

NEWS LETTER FOR THE ASIATIC

DIVISION

Volume 1

Shanghai, Jan. 1, 1913

Letter VIII

To all the readers of the News Letter, and especially to those in the fields comprising the Asiatic Division, we extend cordial greetings for a happy and prosperous New Year.

May unflinching zeal and unceasing devotion mark the daily lives of those who have left all to follow their Master into these distant and difficult fields, and may a blessed harvest of souls be gathered out during the months of 1913.

China

Change Of Address

The offices and plant of the China Union Mission and Signs of the Times Publishing House have now been moved from their former location at P731 and P600 Pao Shing Li, North Honan Road Extension, to their new location in the Eastern District, Shanghai.

All mail from points in China, Japan, or Korea, for any one connected with the mission or publishing house, should now be addressed to Corner Ward and Lahore Roads, Shanghai. The Chinese post-office makes deliveries to this address every day, and all mail addressed in this manner will be delivered, and receive prompt attention.

The address for mail from the United States or the Philippines remains as before, --Box 523 United States Postal Agency, Shanghai. Mail from the East Indies or other places where International Postal Union rates apply may be sent to either of the foregoing addresses.

We have given notice of the change to the Chinese post-office here, and will try to look after all mail already sent, and hope there will be no serious delays. If the directions given above are heeded, all will be well in the future.

C. N. W.

Orders For Literature

Previous to last January all orders for literature had been handled for some time by the Signs of the Times Publishing House; but after our general meeting it was thought that a saving of work in the office, and of time in getting out the goods and bills, might be made by having the English literature and all Chinese literature purchased in the city handled by the mission, and this has been done to the present time. At the recent meeting of the committee it was thought best to return this business to the Signs of the Times Publishing House. After January 1, 1913, therefore, all orders for literature of every sort should be sent to the publishing house. This includes all books, tracts, papers, or Bibles, in either the Chinese or English languages. The orders will be received and given attention by Brother W E Gillis, superintendent of the printing-plant.

C. N. W.

Freight Rebates

At the recent meeting of the committee definite action was taken concerning the matter of freight rebates to workers in the China Union Mission, the following being a summary of the action taken:--

As there seemed to have been a misunderstanding on the part of some one, and many of the workers had ordered goods from the United States with the understanding that the freight would be remitted to them, to be borne either by the mission or the General Conference, it was voted that on all goods ordered before the time of this meeting (November 15) freight would be rebated. This includes freight, export packing, marine insurance, and customs duties.

On all goods ordered since that date the expense of freight and other charges must be borne by the purchaser. There is one exception to this rule. For those who live in the interior, where it is hard to get the necessities or comforts of life, the mission will pay the freight and customs charges from the nearest port of entry to them to the place where they live.

If any laborer has freight bills due previous to November 15, we would be glad to have them sent in as early as possible, so they can be included in 1912 work.

C. N. W.

Writing from Changsha, November 29, two days after his return from Shanghai, Brother R F Cottrell says:--

"On my return to Changsha, I found Brother Lillie and family and Mrs Cottrell usually well. Our canvassing work is going much more easily than it seems to be in Honan and Hupeh. Excellent reports are coming in from our out-stations. About fifty are reported as desirous of baptism in various places. Am afraid I shall not be able to visit more than one of these places this year, as it is now low water, and the bund and well must be fixed before the Chinese New Year if possible. We have never had the interest in Changsha that we are having at present. The young man that took his stand during our general meeting is coming along splendidly. Twenty or

more students from one of the government schools are attending daily Bible studies at our chapel. The average Sabbath attendance is over fifty, and the women's meetings held on Tuesdays of each week are also well attended. Our brethren and sisters in this province never manifested more zeal and enthusiasm in the work than at present."

Brother and Sister K H Wood arrived in China December 17, after a somewhat stormy voyage. They spent a few days in Shanghai, visiting the new headquarters, etc., and left on the evening of the twenty-first for Nanking, where they will enter upon the study of the language.

From Canton, Elder I H Evans writes: "To-day (December 7) we had a most remarkable meeting, and all in the audience gave themselves to God. Several heathen spoke for the first time. One man, who had formerly worked for us, but who had gone into the revolution and trained soldiers, wept so he could hardly speak when he bore testimony. The brethren say this was the best meeting ever held by us in Canton."

From Chowkiakow, December 1, Brother F A Allum writes as follows:--

"I arrived safely at Chowkiakow last Monday afternoon, about four o'clock, and found everything going along as usual. The land deal at Yencheng seems to be all right, at least the mandarin has accepted the fees for the sale, and has issued us an official receipt in the name of the mission for the same. The deed itself has been sent to Kai Feng Fu to be stamped; we understand it will be returned in a few days. I do not see how there can be any trouble, as the mandarin has accepted the fees, which are usually paid when a sale of land takes place. It will be impossible for us to build at Yencheng before the winter, as it is now quite cold up here; and if we were able to begin operations right away, I am afraid we would not be able to get through before the very cold weather sets in.

"While in Hankow, in company with Elder Cottrell, Brother Lee, and Dr Larson, we made quite an extended search for land for our intended headquarters there. In all we looked at six or seven blocks, and we have two blocks that we think splendid sites for our homes. They are situated on a good, well-laid road, about seventeen minutes' drive from the British concession, and near the Canton Hospital, which is a foreign-built institution. Land in this locality will increase in price every year, as the native city will undoubtedly extend in this direction. The piece that we are desirous of obtaining contains two hundred forty fang, plenty of land for three houses.

"Next week I plan to go to Shang Tsai Hsien to hold a seven days' meeting, and the week following we expect to hold a similar meeting in the Chien Mao Lu district."

The Work In Shanghai

A good interest continues to be manifested in the neighborhood of the Shanghai chapels, and requests for Bible readings are coming in continually. Sister Miller reports a lively interest among the women, and many are anxious to learn the truth.

On Dec. 5, 1912, a baptismal service was held in the Honan Road chapel, Dr A C Selmon administering the rite to four women, one of whom was eighty-one years of age. These women were all converted from heathenism, and manifest a true change of heart and an undivided purpose to serve the Lord in spite of trials and persecutions. One of the young women has taken a decided stand, against the opposition of her whole family, who are bitterly persecuting her and doing their best to get her to join another church. When this sister came to us, she was literally loaded with jewelry, as her people are well-to-do; but now she has willingly taken off all her adornments, including her wedding ring. This also has brought persecution upon her.

The week of prayer this year proved to be a blessed occasion to the Chinese brethren, it being the first year that the Readings have been translated into Chinese. The meetings were carried on the same as in the home land, a speaker being chosen to lead out with the reading, and this being followed by a season of earnest prayer. A rich blessing was received by all in attendance, and on the closing Sabbath about thirty dollars was donated for the annual offering, the Chinese brethren expressing their desire to have a part in the spreading of the third angel's message.

F. E. Stafford.

The School At Nanking

Since our last report to the News Letter, two months of school work have passed. As this work is practically new to most of us, we have found these to be busy weeks; but the Lord has blessed us very much in our work.

Without exception the students seem to be enjoying their studies. In our Friday night meetings and in our personal conversation with them, they bear testimony that they are receiving many blessings from the Lord. Especially do they enjoy the different lines of Bible study, on the Life of Christ, Old Testament History, Bible Doctrines, Daniel and Revelation, etc. A special class is being conducted for those who are preparing soon to enter active service, with the endeavor to lead them to sense the need of a personal preparation and to conform to God's plan of organization and work.

A few of our students have been somewhat hindered on account of sickness, one having undergone at the hospital one severe and a second minor operation for appendicitis. We are trusting that he will soon be fully recovered.

By the time another News Letter reaches its readers, we hope arrangements for the purchase of land for the school will be well under headway. We ask that all will unite with us in seeking for God's guidance in this matter, and in the daily work of the school, that his will may be carried out and many workers prepared to enter his service.

O. A. Hall.

The following is taken from a letter from Dr A G Larson, written at Hankow, December 1:--

"We are all as usual at Hankow, and are thankful for what the committee at Shanghai did for us. As yet we have not bought the land, but are working on three or four pieces, trying to get the price down within the limit of the allowance, and still have enough land for three houses. About two weeks ago I was at Hsiaogan and Changdjangpoo for a few days. At Hsiaogan the interest is quite good. Fang Sien Seng was holding a Bible study every night with the inquirers on the life of Christ, an hour or so before the evening meeting. These came regularly every night, rain or shine. A number of them are keeping the Sabbath now. At Changdjangpoo the interest was not so good, the weather being cold, and the chapel is on the outskirts of the town. Nevertheless quite a number came to the dispensary."

Brother S G White writes that Mrs White is getting along nicely, and is able to attend to her regular duties.

The girls' school at Chowkiakow has recently been re-opened, with thirty-two women and girls in attendance.

On Sabbath, December 7, Brother and Sister F E Stafford had the happiness of welcoming a little daughter, Frances Eleanor, to their home. The little one and her mother are getting along nicely.

The ten days from December 8 to 17 were very busy ones for the workers in the mission press, at Shanghai. All the presses and other machinery, the office fixtures, etc., etc., were moved to the new headquarters at Yangtzeppoo. During the first few days the weather conditions were ideal, and this greatly facilitated matters. Two of the foreign families are already living at the mission property, and two more expect to be settled there by the first of the year.

After six weeks in the language school at Nanking, Brother S G White has the following to say concerning the advantages to be gained in this school:--

"1. Being away from home, the student has no interruption nor cares while studying. This means much, especially to those who have families.

"2. Competition. Students are attending the language school who have just finished college courses, and some who hold university degrees; therefore one has to do his best in order to keep up with those who come fresh from study.

"3. Lectures. Persons who have been in China for many years give the students occasional lectures, which seem to be practical, and which lighten the load and light the path.

"4. Foreign instruction. Three foreign teachers devote considerable of their time systematically to teaching. The ones who give instruction have had experience, some of them for twenty-five years here. This enables the student to work intelligently from the start.

"5. Rotation of teachers, or better, of students. The individual study rooms are about 10 x 12 feet in size. These are numbered, and open into a large room on two sides. While the teacher remains in the same room week after week, the students move each Monday to the room next higher. If one has an inferior teacher this week, it is consoling to know that a good one is in the room above his. Another advantage of this system is that the teacher does not become acquainted to any extent with the student's failings; and if he has faults or peculiarities, the student does not absorb them.

"6. Inspection of teachers. At the head of the corps of Chinese teachers is an experienced Chinese teacher, who has traveled over China considerably, and is therefore acquainted with the different dialects, and qualified to correct errors and give special instruction. This man visits the study rooms frequently during the day, and if the teacher is not checking up and correcting the student's mistakes, tones, or pronunciation, he is instructed forthwith. Besides this Chinese head teacher, we have daily visits from the three foreign instructors. Only one who is learning the language can appreciate what a help this is, especially at the start.

"7. Poor teachers dismissed. After teachers have been given a fair trial, and prove to be lazy or incompetent, they are dismissed at the end of the month, and others are employed. Thus the Chinese teaching force is kept up to a high standard.

"8. Some attention is given to physical exercise in the middle of both the forenoon and afternoon sessions.

"9. Association with missionary students.

"This school will be crowded full next year. Some missions have been refused this year on account of lack of room, and should we have any who will take up the study of the language at that time, application should be made very early. It seems to be the consensus of opinion that students do better in a month in this school, than alone in six weeks or two months."

Devil-Possession In Honan

During the past summer we witnessed some cases of genuine devil-possession and worship here in Chowkiakow, as well as in the surrounding villages and cities we passed through or visited. We are told that this was the first time in ten or twelve years that the Chinese have had this particular ceremony. Very little rain had fallen all summer, and it was impossible to prepare the ground for the wheat crop; so at last the people decided to hurry their gods. Here in Chowkiakow, one tent was erected right in front of the compound where we have been conducting our girls' school, and where some of our workers live, but upon our request, it was moved a little to one side. This was only one of five or six similar places in this city. Men were hired to beat drums and bang great brass gongs in front of a table full of gods, with the hope that the spirit would soon leave one of the gods and possess some individual. This man was then a living god, and was supposed to have the power to make it rain. Some days a number of men would lie on benches in

front of the gods and the men beating the drums, waiting for the spirits to control them.

After seven days of drumming and banging, a spirit got possession of a man, and threw him down trembling, but the man was not wholly under its influence. Over a hundred gun shots were fired, and fire-crackers were set off for over two hours, in the endeavor to get the man wholly under the influence of the spirit, but without success. After ten days, however, five men were completely controlled by the spirits. Great processions were made in their honor, large numbers of fire-crackers were exploded, and incense was burned before them. The drums had to be continually beaten, or else the man would come out from under the influence of the spirit. The more noise there is, the more complete the possession. One Sabbath, just as we had completed our Sabbath-school lesson on the Work of the Evil Angels, the first of these possessed persons passed our door in a procession. Our lesson had been very opportune. There was no mistaking by whom he was possessed. The terrible expression of his face, the convulsive movements, the sound of his voice, all showed too plainly the influence of the evil one.

We afterward witnessed a great many such processions, sometimes five or six men being possessed at a time. These men were carried through the street sitting in chairs supported on the shoulders of men. In some of these chairs great knives were arranged, such as the Chinese use to cut straw in preparing feed for their animals. The men sat on the sharp edges of two of these knives, with their bare feet resting on two more, and each arm resting on a knife. Every little while the procession paused, and the men would get down from the chairs, and perform various feats, such as walking bare-footed on red-hot irons, handling red-hot iron bars, etc., without being hurt. We were told that some could wash their faces in boiling oil without feeling pain.

Some stayed under this influence for about half an hour, while others would be possessed for several hours, great crowds gathering to watch them. When the spirit was about to leave them, the men would suddenly stiffen out. Some would vomit dreadfully, so that their lives would almost be despaired of. Once a person has been possessed, he is never so strong-minded as before, and it is easy to get him under the control of the spirits a second time. Previously we had supposed that devil-possession and insanity were practically the same; but we are convinced they are altogether different. A mad person could not do the things those who are possessed of devils can do.

These people are very persistent in calling on their gods to send their spirit into some of their number, sometimes spending a whole month beating their gongs before they succeed. What a lesson for us who need the Spirit's power in our work so much! These people are willing to yield their bodies to the control of Satan in order that they may gain a few strings of cash. How much more willing should we be to yield ourselves completely to the control of the Spirit of God in order that we may gain a few souls for his kingdom!

Eva Allum.

Japan

Dr Noma is opening up work in Osaka, and expects to have treatment-rooms ready for operation by the first of January. She will visit this place once a week, for consultation and advice.

Brother J N Herboltzheimer writes that Dr Noma's two-year-old boy has been very ill with pneumonia, but through the goodness of Him who ever cares for the little ones, he is getting better.

Good meetings are reported from Kobe for the week of prayer. For a few days preceding this prayer season, the believers met every evening at five o'clock for special prayer and searching of heart. This is believed to have had much to do with the good meetings held during the week of prayer.

Brother H Kuniya writes from Kagoshima, Japan, November 27, as follows:—

"I have been hard at work getting ready for public preaching, which was begun the ninth of this month. We secured a nice house on the main street, and have arranged it so the people can come in without taking off their geta (wooden clogs). When the weather is not cold, we have a good attendance. Lately one gentleman who used to belong to another church has taken an interest in the message, and from last Sabbath decided to join our church. His wife is also studying the Bible every other day. An army physician, who lives in the back of the meeting hall, is interested in the water treatments. He and his family attend the meetings often, and I am giving Bible readings to them. There are a number who listen to the truth, but their minds are darkened so that they can not see God's promises. However, if we sow the gospel seed faithfully, sometime it will spring up and bear fruit.

"In the place where we held tent-meetings last summer, one young man is waiting for baptism. He is in rather a hard position. Nearly the whole town is Buddhist, and his mother is persecuting him; but so far he has not yielded. Three others are also deeply interested.

"Mrs Kuniya has returned from Kobe, and we are now keeping house. She is not well, and still goes to the hospital every day. Had I known her condition, I would have kept her in the Eisei-in, but she greatly desired to come home. Now she will stay here this winter, and next spring I think she must go back to Kobe. She did a good work while she was staying in the sanitarium. Seven souls were baptized by Elder DeVinney, five of them patients. One of those baptized promised that she would devote her life to the cause. She desires to spread the 'blessed hope' among our fellow men. I am very well, as usual, and thank the Lord for health and strength to use in his cause."

A later letter says that still others are interested in the message, among them two women with several little children to care for. Another woman, stricken with a mortal disease, confessed her sins, found peace in the Saviour, and died in hope. This woman's husband has now expressed a desire to hear the truth.

Concerning the blessing received during the week of prayer at Kagoshima, Brother Kuniya says: "We closed the week of prayer with a great blessing for every one. Indeed those readings were timely food for us. We felt the power of the Holy Spirit, and had a liberal donation."

Korea

Dr Riley Russell writes from Soonan, Chosen, November 27, as follows:--

"I have just spent the greater part of six weeks at Soonan, waiting for the two new arrivals at our station. James Henry Lee is now a big fat baby; and Robert Powell Russell, the last recruit, reached Soonan November 23, evening after the Sabbath. We think they are fine specimens of the genus homo.

"We were glad to meet Elder C L Butterfield, and hear the good reports of the meeting and of the encouraging progress of the message in China. We plan on a special effort in Pyeng Yang this winter, as soon as I can make a round of the churches once more. Some good, healthy additions are coming to us from between Soonan and the place where we had our camp-meeting--Ki Yong. At one place ten miles from Soonan, there are about forty who attend regular Bible studies, and have taken their stand for the truth. We are using the graduating class of students to follow up the work. Kim Ku Hyok, who is in my territory, is doing excellent work; and last week the three canvassers who are working in the north did well. Korea has rapidly changed, and is now like all the rest of the world: only by a house-to-house hunt and personal effort with individuals can souls be won. We have had almost five thousand patients this year so far. Have put in a fomentation tank and bath, and are training three nurses."

Brother C L Butterfield sends the following interesting letter concerning the work in Korea:--

"On my homeward journey from the Shanghai meeting, I had a very rough trip to Dairen, and was certainly glad to see land again. Nearly all on board were sick. On my way to Seoul I stopped two days at Soonan, and while there had the privilege of greeting another new recruit to Korea--Robert Russell, youngest son of Dr and Sister Russell. The work in Soonan is progressing nicely. There is a good spirit among the students, and all seem to have a desire to prepare themselves for some place in the Lord's work. Eighteen of the students have taken the canvassers' class, and will spend the two months' vacation selling our new book on Daniel. Brother Oberg, our field agent, is with the canvassers; and now as we have a good book for the people, we hope that our agents will have success in placing it in the hands of the people. The magazine workers are doing well.

"Upon reaching Seoul, I found that our new buildings were almost completed. Brother Frank Mills, our printer, arrived November 29, and has given good service in setting up the press and other machinery, and in getting things settled in general in the office. He is well pleased with our building, but not overly elated with the printing-press that we have to do all our work on.

"The prospects are excellent for a large harvest of souls this winter. Good interests are being reported from all parts of the field. We are now conducting a series of meetings in our new chapel at Seoul. We are surrounded by heathen on every side here, and are anxious to gather out a goodly number to shine as stars in the crown of our Saviour. The Week of Prayer readings were translated into Korean this year, thus enabling our native believers for the first time to receive the benefits of this instruction. While I have no way of knowing at this date the amount of the offering taken throughout the field, yet from the places I have heard from there seems to have been a very good collection. We are all well, and are enjoying our work."

Philippine Islands

The rainy season is in the past, and we have our tent pitched again. The meetings began Tuesday night, November 19, with a good attendance. It seems strange to pitch a tent and open services without going to considerable expense, time, and effort to advertise our meeting. At home, even after giving much thought in preparing matter that would gain the attention of the people, and putting it into their hands, we would go to the first meeting wondering if any one would come. Brother Hills will remember the illuminated banner that we had over our tent, and the half page in the local paper at Redondo, in the meeting that we held together just before coming to the Orient. But with all that very few people came to the meetings. It is disheartening to make a great effort to get the people, and seem to fail to reach them. Conditions are not so here. All that we need to do is to pitch the tent and begin meetings: the attendance will take care of itself. The prospects before this meeting are the best that we have had. We have had two nights of rain, but that did not keep the people away. Not quite so many came, but we had a good attendance. Pray that an abundant harvest may be reaped in this place.

Last Sabbath I visited Malolas again, and in a driving rain baptized three very earnest men. One of them said that he had not had the instruction that the others had had. I suggested that he wait till he be better instructed. With considerable feeling he said, "I want to be baptized now; I am sure that the Lord will give me all the light." As he was able to answer all the questions that I asked him, I was quite willing to baptize him.

The brethren at this place have no worker at present, and we are not able to supply them with the help that they need. They reported to me that there were many others desiring to be baptized, but waiting for instruction. I was glad when they told me how they were doing in the absence of a worker. They meet each Wednesday for prayer at some brother's house, and each one is pledged to pay not less than two centavos each week into a treasury for the purpose of supplying the poor. They have, also, planned to visit one another for the purpose of encouragement, and correction if necessary. As one of their greatest troubles is along the line of a correct dietary, they will go to a brother and eat with him. If he is found doing something that is not right, it will be shown him. This is a noble people.

We have now nearly thirty baptized members there. They have a large Sabbath-school, with a number of young people.

On one of my trips out into the province, I met on the train two show boys, from the States. One of them had asked me a question regarding getting his baggage to the train. Coolies had put it on the train for them and wanted to be paid for it. But the boys, thinking that the railroad company employed these men and that they were trying to get double pay for their services, would not pay them. When they learned how the men were working, one of the boys went out and hunted up the men and paid them. Our train started. I felt impressed that I ought to talk with the boys. Finally I yielded to my impressions, and had a good talk with them. They were both Catholics, and, though young, had been in the show business for some time. During the conversation they said that in their business they had been tempted to drink and gamble, but they had not done it, and did not swear. But they said, "We have one bad habit that we have tried to quit, and that is smoking." They said that they had tried everything that promised them help, but had not found anything to help. I told them of a ~~sure~~ cure, and invited them to my house when they should come back to the city. In brief one of them went to the hospital for an operation when they returned to the city, and the other came out to see me one day. I am glad that he got help to quit smoking. The other day he came here with an Indian boy from Ceylon. He said, "This boy wants to quit smoking and swearing, so I brought him to you." The Indian boy has had a college education. I do not know what the results of this will be, but I trust that I may see fruit of it in eternity.

Elbridge M Adams.

The East Indies

The following letter from Brother Chan, of Singapore, gives some recent developments in the work in Borneo. The letter was written by Brother Chan to his daughter, Mrs C M Lee, of Shanghai:--

"In answer to several urgent calls, I went to Borneo the first part of October. The first Sabbath after my arrival, quite a number closed their doors and kept the Sabbath of Jehovah. Now I want to tell you more fully about these people. The first man that accepted the truth is one Chen En Fook, who is employed by the Land Office of Jesselton, Borneo; his mother-in-law and her four daughters also believe. They are people who are acquainted with the Bible. Among the four daughters two are still in the school of the _____ Mission. When the teachers of the school knew the two girls' family had begun to keep the Sabbath, they used every method to keep them from seeing the truth, so these two girls were misled for some time. The first two nights after I came to Jesselton I made use of the public reading room of the town to give lectures to the public. The first night I presented the second chapter of Daniel, showing that Christ will set up his everlasting kingdom in the very near future; and the second night the four beasts of Daniel 7, showing that the little horn and the prophecies concerning it are fulfilled in the papacy, and calling their attention to the prediction, 'He shall think to change times and laws,' and to the fact that the papacy has sought to change the Sabbath of the commandment. The third night

I was going to open meeting at the same place, but the man in charge, influenced by some one who opposed the truth, would not let me do so. He said they had received a cable from Singapore concerning some important matter for which they would have to use the place to meet with their members.

"It happened just at this time that Mr Chen En Fook's father-in-law, Mr Wong, came from another town on his regular visit to his family. When he was told that I was there, he came to me, and earnestly desired to learn the truth; so I sat down with him to study the precious Word. The study continued till daylight. He wrote down everything I spoke. The following night he came again for more instruction. As his business is in the other town, he was obliged to leave the next day. When he went back, he began to preach to his friends, some of whom are preachers and ministers of other missions. Some accepted the truth. They asked me to go over there, and this I did.

"The same night, one of the ministers asked if I would object to be questioned. I said, 'No harm.' Then he said, 'I was told that you people testify that the pope changed the Sabbath. I am afraid this is your own explanation. Have you any proof?' In answer to this I gave him a long study. Still he was not quite satisfied; so on the morrow he went to the Catholic priest, and asked about the change of the Sabbath. Not only did the priest not deny this fact, but he quoted many proofs to show that the Roman Catholic Church is the only church upon the earth that has power to do this. This convinced the minister that the papacy had done the very thing foretold in Daniel 7. When he came again to Jesselton, Mr Wong related to his family what this man had heard from the priest, and his two daughters, who were wavering, decided to keep the commandments. Both the mother and the daughters are bearing testimony for the truth every day. Whenever the school-teachers or the ministers come to their house to exhort them to keep Sunday, the two daughters give them Bible tracts that they are not able to explain, or ask questions that they are unable to answer. Now instead of their coming to Mr Wong's house, Mrs and the Misses Wong from time to time visit their wives, and exhort them to obey God rather than man. They have good opportunities every day to preach this last message.

"Mrs Wong's father was a minister. One of her brothers is a member of what was the National Academy, under the old regime in China; another is a minister in the Sandwich Islands. Her mother is more than eighty years old, and still working as a Bible worker. Since she accepted the truth, Mrs Wong has sent quite a number of tracts and papers to them. She requested our foreign worker in Singapore to ask our workers in the Sandwich Islands to visit her mother and brother there. When I was in Jesselton, the Misses Wong were doing personal work among their relatives. These two young ladies wish very much to come to Singapore to be trained as workers in the third angel's message.

"Some of the men believers have already resigned their good positions in foreign business concerns, and are doing such work as they can earn their living at, that they may be free to observe the Lord's Sabbath. On Sabbaths they close their shops and post a notice on the door, saying, 'This is Sabbath day. No business done in this shop.' This is a new thing in these towns, as the Sunday-keepers never close their shops. I very earnestly pray that the Lord will bless the seed sown there, and ere long much fruit will be borne to the glory of his name."

From Brother H E Sharp, writing from Pasisir, Cheribon, Java, November 29, we take the following:—

"The Chinese school where we taught has closed, and on Monday next we expect to open a school of our own, with about fifteen pupils in attendance. In order to open this school, we have had to take a larger house and move nearer town, so our expenses are somewhat heavier, and at the same time our income is not quite so large. Naturally, we can not expect to begin with a large school, but we hope to see it grow quickly, and it may be that in time we shall do better than in the Chinese school. There are several reasons for our not being able to get many pupils at this time. This is the rainy season, which keeps a good many indoors. Then, December being the last month of the year, some do not care to begin now, but wait until after the new year."

The Work In Batavia, Java

Last month I visited all the isolated Sabbath-keepers that belong to the church in Batavia. I was glad to find them all of good courage in the Lord. On the same trip I stayed a few days with Brother and Sister Pesch, who were baptized some months ago. Brother Pesch is seventy-six years old, but is strong and is still able to walk for miles. It gave me joy to see these dear friends faithful in their work, and trying to give the message to others. They hold regular Sabbath-school and another meeting afterward, when they read our Malay tracts and "Christ Our Saviour." This book they had read through three times. The result is that Sister Pesch's mother, formerly a Mohammedan, has become a firm believer. So earnest is she, and so desirous for God's special blessing on his holy day, that she makes the Sabbath a day of fasting. How good it is to see one so earnest come out of that terrible darkness! Two others also come to the Sabbath service, but they do not yet obey the truth.

The work here in Batavia is onward. We hold meetings on Sunday and Wednesday nights, and usually have from twenty to forty in attendance. A number of these have started to obey, and others we hope will take this step soon, as we have now begun to present the law and the Sabbath. A Chinese woman, a heathen, who lives close by, comes regularly to the meetings with her children, but her husband is very bitter against religion. The smallest boy, only three years old, sits up in front, and never moves during the service. The dear little boy in his simple way showed his father by example that the right way to worship was to kneel down and pray to God, who is in heaven. "Do not worship those burning sticks," he said, "but throw them away. They can not kasi selamat (give blessing)." When the father sees the little fellow pray the Lord's prayer, he strikes him hard. I hope the children in the home lands will pray for the children here who are anxious to worship God. It is wonderful to see some of these heathen who come with their mouths full of beetle-nut and tobacco, and then in a few months their evil habits are entirely changed, and their countenances are different. Several of our Chinese sisters were slaves of the terrible gambling habit, but the Lord has set them free.

Surely now is the time to work the cities, as the Lord has told his servant. The great troubles of these wicked cities are right before us. Now while the great struggle is going on in Turkey, the

Arabs (hadjás) here are holding meetings, getting ready for a battle against the Christians. When that shall begin in earnest, we know that the end will be very near. Let us work and pray a little longer, while the Lord in his mercy permits us to have peace. My courage was never better, and I never felt more desirous of pressing on to the battle's end. Surely it is near at hand.

P. Tunheim.

GENERAL NEWS

We are sorry to learn that during a recent epidemic of small-pox at South Lancaster Academy, one student has died.

The largest enrollment ever had at Emmanuel Missionary College, Berrien Springs, Mich., is reported for this year. November 14, two hundred eight students were enrolled, as compared with one hundred fifty at the same time last year.

From a letter from Elder W A Spicer, dated November 15, we learn that, after spending a week in Washington, Brother and Sister G F Jones had left for New Mexico. Brother Jones is doing well, and it seems as if he has taken his trouble in hand in time to win out and get well.

The following good word comes from Brother J S Washburn, dated at Memphis, Tenn., October 30: "We have had a good interest in our tent work, which closed last Sunday. Thirty-one have signed the covenant, and others are keeping the sabbath, among them one who was formerly a devout Catholic. It does seem to me that the time has come when the Lord will give us his Spirit to finish his work."

Concerning Anguin College, Brother W C White writes, under date of November 5:--

"Pacific Union College has one hundred forty-three students. Thirty-four of these are in the church-school classes, and one hundred nine are in the academic and collegiate. Sixty are day students, and eighty-three are boarding students. Many of the teachers board in the College Home, and these with the eighty-three students make up a large family.

"Two weeks ago, Mother spoke to the college students, and then we inspected the treasures of the harvest. We found that they were just completing the work of gathering five hundred bushels of apples, and had a crop of fourteen hundred bushels of potatoes. We also found that they had twenty tons of dried prunes in their store-room. A little more than half of these were grown on the college farm. The balance came from orchards near-by, and were dried by the college."

The following is taken from a letter from Elder G A Irwin, mailed from Loma Linda, November 13:--

"We have a number of nice young people here in connection with the medical college, some of whom I feel sure will go to China, and will be able to do excellent service. One of the medical students is living in our family. Her heart is set on China, and two or three times lately she has expressed herself as wishing that she was through with her course, so that she could go to that field. I am sure that she will make a valuable helper. While I myself have reached an age that prohibits my going to a foreign mission field, I have not lost my interest in this work nor in those who are in distant lands."

Concerning the school at Loma Linda, Brother Irwin says:

"The school has an excellent start this year, and a good spirit of harmony prevails among the members of the faculty, and between the faculty and the students. The young people seem determined to do good work, and the teachers are giving them all they can possibly do. We have some rather difficult problems to face just at present, but we feel hopeful that they will work out all right. As you know, the laws relating to medical training are becoming more strict each year; and unless we come up to a certain standard, the physicians graduated from our school will not even be permitted to take the examinations before the State Boards. Our most immediate need seems to be a clinical hospital. We have planned for a building that will accommodate beds for seventy patients, besides the administrative work, and we are hoping to compass the erection of this building by personal donations from individuals. The whole building, equipped and ready for business, will cost us a little upward of twenty thousand dollars.

"Sister White has been here for a few days, and will remain for a week or more. She gave an excellent talk the other day in the chapel to the members of the Board and the heads of departments. Her whole burden was that we were to go ahead, and not only manifest faith in the enterprise and what the Lord had said, but that we were to have courage, even though we meet with opposition. She said the Lord would open the way before us, and this gives us courage to press on."

Brother W C Hankins writes from Sigourney, Iowa, November 7, as follows:--

"As you will see from the heading of this letter, we are now in our home town, and a letter addressed here will always reach us. We are spending as much time as possible in the country, so that Mrs. Hankins may have the best possible chance to pick up. She is beginning to gain a little now, and has a better color, but it has been up-hill work. I am well, and the children look much better than when they returned to this country. They are losing their hold on the Chinese language, however, in spite of all we can do to keep it fresh in their minds, but we think they will soon pick it up again on their return. When attending the camp-meeting at Boone, I talked several times on China. They had already taken up between three and four thousand dollars for the foreign work before we came, but they gave us an opportunity to raise what we could, and we got about two hundred sixty dollars in cash and pledges, besides a forty-acre farm worth about twelve hundred dollars. We visited the Denver, College View, and Boone camp-meetings on our way from Montana, and did what we could.

to interest the people in China. I enjoyed these camp-meetings very much, and also my work among the North Pacific Union meetings. Please give our regards to all the workers in China, and tell them we should be glad to hear from them."

Brother J E Fulton, writing from Wahroonga, N. S. W., November 11, says:--

"You will be pleased to learn that we have had one or two very successful camp-meetings in this field so far this summer. Of course our camp-meeting season has only begun, but we are encouraged with the results seen thus far. At our first meeting, held in Brisbane, Queensland, there were about one hundred fifty present, some of whom had come over seven hundred miles to reach the camp-ground. The spirit of the meeting was good, and the amount raised for home and foreign mission work was about one hundred sixty pounds. At the close of the meeting, twenty-four persons were baptized.

"Following the Queensland meeting, we held one in New South Wales, where there were one hundred twenty-seven tents pitched, occupied by about five hundred of our people. On the two Sabbath days and Sundays this number was nearly doubled by those who came from the surrounding churches. An excellent spirit was manifested throughout the meeting, and the revival efforts on the Sabbaths will be long remembered by those present. On the last Sunday of the meeting, about three hundred pounds was pledged for the carrying forward of the work. Eighty-two persons were baptized. This is the largest number ever baptized at one time in this country. We trust that the remaining meetings of this camp-meeting season may be blessed in like manner."

The following interesting experience of one of our canvassers in New York City is taken from a letter recently written by Brother E R Palmer:--

"A few weeks ago, one of our colporters was selling 'Great Controversy' in New York City. He called on a lady, who purchased a cheap copy of the book, and was so pleased with it that she sent for the agent, and asked that he exchange it for a half-morocco book. He did so, and also took her subscription for the Protestant Magazine for one year. A few days later, the canvasser received a letter from another party, stating that if he would call at a certain number (a room in a very aristocratic compartment house) many orders for 'Great Controversy' would be received. Not having received such a letter as this before, it seemed to him a doubtful proposition, and for some unaccountable reason he paid no attention to it, believing it was a letter from some crank; but as the colporter did not respond, the lady applied to Fleming H Revell & Co., of New York. They sent to the Review and Herald here at Takoma Park, and Brother Ford referred the order back to Brother Graham in New York City. Brother Graham called the canvasser and sent him to this place, where he found that arrangements had been made through a second party. The lady who wanted the books was not at that place, and at first the elevator man would not take the colporter upstairs; but finally, after he showed the letters, the porter took him to the compartment, where he found that arrangements had been made to buy three copies of 'Great Controversy' in half-morocco binding. This lady, who acted for another

person, also said that if he would go to another address, he would find another person interested in the book. He went to that place, and sold six copies in half-morocco for thirty-four dollars."

The following extracts are taken from a letter written by Elder L R Conradi, who with his secretary, Brother Guy Dail, is visiting the mission stations in Egypt, Abyssinia, and German East Africa. The letter was dated at Aden, November 15:--

"As to our first meeting in Italy, we were much pleased to have all the workers present. We enjoyed a good meeting with the brethren, and we can not but say that things look brighter for Italy than ever. Our trip from Brindissi to Alexandria was rather rough, so we were satisfied to keep quiet, and especially the secretary did not feel like writing. We reached Assiout Sabbath morning, and found all the brethren from Syria and Egypt. We stayed with them five days, and employed every moment in close counsel and study. We are glad indeed that our workers are getting hold of the Arabic language, and with it, we can see brighter prospects of success. This is a hard field, but we believe that if the workers master the language, we shall soon see the work advance here. Ere leaving we celebrated the Lord's Supper together. We have given special attention to more Arabic literature, to the development of our canvassing work, and to the extension of the gospel work. A call was made for another ordained minister to take charge of Egypt or Syria, to leave Brother Keough free for Mesopotamia by next spring, as we now have Sabbath-keepers at Mosul and Bagdad, who are calling for help. Our Italian steamer did not reach Suez with Elder Steiner and family on board, till November 3, and it was overcrowded with Italian soldiers. We arrived in Massaua Friday the eighth, and a special train took us with the soldiers to Asmara, so we were at our station that same night.

"We found affairs at Asmara in a perplexing condition. As far as the buildings and the facilities are concerned, none of our missions in Africa have been better and more comfortably equipped, and none have been in closer touch with civilized conditions from the very beginning. Asmara, the capital of the colony, a town of about twenty thousand, has a number of good business buildings, is well lighted by electricity, has direct railroad connection with Massaua, the seaport, is an excellent trade center for the interior of Abyssinia, and has a healthful climate, being at an altitude of about 7,800 feet. We have here seventy acres of good farming land, producing wheat crops valued at four to five hundred dollars annually, besides fine vegetable gardens, which this year have already yielded a hundred dollars' worth of garden truck. Our well is about the best in the neighborhood, and the water is pumped up by the windmill into the garden and to the dwellings. Each of the dwellings has three good rooms and a kitchen, and then there is a special room for the director's office. There are three good school rooms, good stables, wagon sheds, etc.

"During our stay we called on the governor, and had a very interesting talk with him. He told us that recently a high official of the Rumanian Ministry of the Interior had called upon him, and as he saw our station, his attention was called to it, and he informed

the governor that we were really forbidden in Rumania, for refusing service in the army. This gave us an opportunity to state to the governor our true position, and also to mention some other special points of our faith. He told us he would be much pleased to receive some of our literature. In general it is said that he is a friend of the Catholics, but he was very cordial to us, as was also Professor Baltraii, the Secretary of Agriculture.

"Abyssinia, with its ten millions of people, of more than usual energy and ability, is a promising field. If our workers can only keep the greatness of the field in view and realize their responsibility to save souls, we feel that much may be accomplished.

"We left Asmara on the fifteenth, and arrived at Aden today, after a somewhat lively passage. We are grateful to the Lord who has kept us well thus far, given us his blessing, and helped us to solve difficulties. We expect to meet Elder Kotz at Mombasa, and reach Victoria Nyanza about December 1."

Postscript

The most important part of a letter is often contained in the postscript. While no such honor is claimed for this note, it is certainly important to the future success of this Letter that all its "contributing editors" shall send in, month by month, from three to five hundred words regarding the progress of the work in the field represented by each. Long dissertations are not needed and can not be used; but brief, terse notes are always welcome.

Remember the News Letter! And let all communications intended for its pages be mailed in time to reach this office by the twentieth of the current month.

All matter for the News Letter should be addressed to the undersigned, Corner Ward and Lahore Roads, Eastern District, Shanghai.

Mrs. I. H. Evans.