workers to circulate this paper when it was off the press, so our office force went out with it. By that means we learned to some extent the topics in which the Chinese were interested. In our first paper we tried to interest them in patriotism, but we learned that the Chinese had no patriotism; they were much more interested in religion and in things pertaining to the gospel. So today we sell our Chinese literature as we did at the first, because of its religious and doctrinal truths.

From this small beginning our work grew rapidly. We moved to a larger office, and finally to Shanghai. Then our printing plant was burned to the ground. Our little press passed through the fire, but it is still being used as a proof press in Shanghai.

Though attended all the way with great difficulties, we feel that the effort put forth has been the means of great good in furthering our work in heathen China. We do not regret the hours of patient labor or the expenditure of means required to start this work. We trust that the liberality of our people may measure up to the great opportunities of the printing work and its needs in China today.



A CERTAIN rich man did not approve of foreign missions. One Sunday at church, when the collection was being taken for missions, the collector approached him and held out the plate. The rich man shook his head, "I never give to missions," he whispered. "Then take some out of the plate, sir," whispered the collector, "the money is for the heathen."—*Selected*.

A Striking Comparison

The combined resources of the Review and Herald Publishing Association, the Pacific Press Publishing Association, and the Southern Publishing Association, amount to \$976,000. Including the Northern Latin American Fields, which are served by the Pacific Press, these publishing houses supply a population of approximately one hundred fifty millions.

Our five mission publishing houses in India, China, Korea, Japan, and the Philippine Islands have total resources of only \$58,600. But they have in those fields a population of over eight hundred million to supply with our literature. Ought they not to have a large increase in resources?