

NEWS-LETTER FOR THE ASIATIC

DIVISION

Volume 2

Shanghai, May 1, 1913

Letter II

ASIATIC DIVISION NEWS

Korea

Spirit-Worshippers Burn Their Idols

Through the faithful efforts of one of our lay members in the Seoul church, a family of twelve members gave up spirit-worship, and accepted Jesus as their Saviour. This sister had an experience that helped her to work for others. Her husband was possessed of devils, but through her earnest prayers he was healed and converted, and now five members of that family have been baptized and taken into the church. The sister next went to her friends, with whom she used to go to the devil-worship dances. For three years she begged them to believe, but in vain. These friends were wealthy, and did all they knew to please the spirits. Finally their money was all gone, the spirits had eaten up all, but still they had no peace. The faithful sister called once more, and found them all in trouble. Again she told them about the true God, and what he had done for her family, and finally they decided to give up spirit-worship. The next day all the church-members were called together to go and help put away the idols. They found ancestor tablets, idols of paper, wood, and cloth, dishes with rice offered to one spirit, dishes with water to another spirit, clothes offered to another, etc., everything gathered together into one heap making a load as large as one man could carry. Between the decision to believe and the putting away of everything that pertained to devil-worship just a day and a half intervened. During that time the whole family could neither eat nor sleep, so great was their fear; but when everything was taken out of the house and burned, they all

felt relieved. Although their house was now cleared of everything that belonged to spirit-worship, this was not all. In two other places a long distance from home, were articles which they had dedicated to the devil. These articles were in a special place, locked up, and the key was in the care of a necromancer, who was unwilling to give up either the key or the articles. She and her helpers tried their best to persuade this family to come back to devil-worship. Finally this new believer asked me to come with her to the necromancer's home, and help her. We went the next day, and had to spend much time arguing. Her main objection was that to lose so faithful a spirit-worshiper meant loss of food and clothing for herself. But at last she decided to go with us, and give up the things called for. As it was a long journey, we had a good opportunity to talk; and before we reached the house, she promised to study and get acquainted with the true God. She made no more objections, and gave up all the things, which were also burned. To hear the words of relief spoken by this family really convinced me that they were in earnest, and that they had begun to enjoy the peace of God.

Our church-members promised to call on this new family every day for a month, to sing and pray with them, and teach them the truth. The women will begin to learn to read, and the sons are helping them.

Mimi Scharffenberg.

From a letter written by Miss May Scott, of Soonan, dated March 26, we take the following:--

"Since writing to you, we have had our first graduating exercises. Five boys and one girl were graduated from the courses of study now given in the school. The girl has been doing some teaching in the girls' school, and will continue for a time, and then go to Seoul to act as Elder Butterfield's secretary. Four of the boys enter the work. One will go to Weju to preach, two of the others will teach, and one will stay here to help Mr Lee in language and translation work. We had very simple exercises on the plot of ground in front of the school-house. Elder Butterfield, the magistrate, the principal of the public-school here (the last two named are Japanese), two Koreans, and Mr Lee gave short talks. Besides the giving of diplomas and promotion certificates, and prayer, the boys at the opening sang, 'Jesus is Coming Again,' and the girls at the close sang, 'Sweet Promise, I Will Come Again.' We are now having a few days' vacation, so that the boys can go home and get their spring clothes. The new term opens April 1.

"This morning Dr Russell and Mr Lee left for a short trip among the churches. Mr Lee goes to visit some schools, and Dr Russell to hold an institute."

-----0-----
Japan

From a letter written by Brother T H Okohira, March 18, we take the following:--

"Our school closed on Friday, March 14. All the students are of good courage, and are glad to go out into the field just as they were assigned, two and two. I am very happy to see them off.

During the last two or three months I have been quite busy with my work, especially since Brother Benson left the school. From seven in the morning I was teaching the classes, and this, in addition to the special work for the New Year's number of our paper, kept me quite busy. At the same time also our second son was very ill with pleurisy. However, the Lord gave me strength, and I never missed my work, nor even one day at school. We learned a good lesson through our boy's illness. Our children are usually healthy; none of them had been sick before. We were very thankful for that, but the lesson which we learned is how to sympathize with parents who pass through a similar affliction. One day the little fellow said to me: 'O papa, heal my illness, and rescue me from my painfulness!' Then I told him: 'My boy, that is not my power, but the Lord's.' The poor child cried, and said: 'Yes, yes;' and then I prayed to the Lord, and from the next day his fever was gone, and he felt easy. When he was in pain, I put my hand on his side and prayed, and the Lord relieved him every time; so we learned a precious lesson by his bedside. Romans 8:38 is the truth."

Brother H Kuniya writes as follows, March 24:--

"We are very busy sowing the gospel seed, so that we may reap a good harvest when we start the tent-meeting next May. One of the ladies who recently began to keep the Sabbath is a school-teacher. She teaches in two schools, but arranged to rest on the Sabbath without trouble. She has many good friends in the city, and is telling about her experience, though they do not always like to listen. I hope she will develop into a good worker. We need just such women to train young girls in mission schools. Several ladies who belong to the Dorcas society are interested in the message, and they asked me to give Bible readings at their homes. A few days ago one of them said to me: 'Teacher, why couldn't you visit our home before? I wished to be a Christian. My husband has professed to be a Christian for more than seven years, and I went to church often after we were married, but quit attending in a short time. I valued the Bible the same as other books before, but I did not like to read it, because I could not understand it. Now you explain that Book entirely different to others. Indeed, every word of the Bible is truth--saving-truth.' Her husband is a fine man. He questioned me a great deal concerning Bible subjects, and urged me to teach his wife Christianity. Thus the way is opening for us to enter the homes of the people. We feel the need of the Holy Spirit to win more souls.

"The other day the pastors of the different churches held a convention in the city, and I was invited to attend. I refused once to go, but as several of those whom I know urged me to attend, because some misjudge us, and talk badly about me, calling me 'robber of sheep,' etc., I finally went, taking two young workers with me. Some treated us very friendly, but others did not bow, though we did according to our custom. The meeting was opened after the usual manner, and one of the men talked about 'Evolution and Mystic.' We patiently waited till the close of his discourse. When we were about to say good-by, one of them cried, 'Who has invited Seventh-day Adventist people here? I hate them! I would not sit in the same room with them!' Others answered: 'We did. What is the trouble with you? Are they not gentlemen? Before we hear anything, you should not talk that way. Your motive is not right. Please be still.'

They began to quarrel among themselves, so that we were obliged to leave the place.

"This explains the situation in this city. We are very careful to represent our Saviour in every way, and hope that some day the people will open their eyes to see this last message. Our hall is beginning to be crowded, and soon I shall preach every night in order to hold the interest."

Brother W D Burden, of Tokyo, sends the following, dated March 25:--

"In company with Brother B F Hoffman I spent last Sabbath with the church at Kuji, a place some ninety miles northeast of Tokyo. We found the company of good courage, and going ahead with the work on their house of worship. Though there is less than a score of adults in this company, they have raised three hundred yen toward their church building, and will soon have a comfortable place in which to hold their meetings. One reason for making this trip at this time was to find a place to locate one of our tent companies for this season. There are plenty of places where such work should be done, but the Japanese utilize the ground so carefully that it is often with great difficulty that we can find any place at all. We decided on a place, provided we can get the use of a corner of the public park; but as a general thing such public places can not be had for Christian work. We shall know in a day or two whether we can have the use of it or not."

We are very glad to have the following items from Brother Chas Lake, written April 8:--

"Elder Okohira will leave on the nineteenth, sailing on the 'Tenyo Maru.' I am hoping he will reach Mountain View in time to be a member of the party which will probably have a special car, as they had four years ago. We are glad that he can be a representative from Japan. Our faithful Japanese workers in California will be cheered and helped by counsel that he will be able to give them, and he, in turn, will be greatly helped by coming in close touch with the work in the home land. When he returns, with enthusiasm, we trust our other workers will imbibe the same spirit.

"One of our young men, who is attending the Japanese language school, called at the office since I began writing this letter. I asked him how he scored in the examinations, which were held just before the Easter vacation. He reluctantly drew forth his signed certificate. Here are the figures: Tokuhon (reading of characters-- Chinese and Japanese), 97%; conversation, 95%; grammar, 99.5%; writing of characters, 99%. This student is in earnest, and has the honor of standing at the head of his class. We are pleased of course, for the report has gone out that our missionaries to Japan are somewhat slow in acquiring the language. Surely we can hold our heads up a bit now. The other student in this same class from our mission stands second. So it's 'Hurrah' for us for once.

"Since school closed, our Japanese students have entered the field, some as canvassers, others as tent-workers. Three or four of them will have their first experience at public speaking. Some of these workers give promise of developing into good workers, so we feel quite encouraged over the prospect. Brother Herboltzheimer is getting into the harness at Yokohama, and is enjoying his work. To quite an

extent, Brother Herboltzheimer is self-supporting, as he is sought after by sick people of means, who of course pay for his services. Brother Herboltzheimer is ably assisted by his wife, their hired girl, who sells papers, and two of our young men, one of whom is especially good help.

"Many of our tracts, books, and papers find their way into the homes of the Japanese in the Pacific Coast States. Nearly half of our subscribers are in California. Without neglecting the work at home in the least, we are endeavoring to take care of this American business as well. Last week I sent a package of our circulars to each of the Pacific Coast tract societies, together with a letter setting forth my reasons for so doing, and expressing the wish that we receive their co-operation. Somehow I think this effort will bear fruit. A recent number of the Pacific Union Recorder contained an item stating that some of our lay members in Southern California have been circulating Japanese publications, and as a result two young Japanese men have entered Loma Linda for further study and training. We must sow beside all waters, believing that in due time we shall reap if we faint not."

-----0-----

Philippine Islands

Brother Elbridge M Adams sends the following report of progress in his interesting field:--

"The first of this month I visited Iloilo, where Brother Floyd Ashbaugh was working. Including some other little villages near by, Iloilo has a population of about forty-two thousand. The town is very low, being, so it is said, only one foot above sea-level. That which interested me most in the place was its prospects as a good field for future labor. I found the two girls who had begun to keep the Sabbath very intelligent, and much in earnest. Being school-girls, they were members of a basket-ball team; but while Brother Ashbaugh was in Manila, they stopped playing, because it interfered with the Sabbath. Their grandmother (a Protestant) was favorable to the Sabbath at the first, but upon talking with the ministers she changed her mind and became very bitter. Their mother opposed their keeping the Sabbath at first, but now is favorable.

"Brother Ashbaugh was expecting to go over to the island of Negros to canvass, and since returning home, I have received a report from him in that field. In one week he sold \$125 worth of books. He is of good courage, and the Lord is blessing him.

"The other day one of our colporters was canvassing in Cavit. Some of the Protestants asked him to speak in their chapel. When he had spoken once, they wanted him to speak again; then they asked him to speak every night. He came down and reported the matter to me. I decided to send an evangelist up to see the situation. The canvasser was instructed to appoint another place for meetings aside from the chapel, so we could do aggressive work. The evangelist went up, fully expecting not to speak in the chapel; but the people would not hear to anything but to have the gospel preached in their chapel. The result is that one of their pastors has been up to see them, and warned them against us, saying that we will bring them to the Sabbath, then leave them. They said, 'If that is the Bible, we can not help it.' There are about two hundred of them, and with the exception of about a dozen all seem much interested in the word spoken.

"Yesterday I had the privilege of baptizing thirteen native believers,--eight women and five men. One man was one of the first to study under Elder Finster, but on account of lack of faith he had not heretofore taken his stand. He came to me at the baptismal place and asked if I would baptize him. I asked him if he had decided to keep the Sabbath. He said 'Yes,' that he was waiting for baptism when I went down to Iloilo. I was glad to bury him with his Lord in baptism.

"We are having a splendid interest in the tent-meetings in the city. We have just given the Sabbath question, and I do not know yet how many will walk in the light.

"This message leaves us well and of good courage. We are looking for some good reports from the General Conference."

A later letter from Brother Adams, says:--

"At Malolos, where we have quite an interest, the public have been very quiet about our work. I suppose many have not known that we are here. Yesterday in the leading daily Tagalog papers we were challenged for a discussion on the Sabbath question. Some have been trying to disturb our meetings, but have not been able to draw us into a controversy with them. In fact, they sent in writing the four questions that they have published in the paper. These I answered. After the service, they came to me, and said that they were not satisfied with the answers; but after talking with them a while they acknowledged the correctness of the positions taken. They said that they were not religionists, but free-thinkers. Pray for us, that God may give us the needed wisdom for this time."

Brother Floyd Ashbaugh writes, March 25, as follows:--

"Since Brother Evans left, I have decided to return to the United States this fall, to finish my education, and am now working with all my might to sell the fifteen hundred or more books on hand by August or September. The Lord is greatly blessing in the book work here. Since the twelfth of March I have taken over seventy orders, besides selling other books. At one place a man took me out to his ranch in his private carriage,--a calesa drawn by an ox. Both of his sons ordered books. The man I boarded with charged me nothing for board, and took me part way to this town in his automobile. He stopped when the roads became too bad to go farther, but let me take his horse for the rest of the journey. Such things do not happen every day, but when they do, I thank the Lord. At the town where I am working at present I am staying with the Filipino principal of the public school, and have given him a reading on Christ's second coming, in which he seemed much interested. He bought 'Here and Hereafter,' 'Patriarchs and Prophets' and 'Home and Health.' A priest here also bought 'Patriarchs and Prophets' and 'Home and Health,' and said if I had any more good books to let him know. The teacher went with me to several houses this morning, and in four hours we took twelve orders. This young man would make a good canvasser. I hope that he will accept the truth. I thank the Lord for the privilege of working in his vineyard. Of course I shall be glad to see all the loved ones in the home land again, yet somehow I do not feel very enthusiastic about going back. I need the training, however, and feel sure that it is best for me to go."

East Indies

A Tour in Malaysia

On February 21 I left Singapore for Batavia and the other missions in Java and Sumatra. As the brethren at Soerabaya were in need of counsel concerning a new location for the mission, I went directly to that place after a day or two in Batavia. When I reached there, they had already secured a location in a good part of the city, where many people pass daily. We arranged for a series of public meetings in both the Dutch and the Malay languages, the first to occupy three and the latter four nights of each week. One sister was baptized, and quarterly services were held on the Sabbath. Hearts were melted, and sins were confessed as the Spirit of God brought conviction.

From there I went to Koedoes, where a lonely sister was holding up the light of present truth, and administered baptism to two willing souls. One other lady is keeping the Sabbath, but she had not been instructed to put away tobacco, coffee, etc., so she will try to be ready next time. She was willing to give up these idols for the Lord. It seems good to see our isolated members doing what they can to bring others into the truth.

On the way to Batavia I stopped at Cheribon to visit Brother and Sister Sharp, who will soon leave their school work at that place and take up responsibilities at Borneo, where some thirty Chinese Sabbath-keepers have been begging for help for a long time. Our Chinese worker at Singapore, Brother Chan, will go to that field also.

At Batavia five were baptized, and quarterly meeting was held. It was a good place to be when those present were bearing testimony, telling of their faith in God and determination to serve him. Several others will soon be ready for baptism, and I arranged to return to Singapore from Si Bolga by way of Batavia to give them this opportunity. A new place was selected for meetings, and the workers are entering into a series of meetings with courage and zeal. We find much immorality among these islanders, and many evils often have to be corrected before they are ready for church fellowship. One old man who wanted to be baptized had been living with a woman for seventeen years without being married to her. He was drawing a pension from the government, and if he married, he would be cut down to ten guilders a month for a time. This he was sure he could not afford, but when we showed him the sin, and how God was putting him to the test, he decided to be honest with God and man. Arrangements were made for his marriage, and he will be ready for baptism when I return. Some had to give up other bad habits, but it was inspiring to see how willing they were to make these sacrifices.

I next visited our mission at Padang, Sumatra, where Brother Judge is in charge. They have an English school for the Chinese, with an enrollment of eighty. Many of these attend the Sabbath-school, and are interested in the Bible lessons. Brother Roberts, who has the charge of the school at present, will return to Australia on account of failing health the first of July. It is planned to use native help after that, and try to make the school self-supporting. Seven were baptized, and the first church in Sumatra was organized, with a membership of thirteen. Others are keeping the Sabbath. One young sister who determined to unite with us was detained by her grandmother, who is opposed to her becoming a

Christian. The grandmother took a large stick and threatened to kill the girl if she did not go into hiding from her brother, who is a member of our church, and also a teacher in the school. She has arranged to have the girl married to a man who is not a Christian. We trust that the Lord will prevent this, and open the way for her to follow her convictions. One other girl was forbidden to be baptized, but she insisted, and her parents at last consented. On Sabbath, March 29, the quarterly meeting was held. All were in tears as they received the right hand of fellowship. A full set of officers was selected, and the elder and deacon were ordained. Brother Judge plans to begin a series of public meetings in a new place in May. We trust that many will be brought to accept the complete message, and join in giving it to others.

In company with Brother Judge, I am now on the way to Si Bolga, from which port we will go inland several days' journey to Sipirok, where a native has been selling literature for some months. He reports an interest among the Battaks, and some twenty keeping the Sabbath. As we do not have permission to do mission work at this place, we shall be restricted. Our native worker has been ordered to leave the place, though he has not violated the law. We are praying for wisdom from God that our liberties may not be further restricted, but rather that we may get permission from the government to open our work there, and teach the truth unhampered.

We are confronted with many difficulties in all this field. Only in a few places have we received permission to labor. The natives are very ignorant and superstitious, and are nearly all Mohammedans. But a small percentage are able to read, and we have but little literature for those who can. Still, we are getting some from these to accept the truth, and they seem to appreciate it as truly as others. Many Chinese are scattered all through the islands, and these respond to the truth more readily than the natives. They also make good workers. All the laborers are of good courage, and we are praying God to give wisdom and power to reach the most degraded and ignorant as well as those in higher stations. We ask to be remembered in prayer by those in other parts of this Division, and we do not forget to pray for others.

F A Detamore.

The Work in Soerabaya, Java

At our council it was decided that we move our mission quarters to another part of the city, where it would be more central. We began looking for a suitable house, which is not an easy matter in this city. After searching some time, we found an empty store-room, spacious, clean, and central. We took the matter to the Lord in prayer, and were all of one mind that this was the place for our meetings, so we rented it. Next came the question of a living-house, and just before the month ended we were able to secure that also, just at the back of the meeting-hall. We moved on the twenty-seventh of February. At this time we had the privilege of a short visit from Brother Detamore, and we had a very busy time getting ready for a public effort in our new hall, making curtains, printing bills, etc. We have called it the Berean Hall, and expect to hold meetings each evening—three evenings in Dutch, and four in Malay. Will you not join us in praying for the success of this effort to win souls to God and the truth for this time?

You will rejoice with us that our new dwelling-house was dedicated by a baptism and the celebration of a marriage. The first Sabbath service was held in our dwelling-house, as the hall was not yet in order. It has a large veranda in front, where we gathered at 8 A. M., first for Sabbath-school in the Malay language. This was followed by a sermon by Brother Detamore, who spoke through an interpreter. Special appeal was made to the congregation to leave off sinning, and lead a new life in Christ. Tears were seen in many eyes, and we believe the Spirit of God was present to bring conviction to hearts, and that this will be the beginning of better days to many. After the service we all adjourned to an adjoining room, where it had been arranged to hold the baptismal service. The candidate was a Dutch Eurasian lady, who was formerly a staunch Roman Catholic. She heard one of our workers give some readings in the house where she was boarding about four years ago, and was glad to find a way out of the darkness of this religion. She was lost sight of for a time, till one of our workers called on her with some books. She welcomed him, and had some readings, and is now joyfully casting her lot with Seventh-day Adventists. After this we had the privilege of celebrating the Lord's Supper. On Monday we had the wedding. An Amboneze man being joined in marriage to a Javanese woman.

Brother Detamore has just left us again, and we miss his presence and counsel, but we know you will pray for us especially at this time, that through this effort the honest in heart may be gathered in.

George and Anna Wood.

Brother R P Montgomery writes as follows, under date of April 3, concerning the work in Singapore:--

"The work here is encouraging. The two Chinese men Bible workers and one lady worker are doing well, and give promise of becoming successful missionaries. We hold a workers' meeting once a week, in which experiences are related. Some of their experiences in meeting the people are really inspiring. The attendance at all our meetings is increasing. On Sabbath we have meetings conducted in three languages,--English, Chinese, and Malay. The Sabbath-school is especially interesting. In the last six months the attendance has increased from one hundred to one hundred thirteen, notwithstanding ten have gone to other fields,--Brother Duckworth and family to Kuala Lumpur, and Brother Hungerford and family to Australia. The Sabbath-school lesson is taught in the English, Hakka, Techen, Tamil, and Malay languages. The offerings for the first quarter of the year amounted to \$76.93 gold, the largest we have ever had. One good old Chinese sister had planned during the last week of the quarter to give five dollars to the 'Dollar Day' offering. A while before Sabbath arrived, she found five dollars, so she gave ten dollars on the Sabbath. Her five talents were increased to ten. 'The Lord loveth a cheerful giver.'"

This old lady's faith is an example to believers in every land. How many, receiving in an unexpected way the amount they had determined to bring as an offering to the Lord, would have felt that he had given them a special blessing--and kept the money! Yet this poor old woman doubled her gift to the Master, rejoicing that she was able to bring twice the amount she had planned.

Sumatra

I suppose we shall almost have to introduce ourselves to the News-Letter family, so will say that Sumatra is one of the many islands of the Netherlands East Indian group, taking pride of place for size; in fact, Sumatra is the third largest island in the world.

Four years ago to-day we arrived in this country, to teach the gospel message to its people. At that time we were entirely ignorant of the language, but God has been with us, and in times of distress and difficulty his watchful eye and merciful hand have been over us, and we feel to praise him for every experience through which he has called us to pass. The latest developments of the work here have been very interesting. We have had the superintendent of the field, Pastor F A Detamore, over on an eight days' visit. During his stay we were indeed happy to see seven persons with whom we had labored buried with their Lord in baptism. On the last Sabbath of his stay, on which the Lord drew very near to us, a church of thirteen members was organized and fully officered. It was indeed a blessed occasion. In the afternoon of the same Sabbath the ordinances were celebrated, and again the Lord drew near to us. In the testimonies that were given, in which all took part, heartfelt thanks and praise were offered to the Lord for all his leadings. And now as this company has been united to the body, our one wish and desire is that it will make increase of the body in love.

With Pastor Detamore I am now on board ship journeying to see one of our native laborers, who has recently passed through some trying times, the government having taken away all his tracts, and subjected him to other undesirable conditions.

B. Judge.

-----0-----

General News

From a letter written by Elder A G Danielle, February 21, we learn something of the preparations that are being made for the General Conference, to be held on and near the Foreign Mission Seminary grounds, May 15 to June 8. The arrangements for the stenographic work and editing of the Bulletin were completed; the ground was divided and pegged out for the tents; and a number of good cinder walks had been built about the grounds. Brother Ed. Fulton, of Los Angeles, had been engaged to have charge of the dining department, and will arrange to seat about six hundred at one time. He will have four counters, so four lines of people can be served at once. The committee in charge of preparing for the Conference purchased the stand occupied by President Wilson at his inauguration, and also the Senators' stand beside the President's. In this contract they have two hundred thousand feet of lumber to sell, on which they will clear a considerable amount. The remainder will be taken to the Conference grounds and used in flooring the tents and for other purposes, and after the meeting is over all that is in good condition can be sold at a fair profit. Contract had also been made with a local furniture company for twenty-five hundred good iron cots, with springs. The company through which the cots were bought rented them during inauguration week for fifty cents a cot, and agrees to take back all that are returned at a cash price of sixty cents each. This makes their cost for use during the meeting a very low one. Good mattresses

and pillows have also been purchased for the meeting. It is planned to have all the preparations made in ample time, so that when the delegates begin to arrive, everything will be ready for them.

A card, dated Suez, Egypt, March 13, from Brother F H DeVinney, says: "We have just arrived here, and will go by train to Cairo, to save time. Expect to visit the Pyramids tomorrow. We are all well, and have enjoyed the voyage very much."

In a letter received from Brother H H Votaw, of Kemmendinge, Burma, he says:--

"Our school means much to our work here. It is the only industrial school in Burma, and that fact has brought us before many of the prominent men of the land. They approve of the work. This year we have enrolled over one hundred thirty boys. We have raised about twenty-five hundred dollars gold from those not of our faith, to aid us in erecting buildings, and we have the assurance that we will get about one thousand dollars more. Now we must make good, for the sake of the cause."

China

The following is taken from a letter written by Sister Bertha Selmon, April 8:--

"We could not have had a better time for our trip to Ying Shang. We left Shanghai Wednesday night, March 26, reaching Nanking the next morning. Here we were met by Brother Hall and other friends, and the rest of the forenoon was spent in transferring our goods to the other side of the river. The train left Fukow at 3:30 P. M. and arrived in Bungbu the same evening, at 9:30. We stayed in a Chinese inn that night, and by noon the next day were safely loaded onto a house-boat. As it was Friday, we only sailed that afternoon, and rested over Sabbath. The wind was in our favor, so we made good time Sunday and Monday, and enjoyed the ride very much. We expected to reach Ying Shang Tuesday, but there was no wind on that day, and pulling the rope is a slow method of traveling, so we did not arrive until Wednesday morning. This was good time for the whole trip. Dr Selmon spent Friday, Sabbath, and Sunday visiting two out-stations. Next Thursday the general meeting is to begin. The work seems to be going nicely; the greatest need is for some one to teach the young people and women. Sister Han herself has her hands more than full. She has taught the people to sing quite well, and they have made good use of the Sabbath-school lessons for Bible study."

We are glad to hear that Brother and Sister Lillie's baby boy is gaining quite rapidly in health and weight.

We are informed that the addresses of the workers in Hankow for the next six months will be No. 40 Po Yang Road.

On his arrival at Yencheng, in Honan, Brother Cottrell wrote: "There has been no rain in Honan for about eight months, and the people are greatly fearing a famine. Some of our brethren and sisters are quite destitute, and must have help from some source, else there will be suffering and starvation."

It has been arranged to send \$100 Mexican from the Famine Fund to Honan.

From a letter from Brother Harlow, dated March 17, we take the following:--

"The work is moving along nicely, and we can see some fruit as the result of the efforts put forth. The other day Brother Cheung came to me and desired that some one go to Yin Po, where he is holding meetings, to baptize some who have been studying with him. More than fifty persons have been studying regularly, and about twenty of these are ready for baptism. We were the first mission to enter this place, though others have tried many times to begin work there, but without success. One of our Bible women had relatives there, and she helped us to get started. A few weeks ago Brother Wilbur and family held meetings in Yin Po for a few days; but as they were compelled to live in very poor quarters, they could not stay long. Brother Wilbur reports an excellent interest in the place, and is planning to return soon, to baptize those who are ready. All these are from heathen homes. I believe a good church will be raised up there."

Sister Harlow writes: "Sister Meeker and I have just returned from a ride into the country east of Canton. Miss Leung, our lady teacher in the girls' school, invited us to go for a carriage ride, and we were very glad for the outing. We passed the leper village, and buildings which are being erected for a soldiers' training-school. When we reached the end of our journey, Miss Leung took us to visit some of her relatives. The family invited us to visit a nice little garden, which three Chinese had ordered made around their grave. They said this was to be their everlasting resting-place, so they wanted it kept beautiful. As we rested under the little arbor and looked at the flowers, we longed for the time when we can have a flower garden around our houses. After this we visited a small Catholic school, and then were served with refreshments in the home of our friends. These consisted of oranges and pumpkin seeds, and two dishes of something resembling noodles, cooked with greens and beef. This latter dish was beyond my management, and as the baby did not want me to eat, I had a good excuse for not doing so.

"Mr Harlow left for Pakhoi a week ago yesterday. He had quite a time getting a boat, as they are so irregular. I have had no word from him since he left Hongkong, so we do not know when he will return. Brother and Sister Wilbur and family went to Wai Chow Wednesday morning. Sister Wilbur had been staying at home very closely, and began to feel the need of a change. I am sure the trip will do them good, the homes there are so pleasant and restful.

"The bargain money has been paid down on a piece of land, and now if there are no hitches we may soon have some land. If we can once get this, the buildings will not be so hard to manage.

"The school is doing well. In several of the rooms we have three girls. Some of our evangelists brought their wives and children in from the country this week. We hope this may result in bringing the evangelists' work up to a higher standard."

Under date of April 10, Elder R F Cottrell writes:--

"At this writing I am waiting at the Yencheng station for the Hankow train, which is six hours late. On my way from Hankow last week, scenes of poverty and distress were on every hand. At the railway stations there were scores, and often hundreds, of famine refugees; and at such places as Sin Yang Djou and Dju Ma Tien, there could not have been less than a thousand. It seemed to me that their pinched faces would have moved a heart of stone, and my soul in its helplessness yearned to do something for the poor people. I prayed earnestly that the Lord would quickly send copious showers upon these parched plains, and also that the relief work that is being undertaken might quickly become effectual to alleviate this awful distress.

"The following evening, I reached Chowkiakow. Although for the present, that city is just outside the real famine belt, there will hardly be a quarter of a wheat crop in that vicinity. Brother Westrup told me that owing to conditions, he did not look for more than about one hundred at the general meeting; nevertheless, the people kept coming until the chapel was crowded, and the attendance was quite as good as it was a year ago. The second day at the early morning prayer-meeting, we read some of the precious promises of the Word regarding prevailing prayer and its conditions; and then besought the Father of mercies to send rain. The following day came the response in a heavy twenty-four hours' downpour. This answer to prayer made a deep impression on the people, and when the need of the Yencheng intermediate school was presented, together with the appropriateness of showing our gratitude by a liberal thank-offering, the people responded with a gift of one hundred fifty-eight dollars, Mexican, in cash and pledges. This will be increased within a few days by money from others who were not present. Where has greater loyalty, thankfulness, or self-sacrifice ever been manifest by Advent believers?

"Upon examination, thirty-six were admitted (subject to baptism) into church fellowship. Thirty-three of these were baptized during the meeting, and the others were to receive the rite a few days later. Among these are four very intelligent men, all of whom give excellent promise as workers. We shall doubtless send all of them to our training-school next fall.

"Dr Larson met me in Yencheng last night, and this morning he set a gang of ten at work, excavating for the foundations of the houses. We are buying the material, and hiring the workmen ourselves, thus not letting out a contract for these houses. Ordinary laborers receive sixteen coppers a day; skilled workmen, eighteen coppers.

"The bargain is made for the construction of the Hankow houses, the price to be Tle. 4250 for the two cottages, including servants' quarters, and well. Our contractor has built numerous houses for mis-

sionaries and others in and about Hankow, and brings us a fine recommendation from the Hankow Branch manager of the China Import and Export Lumber Company. We hope to sign up the contract tomorrow."

Brother Frederick Lee writes from Hankow, April 7:—

"Our activity in evangelical work has been somewhat hindered during the last few months by our having to spend so much time in looking for land. In the first place, we found it very difficult to get definite prices on land that seemed suitable, because of our inability to deal with the land-owner directly. There are so many middlemen, who must make a rake-off, that it was almost impossible to do business. Several times, when we showed an interest in wanting to buy, the middlemen would run the price up three or four taels a fang. Often, we despaired of ever getting anything at a price that we could pay, or even getting a price named that was reliable. One day, however, we met the land-owner himself, and in this way we could talk fact to face, and get a definite price, and we soon succeeded in making the transfer. We understood that land purchases could not be made by foreigners, but at last we secured a letter from the foreign office permitting us to buy land. It was a happy day when we took our letter, together with the old deed and the new one, and had them deposited in the land office. While the deed has not yet been stamped, we feel thankful it is so far on its way. Some say that buying land in China is the most difficult part of building a home, and some say the actual building of a house. After we had tramped around miles and miles, with nothing accomplished, in trying to purchase land, it seemed to us that that part was about as trying as anything could be. We shall have our experience in building, very soon. We are just about to let the contract, and soon we shall have 'building patience' to cultivate.

"We are thankful for the openings that God is making for us in this province. In one place, where one of our evangelists has visited, a company gathers from scores of miles around, to keep the Sabbath. They rent their own chapel, and supply their own benches. They are very anxious that we send them help to study the truth. While those who make these calls many times have not the best of motives, I believe we should not fail to step into the openings that God makes for us in this way. In another place, where we have been working but nine months, we have an earnest company. Those who seemed anxious to have us come at first have dropped off, but others, for whom God intended the truth, have come in. Every Sabbath we have seventy or eighty present, including school-children. We have opened a school, which is self-supporting, with forty-two pupils enrolled. We are very thankful for this little school; for while winning the hearts of the children, we hope to lead their fathers and mothers to the truth. The quarterly report for this place shows a better attendance and a better average donation than any other place where we are working. The Sabbath-school is run on modern plans, with officers, teachers, etc. The average attendance is fifty-two, and the donation for the last quarter was \$4.05. We have many interesting cases in this place. One thick-set, clumsy-looking fellow has a very interesting story. Many years ago he desired to be able to go to heaven. He knew nothing of the gospel, so he did the best he knew, expending his money in building a temple. There he fasted and chanted prayers before the idols, that he might be made 'pure and refined,' but he says he got no peace, and gave it up. His temple is still standing, and he showed it to our evangelist. After giving up this temple, he entered on a life

of wickedness, and at last became a detective, in which business he had many narrow escapes. God saved him for the gospel. Just before our meetings at Hsiao Tau last fall, this man dreamed that he would have only two opportunities to repent. The next night he came to our meeting, and was converted. He has given up his bad habits, and is very happy in the light of present truth. In such a way can the Lord lead a poor heathen to find the gospel."

Brother S G White writes: "Our language study is progressing nicely. The school is certainly a fine thing for us newcomers. I have been somewhat surprised to see how much the idea of church union is being agitated here. It seems as far advanced as in the United States, or even more so. Every few days the question comes up in chapel, and I understand that several cities in China are already working the plan, which, as you know, is division of territory and enterprise among the different churches, selecting men from the union, regardless of denominational lines, to carry on such work as they are best adapted to,--educational, evangelistic, etc., and then dividing the converts among the different churches. It is easy to see that when church federation is a reality at home, church federation will certainly be a reality here. To my mind, it seems doubly important to do a great work for this people in a short time; for the pressure which will be brought against the remnant people in heathen lands will not follow that of the home country, but will at least be contemporary with it."

L