

Nov. 13th 1926 Lingschow Tu, Patehri District

10. JAN 1927

R. S. D.

(5)

few general impressions by the front
back to the front

1925 - 1926. Smith, Miss N., Lingschow

53. China 5
13/11/26

Educational: C.M.S. Schools have decidedly
lost prestige, although the small
"primary schools" still hold sway
but molested by "Students" of the
Government Schools.

Various methods have been used, to cause
them to close down, threats, intimidation,
insulting remarks, & endeavours to force
the Teachers to sign papers - refusing to
teach Christianity, all of which
have proved fruitless, for which we
praise God, for in this way He has allowed
His own to be tested, & they have not
failed Him.

A few weeks ago quite a number of "Students"
of both sexes - came to our Compound & inter-
view us. The girls greatly excited, wearing
the western skirts, & hair cropped, outwardly
adopting things "western", yet inwardly
revolting at things "western".

Questions were hurled at us, revealing their
"disturbed minds" "Before we feared you now we
do not", "Who is God?" "Have you seen Him?"

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You come with our Character - & win our Confidence
then try to subjugate us "!!" you would not
allow us freedom to walk the streets, now
we can, we have liberty "!!" we are going to
show our power" &c &c - -

After they had quietened down, we pointed
out the dangers of liberty, when abused
as they were doing, "girls freely associating
with men" &c. - so absolutely opposite to
their Customs" -

As far as we know the "girl students" are the
worst ~~than the boys~~ as far as "Patches" is
concerned, but here it is the Boy Student -

At the same time, as much
as we lament the attitude they are taking
we sympathize with them - & there is the
better & brighter side.

When at one of our "Outstation"
recently, at the close of a meeting, a party
of "Students" requested the use of the "Gospel-Hall"
for the purpose of holding a "Night-School" to
teach ignorant & poor boys to read & write.
At the "opening" of same a "Speech" worthy of note
was given by a young Teacher, revealing the
breadth of their minds.

"Other Countries are prosperous, & have power to
protect their own - but our Country" where

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does it stand? It was the first civilized
Country, and now "it is down to hell"
Why? Because of our ignorance, in other
countries 99% of the people are educated,
and of ours 99% are uneducated.
This is the cause! Then followed an earnest
appeal for membership.

We were truly thankful that the
"Gospel-Hall" was the appointed place for
such a gathering; for it gave opportunity
of pointing out the fact, that "Education"
was not the most-important, but rather the
worship of the one True God, ^{which} must always
come first, for the building up of a nation.
British Subjects, also have lost prestige to a great
extent, one was amazed at the changed
attitude towards us, on my return.
Not only "Students" but "Officers" + "Soldiers"
they will take possession of the Compound
grounds; enter freely our rooms; watch
us at meals; all of which is absolutely
unthinkable, & strikes one as being
done in a spirit of "bravado", which ^{we} meet it
with a spirit of patience, & invite them
into the "Guest-Hall"; where usually they
will listen quietly to the "Gospel".
They are anxious to know of "British Gov." support
us? are all English people "Xians"? Why fight them?
Why do we take their land?

Persecution: Teachers - workers & Church members including ourselves, all meet with the favourite cry "Ta'-to'-kei'-Tuk'-Kai" i.e. "beat to the finish the Christian doctrine", "wounding dogs of the foreigners", and "beat them to death". Quite recently one of the B & F. B. S. Colporteurs sold a number of "Gospels" to "Soldiers" & others, & afterwards was invited to go to see them burnt; he took the opportunity of witnessing for Him whom he represented. One of our "Catechists" last week was preaching in the "Gospel-Hall" when a soldier approached him, asking him to deny Christ, he refused, the soldier hit him in the face, causing blood to flow, by the time the Pastor came, the man had fled. A young Christian girl teaching in the Government School here in "Sime-hoo-fu" & receiving a very good salary, rather than deny Jesus, gave up her position. At one of the out-stations "Shek-Hong" one of our "Teachers" left our School. The Students there having intimidated ~~him~~ ^{one} felt sorry because she was a faithful Teacher but a very timid nature - another Teacher eagerly went to

fill her place.

A few weeks ago "Sports" were held here in "Sim-chau-tun" in Commemoration of the Republic of China, & although the "Civil Magistrate" invited all Schools to take part, the Students refused to allow "Christians or any attached to Christian-Schools" to do ~~take part~~^{so}. it was a bitter disappointment to many, as preparations had already been made - new clothes purchased! & many having come from long distances!!

Communism: One is greatly aware that all this is the outcome of the "Teachings" of "Communism" which have been widely disseminated throughout Colleges & Schools urging abolition of not only "Christianity", but also "Buddhism" & "Confucianism" thus removing all restraint from man advocating free love & liberty, both sex making on lines of equality - & as they freely talk about it here "ping-taij" "tsü-yün" i.e. "equality" & "freedom".

Idols: "Idols" & Temple bells & Temples are being destroyed ^{many} of the people are afraid to enter shops to buy "incense" "Candles" etc. when talking to the people about this destruction of their gods, they tell us their hearts are "sad" & "empty"!!

Military: Soldiers & officers are better drilled & better trained than in 1925, also greatly increased in numbers - regular Schools held, where they are taught & examined in "military-warfare", one realizes in a few short years "China's Army" under "Russian tuition" will be an Army to be reckoned with.

Itinerations: During the last month we had an opportunity to visit the more distant Out-Stations, a distance of over 80 miles from here, in the early part of the year, "Robbers" were bad, & the poor people suffered terribly at their hands - The Catholicist - at Long-Shun told us that, the robbers called his father to come out, he refused, & they set fire to the house & when he ran out killed him, other had sister ~~had~~ their homes burnt, or everything stolen, seven Christian homes had suffered in this way.

Crowds attended the meetings at all the Stations - a splendid Sale of "Gospel-positions". We found people asking for "baptism" but no one to teach them, next year we hope to send a Bethel-woman - When the officials heard of the meetings they sent Soldiers to paste notices off the Gospel Hall - "Beat to the finish the Christian doctrine".

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but these "threats" made no difference to the attendance - a greater number than before flocked to see + hear.

Whenever we went, a warm welcome awaited us, which makes us realize, this spirit of opposition is really a "party feeling," + not an expression of the attitude of the people towards Christianity.

We feel more confident that God in His wonderful way is using these "Posters" for the extension of His Kingdom, for they are causing a great spirit of inquiry in the minds of the people, so we take courage + go forward in the work, with the assurance that He is working with us.

Progress The new "Gospel-Hall" was opened on Xmas-day of last year 1925; evening "Gospel-meetings" are held there.

"Dispersary work" is carried on in the Gospel-Hall for men only, twice a week by Miss Bakewell.

A "Kindergarten-School" opened in the "Gospel-Hall".

Two new "Bible-Women".

A Chinese Medical-worker finished her training last year + is doing a very valuable + faithful work this year in Lanchow.

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A Summer-School was held in Linchow-Tu for the first time. The "Chinese-Pastor" & "Chinese-Helpers" undertook the entire management, without any "foreign" supervision. It was a perfect success, & a means of help to a great many

During our last "Itineration" to Hg-Lu 60 odd miles from Linchow-Tu we came across a very earnest "youth" who helped us considerably by preaching in turn to the constant flow of people who flocked to listen. He told us that had it not been for the Summer-School mentioned above, he would not have known how to speak to the people.

A part of the Summer-School "programme" were "Sermonettes" given by young members & afterwards criticised by the "Chinese-Pastor": "the way to stand!" "to look! more than hands!" & to speak etc.

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with problems", for guiding our "thoughts"
when suddenly beset with indignant-
questions from "Students", Officers, &
"Soldiers" as I have recorded, & which
needed "the wise answer which turneth
away wrath," & "patience" in dealing
with them & loving sympathy, as we
realize that, they are taught & led
to believe that the "British Imperialism"
stands for "greed for Territory", & all
that is unjust, & its "aim" being to
Subjugate these Countries.
China's need is for the "effectual fervent-
prayer that availeth much", nothing
less than this can supply her present-
need -

Yours Very Sincerely
Nellie Smith