

Miss Nellie Smith

10 JAN 1924

2 R.E.D

ANNUAL LETTER

Sinchow Fu Station

November 1923

Attention is called to paragraph 191 on page 52 of the Rules and Regulations of the Society (Part II, 1912 edition), which enacts that Annual Letters (dealing with the year ending SEPTEMBER 30) should be posted not later than NOVEMBER 30. You are asked to conform to this Rule, and not to wait until your statistics (to December 31) are made up.

The purpose of an Annual Letter is to give the Parent Committee a general view of the work accomplished by the missionary during the year. But matters of detail which are interesting or important should be included, as well as references to outside events which have any considerable influence upon the missionary enterprise. It will be helpful if you will begin your letter by indicating as briefly as possible (a) the sphere in which you work; (b) the department of work in which you have taken part during the year. Also (1) when any of the work referred to in the course of your letter is new please indicate the fact plainly, and in the case of a new station or out-station state where it is situated; (2) kindly make it clear whether the work to which you are referring is done in connexion with a church council or other church organization.

Missionaries engaged in Literary Work are asked to give in tabular form a clear list of the translation and revision work, etc., (A) in which they have been occupied, (B) which they have completed during the year. Those who edit papers or magazines should state the fact.

Smith, Miss N., Sinchow

All native names should be written in English capital letters, and nothing beyond paragraph headings should appear in the margin. Please state if any part of your letter is not for publication.

To report M.B

S. 10

Evangelistic.

Station Class
Woman's School

It is only possible to hold these classes during certain months of the year. "Herbert Benson" & "Chinese New Year" the women cannot be spared from their homes. The membership this term, unfortunately, was small, but we have cause to thank God for the four who came forward with the request for baptism. We look forward to the re-opening of these classes with greater hopes & expectations.

Guest Hall

"Tuesdays" are specially devoted to visiting amongst the "women" who gather together in the "Guest Hall." The meetings are most satisfactory, as regards numbers - but we need much prayer for the working of the "Holy Spirit" in their dense & darkened minds. They are taught to read & memorize short prayers & "Chorus of Hymns" - then a Gospel-Talk is given, from large colored pictures. These gatherings are homely & friendly & give splendid opportunities of meeting the better class people.

Sunday - Classes

These classes are held for both "Christian" & "heathen" women, after the Church Service, & are regularly & well attended.

Sunday - Schools

The "Girls" Sunday School has been continued throughout the year. The "Day School" teachers give, both regular & valuable help. The "Boys" Sunday School has been re-opened in the face of many difficulties, & is a cause for much "thanks giving."

Ministerion

Is a most interesting side of the work, giving opportunity of telling out the "Glad news" to those who seldom, if ever, hear. Preparations are made for a few days town. Perhaps we are fortunate in Szechuan, in "Market Day" in a fair sized town, some 15 miles away. We find a good open space for an "open-air" meeting - a very soon the space is filled

with one living man of precious souls. Intense appears to be keen, but in many cases "curiosity is keen" for perhaps many have never before seen a "foreigner". After the meeting we find a ready sale for the "Gospel" & how one fears that each one sold, will reveal a "living message from a living God" to each "Buyer". With God all things are possible.

Further afield we realize we truly are objects of "curiosity" & "interest". "Are they men or women" we constantly hear said, on every side. Children run away screaming or hide behind their parents for protection, to the dear old "God" overcome by curiosity. Said teacher I write you to tell me as for a "man or a woman", & when she knew I was a woman just like herself - her reply was intense. In village nearer to hand - the children are not afraid of us & follow us in crowds - & gather in front as we go along. I frequently remark "I feel like the Pied Piper of Hamelin".

Another time we visit some of the larger houses, & they are wonderful - there is one "main" entrance, but once inside you are met with a perfect maze of "turnings" on every side, leading into the various rooms occupied by the many different families, belonging to the one Clan. On one house we visited there were over four hundred (200) members of the one Clan, divided into three (3) sections, "rich", "middle class" & "poor" in this instance many of the latter, "servants" to the "rich" members. From house to house we go, gladly welcomed & entertained - although at times the busy people continue their work while they listen, - others with more leisure seek to entertain us, giving us tea to drink, then a bowl of "min" a kind of "macaroni" so long & so difficult to maneuver on our chop-sticks.

Here one sits on the small stool chopping vigorously away at the food for the "precious pig", until her attention is arrested by some thing on our message, there a girl is being headed for fainting her neck & back, a woman is engaged to cure her, & by her side is a shell of "sea-nut" oil, & with another shell vigorously dipped into the oil, scraped up & down the back, until the blood reaches flavor. This being a favorite treatment for aches & pains, & is in the "face" pinching resorted to, often one meets people with dark red stains on face or neck, & tumors immediately, this is the cause. Here again a woman is employed in pulling out the "beasties" & hairs just round the forehead, of a young girl who is preparing for her marriage. Then again there are those who drink tea on "menage" & cannot spare us to leave them.

"Women's" tell us more is repeated over & over again. It is on just such occasions that our hearts are full of gratitude to all "Loving School" who so graciously help in supporting our "Women's School" for it is such women who we write to come for more teaching.

LIMCHOW-FU.

The City of Limchow Fu is strongly walled & being within fairly easy reach of a Port, is of strategic importance, & therefore constantly embroiled with political problems & warfare; within this year alone, having changed hands twice, causing much suffering & distress among the people, whose one desire is to be left in peace, being perfectly contented with their "filling" of the ground to the fruit thereof, & their business life flourish in the light. But unfortunately here, as in other places - it is the few "leaders" seeking for position & gain, & selfishly pursuing the interests of those who should be their "task" who cause all this distress & suffering amongst the mass.

The following will give our friends at home some idea of the problems & difficulties with which our work is beset.

One fighting, begins the City gates are closed - walls fortified & all communication with the outside world cut off. Refugees with their precious bundles of clothing, come into the Compound, we fly our "well-worn" & "well-torn" "union jack" which wonderfully comforts the hearts of the refugees, for the time being all work at a standstill. Thus we are outside the City surrounded with soldiers - no other - & fighting - but wonderfully secure, because trusting in our "Whisper Captain" - his heart.

Once again things quieten down, we sally forth to find out how all have fared.

We walk the length of one rather long street called "Market - St." & on nearly every door there was this notice pasted - "Lost - all" or "Lost - part"

We enter one home, & could we go but picture to you the wretched destruction we are met with - you like us would plead more concerned by to our "God of Justice" for these poor helpless Brothers & Sisters who have nowhere to go, & return to look to, for protection & justice. Not alone have their "precious pigs", poultry, rice, salt bedding, & clothing been stolen, & not alone have doors been forced through - but from wall to wall, leading from home to home - had great holes been made where the thieves have broken through to steal - & rattle, chaw - stork - kump, & countless smashed". We return home with aching hearts for these people whom God has called us to "serve" & whom we have learnt to love.

Desertion One very sad evil resulting from "warfare" here, is the desertion of "New-born babies". In looking through my "diary notes" I read the following:

7
Krabia

I "picked up" a little "Baby" outside our Church. After in-
 -vestigation found it belonged to a woman, a wife of one
 of our soldiers, who had been called to another part of the
 district to pursue his war; the woman wishing to follow
 him, had deserted her child. A letter appealing for
 Sufferer was sent to Hon. N.M.C. & in answer a Chinese
 Christian woman has offered to take & adopt the little one.
 Later we "picked up" a baby, newly-born, unwashed, blue
 with cold & covered with dirt, another appeal was sent
 to Hon. N.M.C. & this one also is provided for.
 Later, another little one picked up - but after a few months
 & just after the new "baptism" - little "Tan-Tan" (Grace)
 was called to be with the "Friend of Little Children".
 Another getting in as follows: - A nice little "beast" brought to us
 by a very old woman who had walked some eight (8) miles.
 The mother of the child, in fear, had run away from "her
 during the fighting" & by the way side had given birth
 to her Babe" & left it here. This old dame having
 sustained the infant, being too poor to rear the child
 left it there for over a day, hoping some one would take
 it. Had we did, so having heard of us brought it here.
 And now I turn over a few pages & find that since our
 return from holiday - a little over a month - we have
 found by "Seven" (7) more such little ones, but unable
 to take them in. One was kept here placed outside our
 Compound, & whose little face had been badly eaten by ants.
 & a son taken by some members of a wealthy family, just to
 be fed, & put that again - with the hope some one else would
 pick it up, they themselves were afraid its face would always
 be figured, & for this reason, not pleased to rear it.
 They have advised that this would not be the case, if they were
 willing to use ointments, we would give them
 whether or no they have adopted this little one we have
 not again heard.

"The
 Bright
 Side"

Though there is that which tends to discourage & dis-
 -appoint, there is more to brighten our hopes &
 encourage greater expectation.
 The reality of the people are so saddened, & we hope,
 their faith in their "idols" "Witch doctors", & "priests"
 In Shan: that the wonderful story we have to tell
 fact is to move willing ears & hungry hearts & they
 are more pleased to spare the time to hear of One who
 will help & pity them & comfort in their their time of
 distress! the point to their "idols" & the broken doors"
 the idols within" & broken walls etc"; & remind them of the
 more they have wealth spent in sacrifices to the "Street gods"
 seeking for peace for their streets, & in several instances on
 either side of that street, the honest, athletic, despised the people
 loneliness" - "What is their power to help? No. No & No! & many
 need for
 Prayer" "China needs more prayer! The effectual fervent prayer of a
 righteous man availeth much"