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CHINESE

CHIMES

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SURPRISE NUMBER

THE CHINESE CHILDS.

Paoingfu, China
November, 1927

Entered at the post office as a matter of course.

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YES, A REAL SURPRISE.

In spite of the fact that we are always expecting the unexpected to happen in China we must admit that the recent fighting in North China rather took us off our feet. We were looking forward to a year of peaceful work, hoping that the American Consul would soon see his way clear to grant permission for our families to return to Paoingfu when all of a sudden fighting began up near Kalgan between the Shansi and Langtien armies. The fighting was all the more of a surprise because it was started by the Shansi side. For sixteen years "The Model Governor" has succeeded so well in keeping Shansi out of the many wars that he was the last man in the Chinese military group who would be suspected of starting a war at this time. We still feel that there is a mysterious element that has not been revealed yet and when the facts are made known we may learn

that Governor Chen was forced to fight, either by his subordinates or by some outside forces.

The fighting began on the Suiyuan line and the Fengtien army was so taken by surprise that before they could mass their forces they had to flee from algan and retreated towards Bankou where the severe fighting took place a year ago last summer when Fengtien drove the Mucminchun out of that stronghold. This fighting in the north did not alarm us in Paoiatingfu but when other Shansi soldiers started from Shihchiachung to march on our peaceful city, less than 100 miles away, we learned that we were not as "surprise proof" as we had supposed. Before we had time to get excited the Shanai army was within 10 miles of Paoiatingfu and trainload after trainload of retreating soldiers came pouring into town. Chang Tso Lin's son, "The Young General", came to take charge of this center and with him and following him for many days, there came the largest Chinese army that we have seen in this region. At first they started to move troops away from Paoiatingfu to help protect algan but they soon had to reverse their engines and this added to the confusion of the railroad.

On the evening of October 6 we could hear the boom, boom of cannon only 22 miles south of Paoiatingfu and the next morning they were still to be heard, though there were times in the night when all seemed quiet. A meeting of the Chinese and foreign leaders called and plans were made for opening a refuge for women and children if it became necessary. In spite of the nearness of the fighting the Chinese seemed remarkably cool, though a good many people from the country came to the city to seek a place of safety. It was quite apparent that Fengtien was not going to evacuate Paoiatingfu without putting up a good fight and this had a quieting effect on the people.

Some foreigners who lived along the railroad where the fighting was going on came to Paoiatingfu on a military train and had to spend two days with no food and practically no water to come a distance of 40 miles. While they were waiting at Tihnew station they heard an explosion to the north and learned that the Shanai men had succeeded in blowing up a railroad towards Paoiatingfu. They supposed they were shut off but an armored train succeeded in repairing the bridge and they were able to continue their journey.

ANOTHER PINGPING EVACUATION.

The foreigners who came from the south wanted to go on to Peking and the foreign women in the two missions decided to go with them. Miss Phelps of our mission and Miss Rustin, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Mather of the Presbyterian were the only women here and they all left October 7. The Pretender had been planning for several weeks to go to Tunghsien at that time and take some things to his family. He hesitated about leaving but as Mr. Hubbard was here and saw no reason for giving up the trip he joined the other foreigners and went to Peking, tho he expected to come back in less than a week. Mr. Hubbard remained in our mission and Dr. Lewis and Mr. Mather were in the Presbyterian mission.

We had to wait several hours at the station for a train but the police managed to reserve a section in a good car so we had better accommodations than at some other times. All the way to Peking we met military trains bringing soldiers and equipment to Pootung and this so delayed us that it was 2:20 in the morning before we reached Peking. Some of us spent the rest of the night in the railroad station and went to Tunghsien the next morning.

ANOTHER STAFF REUNION.

The Pretender found his family very pleasantly settled in the American Board compound at Tunghsien, thirteen miles east of Peking. Because of the absence of so many foreigners from North China the American School has only a few students at Tunghsien this year but there are several missionary families "refugeeing" there and the mothers have organized a school for their children who are under the age taken in at the American School. Some of them are teaching in the American School and The Busy Manager for a while was acting as principal. She did not find time hanging on her hands but enjoyed the school work and the younger members of the staff were all enjoying their life in Tunghsien.

The Pretender was not able to get back to Paotingfu when he had planned as will be shown later. Elmer Galt proved that it was useless to try so the Pretender was forced to spend more than two weeks with his family and then could get back to Paotingfu only by going to Tientsin and taking an auto bus. For some time there was no bus service.

A THREE DAYS TRIP TO NOWHERE.

Elmer Galt, who had gone to Peking to take Miss Andrews' casket (she is still living and is out of the hospital, tho still very weak), decided to try to get back to Paotingfu October 11. He was told at the station the day before that there would be a train so he went to the station, got his ticket and went on the train. The train started out on time but it did not get to Paotingfu. Two days later Elmer was still in Chanhsintien about 15 miles from Peking, though he had been down the line to a place called Tou Tien. Thursday, October 13, his train made another attempt to get to Paotingfu but when they got to Liu Li Le, 10 or 15 miles from Chanhsintien, they found the Fengtien army getting ready for a battle at that place and the train finally returned to Peking, arriving at eleven P.M. that night. Elmer therefore had 63 hours on a crowded train and accomplished nothing except to demonstrate that it was useless to try to go to Paotingfu from Peking by rail.

THE SIEGE AT CHOCKOW

Chockow is a walled city just a little less than half way from Peking to Paotingfu. The reason Elmer Galt was not able to get to Paotingfu was that a body of Shansi soldiers managed to capture this city having come through the mountain passes to the west. They nearly succeeded in cutting the railroad, and possibly did cut it, but were unable to prevent the Fengtien side from re-capturing the railroad station, tho the Shansi men held the city. Day after day the Fengtien army shelled the city and no one knows how much damage was done. The Peking papers reported at one time that the Fengtien army had captured the city but this was not true. The city is about a mile from the railroad station but the Shansi

soldiers continued to fire on all trains that passed and hence all passenger traffic was suspended for some time.

A relief committee in Peking sent some men to investigate conditions last Sunday and Elmer Galt went as one of the investigators. He reports that the villagers near the city had not suffered so badly as he expected to find but the city was still held by the Shansi side last Monday. Trains are now running to Peking from Paotingfu so it is probable that the city has been captured. Other cities, even nearer to Peking than Chochoy were reached by the Shansi invaders and fighting was heard so near that people in Peking could hear the cannon. We could hear the cannon at Tunghsien one day and the report was that the Shansi forces were united with some bandits and were within ten miles of Tunghsien.

A SUMMER IN JAPAN

We had planned to call this "Nojiri Number" in memory of the delightful summer we had at Lake Nojiri, Japan, but recent events have crowded in to usurp our good intentions. The fact that we have changed the name of this issue does not diminish our appreciation of the opportunity we had last summer of getting out of the tense atmosphere in which we have been living for several months. A glorious summer it was. After having been separated from each other for more than two months the Staff was delighted that circumstances developed so that our re-union could take place at one of the beauty spots of beautiful Japan.

FROM THE PRELUDER'S DIARY (Oct. 27)

Hubbard has an interesting story to tell of his trip in the country. When the fighting was nearest to Paotingfu some of the Shansi soldiers got within ten miles of this city. They drove the Fengtien soldiers out of Changteng, the latter looting the place as they left. The Catholic church was looted but our chapel was not molested. After the Shansi men came in they paid for everything they used and treated the people very decently. They were unable

to hold the place, however, and when the Fengtien army returned they looted the village again. Hugh said that the people claim the village lost 100,000 worth of property but I don't suppose they have any very accurate list of just what was taken and destroyed.

From Changteng he went to Tingchow which is a walled city on the railroad forty miles south of Here. We have a chapel in the city and one of our evangelists is located there. A three days battle was fought there and when the Shansi army had to retreat they did so at night in an orderly fashion without disturbing the people as they went. When the Fengtien army came in the report is that they were told by their officers that they might have three days to loot as a reward for capturing the city. Whether they had such consent from their officers or not they did loot for three days and nights and the city is now in a state of desolation. Our chapel was not touched, either by shot, shell or soldiers. Houses on all sides were hit by shells and three people were killed in a house just across the street. The chapel was filled with refugees and when Hugh was there he found some wounded people still staying there. One wounded had died there. The Catholic priest was tied to a tree and his life was threatened, if he did not tell where he had his money. The Catholic church was looted and the city is still in the hands of the invading soldiers.

Hugh came back by way of on tu where they were fighting when I went to Peking and where we have another chapel. The people managed to get the city gates closed there and kept the soldiers out of the city but the people in the surrounding villages have suffered much hardship. A woman who had a daughter in Tingchow tried to go to her and was held up by Fengtien soldiers. They told her they knew she was a spy and would have to search her. She told them she was no spy and she only wanted to find her daughter. They found 40. on her and told her it was dangerous to carry so much money at such times. They left her 2. and told her they would "keep the rest for her"! This is one instance of the way these soldiers "protect" the people. Can you wonder that the whole countryside wishes that the Shansi army might have been successful? Some of them still

hope that the fighting is not over and the Shansi army will get help and be able to win yet. There was a rumor down in the country when I was there that some of General Yu's first army had reached Wu Chi, a city about 25 miles east of Shihchiachung. I doubt if that is true but I am not sure that the war is ended yet. Even if the Yen-tien side has made a successful stand so far as winning territory, they have lost in the good opinion of the people and will be hated even worse than ever before, and in that way the Nationalist side has won another victory. Of course the people can't do anything so long as the Yen-tien army controls their territory but an army that makes enemies of the people can't last for ever, no matter how many acts of public benevolence they pass on paper.

While I was in Tunchsien on Sunday Dr. Paul Bush of the Mass Education Movement telephoned from Peking to Mrs. Hubbard in Tunchsien, saying that he had come from Protinafu a day or two before, going by way of Tientsin on the auto bus. I decided that if he could get through there was no reason why I should not so I left Sunday afternoon and spent the night in Peking. Monday morning I took the train to Tientsin, reaching there at eleven fifteen A.M.

I inquired and found that there would be busses the next morning and also learned that Mr. Outerbridge, who had been waiting in Tientsin for a month to get into Tchenowfu, Shansi, was anxious to go with me. I was glad to have his company. I had tried to get in contact with Mr. Hallon of the Presbyterian mission in Protinafu while I was in Peking to see if he didn't want to go with me but was not able to reach him. Elmer Galt had left Peking Saturday afternoon on a special car attached to a military train that was going to Chechow, on the road to Protinafu. He had gone with the idea of doing some investigation of conditions for a relief committee in Peking but he also thought perhaps if he got as far as Chechow he might be able to get on through to Protinafu.

Outerbridge and I got up at five o'clock as the bus was supposed to leave at six and we had quite a long ride by ricksha from where we slept to the bus headquarters. The bus actually started at

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Outerbridge and I got up at five o'clock as the bus was supposed to leave at six and we had quite a long ride by ricksha from where we slept to the bus headquarters. The bus actually started at

eight o'clock but we were glad that we got there early. There were several autos going to Peotingfu but we picked out a five-passenger Dodge car which looked better than most of the others. Both of us had to ride on the iron seat with the driver but as there were three grown-ups and a child on the rear seat and three grown men on a wooden bench between the two seats we had about the most comfortable place in the car. On the running board there were several hundred pounds of baggage and two men, making eleven grown people, one child and several hundred pounds of baggage all in one five-passenger car.

We hadn't gotten outside of the city limits of Tientsin before we were held up by military inspectors. Our driver had driven for a girl's wife for seven years but he was not accustomed to the road between Tientsin and Peotingfu and did not know where the inspections were made. He drove by the first one and the soldiers used that as an excuse to show their authority. They began to take off the number plate which was fixed on the radiator. The driver and his two or three assistants got held of the soldier and actually pulled him away from the car and into a nearby room. I don't know whether they pressed the soldiers palms with silver or what made them use but he finally allowed the number plate to remain but all of us had to get out. Our baggage had to be taken off and opened up piece by piece and all sorts of questions were asked before we were allowed to go on. This was only one of several such inspections we had to go through before we reached Peotingfu. None of the others were so thorough but they all took time.

We could have made Peotingfu that night had we had good tires. We had seven or eight blowouts and as each one took about half an hour we wasted considerable time before the day was over. Our last blowout was about seventy miles from Peotingfu. While we were getting the tire repaired the question came up as to whether we should try to go all the way to Peotingfu that night or not. Outerbridge and I were in favor of doing it but a man who lived near there told us that the country was full of run away soldiers. One of the passengers said that these soldiers were worse than robbers.

He said they would take even our shoes and underclothes. Of course that rather turned the majority against going any farther than we had to. There was a walled city within twenty miles of Paotingfu and we stopped there for the night. We stopped at the best inn in the city but our room was furnished only with a wooden platform with a piece of matting for a bed. Outerbridge had a steamer rug and I had one so we used one for a mattress and the other for cover. We didn't undress and managed to spend a fairly comfortable night. We started the next morning at seven and arrived at Paotingfu at 8:15 A.M. We had only come 121 miles but the road is fearfully rough some of the way and with all the blowouts and inspections we really made good time.

CONDITIONS IN PAOTINGFU. (written about Oct. 1st)

Our American Board schools have opened with unusually large attendance. There are 320 boys in T'ung Jen School and nearly 100 girls in Pei Chi. The girls are on an equal basis with the boys for the first time this fall in that they are not required to study Bible or attend church or chapel. There are volunteer Bible classes in the school and a fairly good percentage of the girls attend the Sunday church services. Miss Phelps, who is teaching English at the girls' school reports that there is more discussion of religion among the students than ever before and perhaps as much is being done to stimulate an interest in real religion as was ever accomplished by compulsory Bible study and church attendance. Two girls came to Miss Phelps recently and said they wished to unite with the church. They also told her that they have promised themselves to be regular attendants at the church services. Of course it is too soon to judge how the new changes will work out but from present indications it seems as if we might have a profitable and happy year, if only the militarists will give us half a chance.

GOLD STAR JOURNALISTS.

Some of the readers of the Chimes will remember the editorial in the Christian Century last spring entitled "Gold-Star Missionaries"

The writer hoped to collect the names of all the missionaries in China who refused to follow the advice of American Consuls and remained at their stations. All such "heroes" were to be enrolled as "Gold Star Missionaries". He never did learn just what was to be done with those of us whose families became separated, husbands and fathers left in the stations while mothers and children went away. Perhaps we were to be suspended in mid-air as fit neither for paradise nor Purgatory. Whatever may be our fate we smiled as we read to think that an editor sitting in his easy chair in Chicago should be so certain that he knew just what missionaries in China should do in any given situation when we who were on the field were having such a time trying to make up our minds what was best to do from one day to the next. We were pleased to see that our good friend Robert L. Chandler made bold to write a letter of criticism to the Christian Century for the views set forth in that editorial.

In a recent copy of the Christian Century another editorial has appeared in which the writer expresses the opinion that missionaries should not return to their work. The writer does not say what has been done with the list of "Gold Star Missionaries" but whether he is still collecting names or not he evidently considers that it is possible to sit in Chicago and give advice as to what we should do. What a satisfaction it must be to feel that one knows just what should be done in China by all missionaries at present!

More recently we have seen from the pen of another journalist some conclusions as to what missionaries in China should and should not do. The writer was no less a personage than the Shen hai representative of the New York Times. He had been in Shen hai some weeks, possibly a few months, when he came to the conclusion that missionaries have no business to express themselves on the political and military situation in China because they are not in a position to understand it. The only know their own local conditions, he said. We suppose we are to infer that having lived in Shen hai so long the writer was in a position to speak authoritatively for all China to

all America. Again we smiled at the great wisdom of another
journalist. We understand that this writer was recalled and con-
sider that the New York Times showed excellent judgment in so doing.

But we did not come to bury the journalists we came to
praise them: we are indebted to the editor of the Christian Century
for a scheme of promotion. We would like to establish a fraternity
of "Gold Star Journalists". We haven't decided as yet just who
will be eligible but we have gotten so far as to conclude that no
names will appear on our list of those journalists who pose as
having full knowledge as to just what missionaries should do and
what they should not do during these turbulent days in the Celestial
Kingdom.

IN OTHER PARTS OF CHINA.

We have spent so much time talking about events of our own
back yard that we may have given the impression that nothing else
of importance has been happening in this broad land during the last
few months. Not so. If you have followed the newspapers you have
learned that the Nationalists did not get to Peking as soon as some
people expected, and hoped, they would. Rather they fell to quarrell-
ing among themselves. A government was set up at Hankow and another
one at Nanking and now the two factions are fighting between themselves.

Canton is having her own troubles and Honan is still in
turmoil. Feng Yu Hsiang is supposed to control that province, but
he seems to be retreating and the Northerners are getting a foothold
there. Just why Feng is not helping Yen Hsi shan against Chang Tso
Lin, we do not know, but he may be having all he can attend to in
Honan. Both Feng and Yen are accused of having received large sums
of money from Russia but the mere accusation by an enemy does not
prove anything.

For the present the Communists seem to have lost out all

over China. The Chinese people in general seem to have had enough of them and they will have to change their tactics before they get a large following from the 400,000 people in this country.

As we survey the map of China it seems to us that there war activities are at present more nearly spread over the whole country than at anytime since we came here, eleven years ago. However, that is not as discouraging as it sounds. Shanghai's trade for 1926 shows an increase of 29% and that during a year when conditions at Shanghai were supposed to have been discouraging.

Neither do we consider that the Nationalist Movement has failed, or died. There may be no definite leader at present who can unite the movement under one hoard, but the spirit still exists and sooner or later we believe it will find expression again. It is not limited to the South but all thru the North the people who think are sympathizers and want the Nationalists to win.

The present conditions remind us of remarks expressed by his pal at the funeral of a notorious rake. Said the friend, "This much can be said of him: He was not as bad all the time as he was part of the time!" So it is with conditions in China. They are not as bad at all times, nor in all places, as they are sometimes in some places.

WE APOLOGIZE.

for the appearance of the printing in this issue. We tried a new kind of stencil paper and found that it is not altogether satisfactory. However, we are so late with this issue that we decided to trust to the generous leniency of our readers and send it as it is.

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