China's Millions.

(North American Supplement.)

TORONTO, JULY-AUGUST, 1892.

Extracts from Letters and Journals.

FROM A. ORR-WING.
SAN-CHUEN, KIANG-SI.
March 29th, 1892.

YOU may have already heard that Mr. Reid and I visited the Kwang-sin river, in the months of December and January, and as previously stated, I am now returning from the south of this province, having visited the three stations which we may say, have been opened by the brethren from North America. There has been much opposition in each of these places; by patient perseverance I expect the prejudice will gradually be overcome, and the common people at least, will be favorably disposed towards the foreigners.

At Chang-shu, on my way up stream, I found that the brethren there will be required to give up the house they have been in for some months, by May next. The people are quite friendly but are afraid of the officials at Lin-kiang-fu: for it is freely reported that the present landlord had to bolt, because he had let Mr. Lawson his house; though the official did not assign openly that this was his reason for wanting the man, as there were other charges which could be brought against him; still the talk of the place, and the people are not usually far wrong, points to our occupying his house as at the bottom of all. I am hoping to find that Mr. Lawson has succeeded in renting another house, though it is a trying thing to bring trouble upon people for befriending us. Mr. Lawson was alone when I arrived, Mr. Taylor having gone to the Ki-ngan district, to make a tour with Mr. Thor, on purpose to sell books and preach.

The work in Chang-shu appeared to be opening up, though only one man was regularly attending worship; some others came occasionally. Should the Lord grant us a house on one of the busy streets, I have no doubt that before long many would come to hear the gospel. The present house though very good for a first settlement, is rather out of the way for permanent work.

I can only praise the Lord for the way in which He has helped our brethren, amid their many difficulties, in which He has given them wisdom in dealing with the Chinese, and has blessed them spiritually, and has preserved them in health to serve Him.

From Chang-shu to Ki-ngan I travelled by boat. The distance is 240 li. or 80 miles. The Lord has permitted me to be tested again and again, in many different ways while journeying in China. I can truthfully say, it usually happens, "the more hurry the less speed," for it appears useless to expect the boatmen to make a little extra exertion. My time on this occasion was rather limited, Mr. Taylor having requested me to be in Shang-hai by the beginning of April, and

such was my desire as our little one's birthday comes on the 6th. To bring me blessing the Lord permitted the boat on which I took passage, to be the slowest of the slow. With a good wind every boat seemed to pass us; when poling we were unable to keep pace with the other boats, and in tracking we were always left far behind. These are a few of the many things which come to us in China, showing us the wisdom of our God being to us the God of all patience. Nearly 6 days were occupied in going these 80 miles. How comforting to know the Lord is above all and through all! I reached Ki-ngan on Saturday night late, and was able to spend the Lord's day with Mr. Thor.

No doubt you will have heard, that at Ki-ngan Mr. Duff has rented quite a number of houses, which one after another have had to be given up because of the pressure that was brought to bear upon the landlords by the authorities, until it appeared to our brother better to withdraw. Eventually Mr. Duff spoke to one who owned property, and the man went to the magistrate and asked if he had any objection to his letting a house to a foreigner. The official replied that he supposed the foreigner must live somewhere, and gave permission for the man to rent Mr. Duff a house. Since that time our brethren have had no trouble. Their place is very suitable and I have every expectation that a good work will be carried on. There have been several men here, interested in the gospel, who have now left the district. Only a few came to the service on Sunday. I am confident that the Lord will gather out some for His name from among the large population of this city and neighborhood.

Mr. Thor was well and happy in the work. In the Ki-ngan house they have been obliged to make some alterations that the place may be comfortable, and while the changes were in progress Mr. Thor very cleverly found out that the joiner was cheating him. He bought a few logs of wood, and had them sawn into thin boards on the premises, but noticed after making a rough calculation, that a number were missing. The joiner was surprised when our brother accused him of having taken them, and proved to him that the wood was not all there. In conversation Mr. Thor became more fully convinced, that the joiner was guilty; then he proposed to go to his house, for if he had not taken the boards, there would be no harm in looking. The joiner did all he could to hinder our brother going to his home, and then, when they reached the shop, to keep him from getting any trace of the wood. But Mr. Thor found a few boards, and caught a man who was using the wood for another purpose, after which the joiner became terribly frightened. He expected that he would be taken to the Ya-men, where by the law of...
the country, he would have been severely beaten; this was far from Mr. Thor's intention, though it is well that the man got a fright, and it is to be hoped that he has learned a lesson.

From the city of Ki-ngan to Kan-chau it is considered a distance of 420 li, and I hoped to go on foot, if it were the Lord's will, for my last experience by boat was not encouraging with only a limited time for my journey. I left all unnecessary clothing at Ki-ngan, and was accompanied by a young man who carried my bedding and box. We left on Tuesday morning, the day being fine, and our progress was good until the afternoon, when my bearer began to find his load heavy, and we got on slowly, though by 6 p.m. we made Hai-ho-hsiien, the first stage. Here I had my first experience of a southern inn, which I found was very different from the inns we get in the north and in my opinion not so good. I was comfortable however, on the boards supported by two forms and covered with straw, on which my bedding was laid. The next morning we were astir early, though my man grumbled. I felt it was right to make a start, notwithstanding showers of rain had fallen and the day was far from promising. About a mile from the city we ferried across the Kan river, and as rain came on we breakfasted at an inn near the landing, hoping that the day might improve. After we had eaten, as the rain was slight we went ahead my man having tried, without success, to hire a coolie to carry his load. During the first few li rain came down heavily and we were glad to get shelter in a small village. We waited some time for the shower to pass over, and while there some men who were also going in our direction, came to the tea-house, being glad to escape a drenching. As it was about to clear, one among the number agreed to carry my things 30 li for so cash, so we got off. The walk reminded me much of my former experiences in Shan-si, though the roads here are better, as off and on there are stones laid to form a pathway. Here and there the path lay between cultivated fields, and better, as off and on there are stones laid to form a pathway. The next morning we were astir early, though my man grumbled. I felt it was right to make a start, notwithstanding showers of rain had fallen and the day was far from promising. About a mile from the city we ferried across the Kan river, and as rain came on we breakfasted at an inn near the landing, hoping that the day might improve. After we had eaten, as the rain was slight we went ahead my man having tried, without success, to hire a coolie to carry his load. During the first few li rain came down heavily and we were glad to get shelter in a small village. We waited some time for the shower to pass over, and while there some men who were also going in our direction, came to the tea-house, being glad to escape a drenching. As it was about to clear, one among the number agreed to carry my things 30 li for so cash, so we got off. The walk reminded me much of my former experiences in Shan-si, though the roads here are better, as off and on there are stones laid to form a pathway. Here and there the path lay between cultivated fields, and better, as off and on there are stones laid to form a pathway.

ROMANS 9:26. "And it shall come to pass that in the place where it was said unto them 'Ye are not my people' there shall they be called the children of the living God." The Lord gave me this text yesterday as I was reading in the Book, and it came with great blessing to my soul. Praise be to God for the many glorious promises He has given us! May the day soon come when this promise in a fuller sense shall be fulfilled upon China's millions. "Let us draw near the throne with full assurance of faith;" nothing is too hard for our Master.

We are just now having Chinese New Year. A great number of people are coming daily, some just to have a look around and greet the New Year: others come to hear about our doctrine. For a couple of days we have had open-air meetings in the court-yard and on the street. Every afternoon lately Mr. Grainger has been having a gathering outside the gate. Between-times, he goes out to the tea-shops. Women are coming constantly, and all have opportunities to hear the glad tidings. One woman with whom I had a short talk yesterday had never heard about Jesus before. She asked me if I came to China in a chair. Questions like this are constantly asked us while we are trying to tell them of more important things.
Miss Bee and I managed to finish our first section of Chinese studies before the New Year. We had a great deal of prayer about it, and the Lord heard and answered. We praise His name for every character He has enabled us to learn. It took us much longer to finish than we thought it would when we first came to China, but we have had a great many hindrances in our way. Not a few days have we spent in sickness. I am the more thankful now for the strength He daily gives. Thank you so much for remembering us in your prayers. There is nothing better that the dear friends at home can do for us.

Messrs. Beauchamp from Pao-ning and Ririe from Kiating have been with us for a few days. They left this morning hoping to go and open a new station. Dr. and Mrs. Parry hope to go to Tan-lin and Mei-cheo next week, though it is not yet settled. I think there are some women inquirers in Mei-cheo who want to be baptized.

We have heard by letter that Mr. Horsburgh's party are on their way to Sz-chuen, and that some of them will probably come here, and some to Lia-tsing and Pao-ning. The Lord is surely going to bless this province in sending so many of His servants. May each one of us be more and more “endued with power from on high” so that the Lord may be exalted.

FROM J. LAWSON.

CHANG-SHU, KIANG-SI.

February 19th, 1892.

We keep working away here, believing that before long there must be a change, either for better or worse. The coldness that existed for some time has melted away, and we have interested listeners daily. They often stand for about two hours, and listen to the wondrous love of Jesus. When we were telling the story a couple of days ago, one old man broke forth with, “It is the truth, but if I believe it and follow Christ I shall starve.” One could only ask him to trust God and all would be right; but these poor people cannot see this, except as it is revealed to them by the Spirit. To-day the same old man told me that he was miserable, and his sins were many. Again I tried to point him to Christ, and told him that if he fully trusted the Lord He would care for him. That man has heard the gospel ever since I first came to Chang-shu. I write this as an instance of how the Lord is working in this cold and formal city.

Another hopeful sign is, that they are bitter against us, and knowing that we have to leave our house in the 4th month, the officials have prohibited the people from renting to us. They say they will kill the man who sells a house to us. Yes, they would use the bamboos on us if they had the chance. But praise God for His keeping power! We daily go in and out among the people, making known to them the word of life. Our old man is a great help to us, and tells out to the people what he sees and hears from us, even telling the gospel to the great men of the city, who like to button-hole him and get all the news they can about us. When he gets them around him he commences to preach. His points are, repent, trust Jesus, and worship God. Of course they listen, and thus he spreads the truth wherever he goes. He does not know characters, cannot study, and forgets most of what we tell him; but having him with us these few months, we have been able to get him to remember these points.

It takes patience and faithful plodding. Even one soul is worth the whole world, and Christ died for that one. As things are very much cornered here, I intend visiting the Hsien Magistrate shortly, to see if we cannot live on better terms, and ask his permission for us to live in his honorable district. However we do not intend to trust in him, but to depend on God, who has all power, and who rules among the kingdoms of men.

March, 21st, 1892.—Since last writing we have had many ups and downs. Our troubles sometimes even make us think of Job; but we have the same God He had, and shall come safely through all the trials, and glorify Him. The work continues much the same as in the past. Sometimes we see signs of encouragement, and at other times the people are very cold, hardly coming near us; but we go to them, and daily we have good numbers on the streets, sometimes for 4 hours at a time, though constantly shifting so that many hundreds hear the truth. An important feature of the work is the number who listen day after day, thus learning more of the truth each time they come. One of the most impressive times we had, was when speaking on the text, “Ye must be born again.” The people did not move the whole time, but bent forward and listened intently. I believe we must hear the result some day, as the Lord was near. I cannot tell all the little things by which the Lord encourages us; giving gentle surprises just to let us know He cares for us.

Our house has to be given up in a month, and we have been unable to rent another; but one will be given us if for His glory. The officials keep a good look out, and every movement we make is recorded and reported to the chiefs. Mr. Taylor has been away for a month and I believe has had a good time. He is now at home, and I go off this afternoon for a week’s visit to the markets, hoping to be used on the journey.

Mr. Orr-Ewing passed up 2 weeks ago and I had a very pleasant time with him. He tells us he is to look after the work in Kiang-si for the present, and I trust he will be much used. He had a very interesting conversation with a few teachers who came to us, and even had one of them on his knees, while he led in prayer for his boy who is ill, I am glad to say the boy is much better, after eight months’ illness. The father was so grateful he offered me money, but of course I could not take it. He has now gone to the capital. I hope he may see Jesus as the Savior of the world, and of himself.

March 28th, 1892.—Since writing the above I have been off for a visit to a few market towns within easy reach of here, and although the weather was not at all promising for work, yet we had sweet fellowship with the Lord, as we went from place to place telling the glad tidings of salvation. We (I and a coolie,) left Chang-shu Monday afternoon and walked 30 li through the rain and mud to the first town, Gu-kiang, situated on the side of a small lake which we had to cross by a ferry. The place has a few stores and inns. We soon found an inn and were nicely settled, but discovered we were too late for the market, it having been held for that day. The next day we were able to do a little for the Master, on the street among the shop-keepers, after which we passed on to another place called Ts’ien-kiang, about 20 li distant. Here I was able to speak to the country
people on the market place, of whom there must have been several thousand. We were fortunate also to find a platform in front of a temple and there preached Jesus to the people gathered. Many of these people had been at our house in Chang-shu and were very kind and friendly, some of them helping to make our words plain to others who could not understand. I sold a good number of books, besides having a good opportunity of preaching. I am convinced that a little kindness shown these poor people in trying to relieve their pain, and heal their wounds, helps in our reaching them: at least it makes them willing to listen to what we say.

Leaving Ts'ien-kang we went to Tu-chuan, and there spent some time on the street, also remaining over night. I did very little speaking there, but sold a few hundred cash worth of books. From Tu-chuan we went to Uang-mu and spent considerable time in the market. The day was fine and we had a continuous stream of people to preach to, for several hours. We can never tell where the seed may fall or where it may be carried, and as these people never heard the gospel before it will be carried to many a home and may prove a blessing to whole villages. Thus we sow beside all waters.

I found one day after speaking to a crowd, that there were men present from at least six different provinces. One teacher in Uang-mu was much interested in "the foreigner" and I had a long talk with him. He has become interested in John's Gospel. Pray for him.

From Uang-mu I went to Iang-tang, where there was a larger crowd than at any of the other places, and I was greatly helped in speaking to them. A large idol procession passed through the streets while we were there. The idol was carried in a large sedan chair by eight men, several men of rank walking before. All the people bowed their heads and worshipped as it passed. Of course I was noted by standing erect. The Lord helped me in speaking afterwards. It was the only time I have been moved to tears by the sight of idol-worship. It has made a deep and lasting impression upon me. From Iang-tang I went to Kuan-chang, but being hindered by rain, from doing much work, I came back to Chang-shu. Praise God for all His goodness! We are in safe keeping, though Satan fights hard.

FROM MISS R. A. POWER.
Kwei-ch'1, Kiang-si.
February 27th, 1892.

SINCE I last wrote, we have not been able to go out among the people. The 30th of January was the Chinese New Year. Before this the women were too busy to listen to the gospel, so there was no use going among them, and we spent the time in study. Since the New Year, Miss Marchbank and I have arranged twice, to go to visit some of the Christians in the country, who cannot often come in to worship here. We expected to be gone 3 or 4 days, but rain prevented us both times. This last week has been so wet we have not even been able to go out in the city. Last Sunday was a bright day, of which we were glad. A number of women were here and we taught them texts and verses of a hymn. I had my class of four old women, who had been prevented from coming for 2 weeks by the wet weather. I taught them 2 Cor. 8: 9. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your
from Chin-kiang, he came down to the boat to meet us. We had a very happy time with Mr. and Mrs. Rough, Miss Miller and Miss Johnson. Friday we just rested, and on Saturday, it being a lovely day, we went for a walk on the city wall to visit Mrs. Nicholl's adopted child, who is in a school here with Miss Wheeler. Mr. Eyres, who was at Kiu-kiang, passing through, and three Swedish sisters came in on Saturday night from Ta-ku-t'ang. We had communion together on Sunday. Mr. Eyres preached in the morning and we had a prayer-meeting in the parlor in the evening. It was a beautiful bright day inside as well as outside. The Lord seemed very near to us, and the Spirit was searching our hearts by the Word we had heard in the morning and afternoon. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Do we really mean this?

On Monday morning we left for Ta-ku-t'ang—a lovely ride of 5 hours. I could not help thinking all day, that this is just like Palestine, like the hills around Jerusalem. The day was perfect, neither hot nor cold, no sun to scorch, and no rain. We traveled just as free from care as if we had been in America or Europe.

After being a week at Ta-ku-t'ang I proposed to Miss Macfarlane to come here for a day or two of rest, so we started on Tuesday about noon, expecting to arrive before dark; but the wind changed, and the men had to tow, or row the boat nearly all the way; so we did not get to Mr. Reid's until nearly 9 o'clock. We thought we were going to be out on the lake all night, but were kept restful about everything, and the Lord gave us such good boatmen; they worked so hard and were so kind to one another; they did not even stay to take rice, being so anxious to get us to our destination and when we reached there, they escorted us to the house with a lantern. When we came to the house there was not a gleam of light to be seen outside, but our knocking soon brought Mr. and Mrs. Reid, and we had a very loving welcome.

We had a pleasant day Wednesday: went to visit some of the Christians and the Pastor, and had a walk on the wall and back. The mountain and lake scenes are beautiful. After tea we went for another walk when it was so sultry that we could scarcely bear it. Soon after dark the wind arose, and when we reached there, they escorted us to the house in red and blue colors, and though very crude they give a pretty effect to the general appearance of the room. There is a great deal of open-work about the doors and windows, which adds to the good appearance of our travelling establishment. We have made ourselves as comfortable as possible and have very many things to praise the Lord for in the way He has provided for us; especially when we remember the discomforts and difficulties those of the Lord's children have had, who were pioneers in the work. We have difficulties to contend with also, and I would not wish to make light of them in any way, for it is only when we meet difficulties that we can prove the almighty power of our "Man of War." Exodus 15: 3.

Monday, April 4th.—We have again to sound a glad note of praise to our heavenly Father. We make it a point to stay over Sunday at the place where we stop on Saturday evening, providing the captain is willing, giving him a little extra money on Monday morning just to cover cost of meals. The first Saturday evening the captain told us that he would stop if it rained, but—he left the sentence unfinished, leaving us to infer that if it was favorable he would go on. We laid the matter before the Lord and He made it all right for us. It rained all day on Sunday, which not only kept us where we were, but also prevented one being troubled with the curiosity of the people, and on Monday the Lord gave us a beautiful day with a fair wind. Last Saturday we again made it a matter of special prayer, and just as Miss Roberts was preparing to go and speak to the captain, his wife came in to ask if the next day was our worship day, and if we wanted to stop. We were resting at a very quiet place, just at a bend in the river; there was a clump of trees on the bank just above us and a mountain range in the distance on the other side. Sunday was a fine day, and although both wind and rain had hindered our progress considerably during the week, they made no attempt to move on, and we heard the men saying—in answer to inquiries from other boats as they passed as to why we were stopping—that it was our worship day. How beautifully our Lord does
manage things for us! "The eyes of the Lord run throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him."

2 Chroh. 16: 9

I-CHANG, HU-PER.
April 15th, 1892.

Just a week ago to-day we posted our letters from Sha-shi and now we are at I-chang, where we expect to be 3 days at least. The captain has to engage twenty men here, to pull the boat up the rapids between here and Wan-hien. We have had a very pleasant week. Left Sha-shi on Saturday morning, and at noon had to stop on the way on account of a heavy wind-storm which came on very suddenly, and continued all day Sunday with rain. We had what we had been asking the Lord for, a quiet place to stay, so that we might be able to praise him in the singing of hymns. We have arranged that each one take a day in turn for leading in daily worship. The one whose turn it is, says "grace" at meals for the day, leads the noon prayer-meeting, and the morning and evening worship. We also take a week each in turn looking after the meals, for while we don't have to cook, we must look after the cooking, and food for eight healthy people takes some amount of preparation. Occasionally we go on shore for a walk, and can walk as fast as our boat travels, when there is not a good wind. Yesterday we passed fields of waving corn and peas in blossom, and saw lots of wild convolvulus and buttercups. The grass is a fresh green and all looks so beautiful that it seems more like June or even July than April. But while we rejoice in the beauty of flowers and wonders of nature which our Lord has made, it is not unmixed with sadness in this land, as we realize the utter darkness of the people.

We stopped yesterday, 2 or 3 hours, near a village, the wind being too strong to pull against. The people discovered there were foreigners on the boat, and very soon a small crowd of women and children collected. They begged us to go out to them, and two of our number did so, and were invited to their homes. The people were very friendly and took off the large straw hats the sisters had on, asked how many children they had, and upon being told they were not married, asked, "Why do you part your hair?" One of the sisters is very fair, and when she said she was not married they laughed at the idea of an unmarried woman having gray hair as they called it. The other one being dark, they wanted to know what country she came from, and could not understand how a fair person and a dark one could both come from the same country. At last one of the older women told the others to be quiet, while Miss Roberts preached to them; so she talked to them for a little while but found it very hard to make herself understood, as the idiom changes so much, and the Jesus doctrine is so new and strange to them. As soon as they catch the name "Je-su," they immediately ask, "Who is Jesus?" but they do not understand. They were very sorry when Miss Roberts left them, and returned quietly to their village; but presently some of them came back again bringing new ones, so one of the sisters who can talk a little went out, and Miss Haynes and I with her. It was our first experience of the kind, but will not be our last. They examined our clothes and hair, asked our ages, and took our hands and compared them with their dark ones, being pleased that we were willing to let them do it. We were out only a few minutes when word came that the captain was ready to start again, so we bowed and said "Tsai-huei" (meet again) and returned to the boat, sad to think of these dear people so friendly, yet with no one to tell them of Christ.

FROM E. M. McBRIER.
PING-YAO, SHAN-SI.
May 8th, 1892.

I HAVE been especially burdened for the souls in this district lately. For some years the gospel has been faithfully preached, much work done and many books and tracts distributed; yet in this place the numbers, that care enough about the Savior of mankind to meet and worship Him, and hear His Word on the Lord's day, are very few. It is hard for me to express to you how God has put a weight upon my heart for these souls; and, dear friends, I want you to pray that this burden may come upon us all until we feel that this matter of the life or death of precious immortal souls is our matter, and unless we cry out to God and plead before Him daily, the blood-guiltiness will rest upon us.

During the last two weeks I have spent six days in travel and in the villages on the way. It is not every day that I can get out into the villages. Many church duties and household cares take not a little time, to say nothing of a half-day of study which I ought to put in every forenoon. I left here before breakfast on Monday morning two weeks ago, rode 12 miles on horseback and had breakfast with two of the Swedish brethren, who were at that time in an inn at the place where I stopped. From there one of the brethren accompanied me, and on our way we stopped in 2 villages to paste tracts, sell books, and speak a word for Jesus. We arrived at Kial-hsin, 27 miles south of here, in time for dinner with our Scandinavian brethren at the Training Home. After dinner we again started out, and by 6:30 p.m. had accomplished a journey that would require two days by cart. The place to which we went is called Ling-shuh, and has an opium refuge. There are 4 of these refuges in this district, all under the management of Pastor Hsi, but subject to the church at this place. I am praying for an outpouring of the Spirit upon the men in charge of these places, and earnestly desire you to join me, that God may be pleased to use these refuges to enable the dear people to get rid of the curse of sin, as well as the curse of opium.

After spending a night at the refuge we started out to preach for a time in the town. And as we were on the main road we had good audiences the greater part of the forenoon. I pasted tracts and preached, while my companion sold books. About 11 o'clock we started for the city itself, which was only a short distance away. It is a small place enclosed by a mud wall. Here we spent the afternoon, a good part of the men on the street listening very attentively to the truth. We went to nearly every shop in the place selling books, and pasted many tracts. We most thoroughly enjoyed our work, and the power of God was with us. The opium-refuge keeper who was with us entered zealously into the work, and exhorted the people to believe in the only Savior. We returned tired in body, but with full hearts, leaving the results with God.

The next day at early dawn we were off again on our horses.
Our road lay up a lovely valley through which ran a refreshing mountain stream. After going about 12 miles, preaching in one village, and passing many others by, we came to a large town called Kin-shih. It consisted mostly of one very long street, and we rode through the whole length of it before arriving at an inn. I presume we were the first guests they had seen for many a day, for there is very little traffic on that road. We had a combined breakfast and dinner of meat, shreds fried in oil, dough strips, and a bowl of tea, and then started forth to witness for the Lord. The people of this place gave us a reception almost opposite to that we received yesterday. They neither wanted us nor our doctrine. I had a fairly good time preaching on the market; but when it came to selling books we could do but little. We decided to present one small book at each shop, but they were even then very reluctant to accept, and in some cases refused. At one place where we left a book the landlord sent a clerk after us to return it, saying he did not want it. We spent some five hours here, and then returning to K'ai-hsin, spent the night with our Swedish brethren, going on the next day to Ping-yao. Another three days were spent in villages about 3 or 4 miles from here, where they were having a theatre and fair, which are very often combined. The theatre is generally on a stationary stand immediately in front of a temple, and is ostensibly for the benefit of the idols. Any one who desires can see the performance, the expenses being met by taxing the inhabitants. It is often the refusal to pay this tax that makes trouble for the Christians. The actors are all men, some of whom are dressed as women. The scenes are historical representations of by-gone days, and are said to be representations of facts in ancient Chinese history. The play is accompanied with incessant beating of tam-tams (small drums) and cymbals, the noise being so great that scarcely a word of the speaker can be caught; but this makes no difference to the people, who know the play by heart, having heard it from childhood. Off at one side is the fair, where every man having a pig, a peck of beans, a mule, a donkey, a second hand pair of shoes, or anything saleable, takes his stand and waits patiently for customers, though often in vain; and when he does get a customer, they wrangle over the price, often disputing for many minutes over two or three pennies, that the unpleasant as well as the pleasant and agreeable, are for our good. And does not "In everything give thanks," cover the one as well as the other?

I must mention the great drought that is upon us. We have had but about five inches of rain this season; not more than half enough. Farther south they have not had as much as here. The Chinese are tremendously excited. Two years ago the telegraph line was put through here, and they say from that time there has been little rain; so all of the blame comes upon the foreigner. It is impossible to convince them that we have nothing to do with it. The air is full of rumors. As yet I have heard no threats, but the Emperor has put forth a proclamation threatening death to foreign devils. Returning to the street corner I began to say a few words, but just then a cart came along and I had to move on. Arriving at a bend in the road I met a cart by the side of which were gathered a number of people. One brutish looking man had a heavy stick in his hand, with which he struck my horse a blow that broke the stick. Of course my horse jumped, but happily I was not thrown, and returned to ask the man why he had done it. As the man saw me returning he became afraid, but when he saw I was not going to harm him he waxed bold and began to villify me in true Chinese style. I simply told him I had come to his honorable village to preach, and was truly sorry there was a man there who would act so. There was no use of multiplying words so I turned to go, followed by a shower of chunks of dry mud thrown by the crowd.

After going a short distance there came up one of the terrible Shan-si dust storms. It came on like a tornado; the heavens were a yellow-black, with dust. My horse had hard work to get on, and a few times I was nearly blown from the saddle by the violence of the wind.

How blessed to know when we meet with such various experiences, that the unpleasant as well as the pleasant and agreeable, are for our good. And does not "In everything give thanks," cover the one as well as the other?

It is at such places and scenes as this, that much seed has been sown; for the people who attend are mainly farmers, a much more easily approached class than city people. My two days in the first village were very happily, and I trust profitably spent. I sold many books, and did not a little speaking. The people were kind, and excepting being called foreign devils a few times, I was everywhere well received, and well listened to. The third day was at a different village. I first began my work on the street corner, but very soon discovered I had quite a different class of people to deal with. They rudely pushed each other, talked much, and it was hardly possible for me to make myself understood. After I had talked a while, one of the bystanders asked if I had any books and requested me to get them out, so I took my book sack off from the saddle and began to show my books. The people bought as rapidly as I could hand them out, and had it not been that the road was very narrow and the large crowd obstructed traffic, I believe all my books would have been sold; but no sooner had I gotten well into selling, than a boisterous man came and ordered me to move on. I moved as soon as I could, but the next place was decidedly unfavorable for preaching or book selling, being on an incline. Here, however, I sold not a few books. The crowd became more and more rough, though few of their tricks were intended for me. Some one, more in fun than in rage, started the cry "Kill him." This was repeated quite a number of times, but I looked one of the leaders steadily in the face, and he quickly ceased. I soon started to return home, and as I turned my back to go, the whole crowd began to yell at the top of their voices, most of them calling me by the popular name, "foreign devil." Returning to the street corner I began to say a few words, but just then a cart came along and I had to move on. Arriving at a bend in the road I met a cart by the side of which were gathered a number of people. One brutish looking man had a heavy stick in his hand, with which he struck my horse a blow that broke the stick. Of course my horse jumped, but happily I was not thrown, and returned to ask the man why he had done it. As the man saw me returning he became afraid, but when he saw I was not going to harm him he waxed bold and began to villify me in true Chinese style. I simply told him I had come to his honorable village to preach, and was truly sorry there was a man there who would act so. There was no use of multiplying words so I turned to go, followed by a shower of chunks of dry mud thrown by the crowd.

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There is to be a large theatre and fair directly in front of our door next week. We are in prayer that the Lord will keep us, and give many chances to preach His Word. We
cannot tell what the enemy may put in the minds of his willing servants.

"The Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them"; He is with us and will keep us.

Notes.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor arrived in Toronto upon June 24th. Mr. Taylor had been very ill while crossing the Continent, but was considerably strengthened before reaching the end of his journey. While in the east, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor visited Clifton Springs and Lockport, N.Y., and afterwards attended the Believers’ Conference at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., in which Mr. Taylor had the privilege of taking part. Returning from Niagara to Toronto, Mr. Taylor was again taken seriously ill, and for a time it was thought that he would not be able to make connection with his steamer at Montreal, in order to take passage home to England. This, however, he was permitted to do upon July 16th. We have heard since of his and Mrs. Taylor’s safe arrival in England.

We would ask that praise may be offered because of this gracious answer to prayer, and that continued prayer may be made in behalf of Mr. Taylor, that his health in England may be much used of God as a means of blessing to Britain. We are glad to say that Miss Scott has somewhat improved in health since her return.

Mr. G. Saunders of Peterborough, Ont., who went out to China in January, 1891, and who had been serving in the business office of the Mission at Hankow, Hu-peh, was taken sick about the middle of July, and was transferred, in order that he might receive the greater care, to the Mission Training Home at Gan-k’ing. Here every attention was given him, and at Summer Bible Conferences. He has visited in some of the Western States, speaking in churches, Y.M.C.A’s.

Miss Black went on to England with Mr. and Mrs. Taylor. Miss Scott, after a week in the Mission Home in Toronto, left for Martintown, Ont., where her family resides, and is now there. We are glad to say that Miss Scott has somewhat improved in health since her return.

Rev. J. McCarthy has been travelling of late through some of the Western States, speaking in churches, Y.M.C.A’s, and at Summer Bible Conferences. He has visited in this way, parts of Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois, and has been much blessed of God in his service for China. Mr. McCarthy is now at Scranton, Penn., and is expecting, after finishing there, to visit Perth, Ont., and other cities in the same locality. Will the friends of the Mission kindly remember all these services in prayer.

It is with deepest sorrow that we record the falling asleep of another of our devoted workers in China. Mr. F.G. Saunders of Peterborough, Ont., who went out to China in January, 1891, and who had been serving in the business office of the Mission at Hankow, Hu-peh, was taken sick about the middle of July, and was transferred, in order that he might receive the greater care, to the Mission Training Home at Gan-k’ing. Here every attention was given him, including the skilful services of Dr. Williams, of the C.I.M., but all that was done was without avail. Mr. Saunders rapidly sank under the influence of the disease which had come upon him—typho-malaria fever—and passed away upon July 28th. More complete particulars will be given, if possible, hereafter. Meanwhile special prayer is asked for the parents and family in England.

Donations Received in Toronto during July, 1892.

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