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CHINESE

CHIMES

TIME *and* TIDE NUMBER.

Nov. 1930

THE CHINESE CHIMES.

Dedicated to the proposition that the world needs more harmony.

Paotingfu, China - November, 1930.

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THE TIMES ARE OUT OF JOINT.

When Scarlet Fever suddenly appeared last fall and decided to spend the winter in Paotingfu, some of our neighbors wondered why it had come so early, since it usually comes in the spring. One of them suggested that perhaps a reason for its premature arrival was the government's prohibition of the use of the old style calendar so that the demons who send disease had become confused in their dates. Be that as it may, some of the changing "times and tides" of the last few months do indicate that something has upset the Celestial clock works so that more than ever no one can tell in advance what is going to happen next.

AN UNEXPECTED PEACE.

During the past year there has occurred in China the worst civil war that the "Republic" has experienced in her 19 years of existence. Not only was the fighting more extensive and more severe than ever before, but the bombing of distant cities brought death and suffering to far flung corners; and with the removal of armies to the war fronts, "communist" uprisings spread like wild

fire throughout the country. We had the seriousness of the situation impressed on us when we returned to Paotingfu at the end of August and found thousands of wounded soldiers in the city, with fresh graves being added daily to the long line that had been accumulating during the summer. One night when we were having a station meeting we were disturbed by several shots so near our compound that we could hear the bullets whistling through the air, and this disturbance was followed by such an uproar that we supposed the wounded soldiers who lived near here had mutinied. We learned later that the shots had been fired by the police at bandits who had attempted to kidnap a wealthy neighbor, and the wounded soldiers were not trying to storm our compound, but to get possession of a train to leave Paotingfu.

A few nights before that kidnapers entered the home of one of our evangelists who lived outside the city. He managed to escape and reported the matter to the police but when they reached his home they found that his young daughter-in-law had been taken away. She had volunteered to go if they would take her instead of the young son in the family. When only a short distance from the house she told her captors that her father-in-law had gone to notify the police and they had better let her go. They agreed to do so but told her that they would return the next night and she must have \$200. ready for them. The next day the family moved into the city. A few nights later the kidnapers did return and when they learned that the evangelist had moved they told the family that was living there that they must get out as they were going to burn the house. The evangelist has left Paotingfu and the house has not been burned, perhaps because the Shansi soldiers, who did not seem to make any attempt to suppress such deviltry have gone and the Fengtien army has arrived.

This arrival of the Fengtien army is one of the unexpected events of the last several months. Just when there was a dead lock between the North and South Chang Hsueh Liang moved a large share of his Manchuria army into this province and the Shansi army retreated to their "Model Province" without offering any

resistance. Little did we believe that there could be such a peaceful turnover, but that was because we did not realize that the forces that control the "times and tides" were out of joint.

Another important surprise in China was the recent announcement in the newspapers that China's highest government official (theoretically, there is no president), Chiang Kai Shih, has just been baptized as a Christian. We don't feel like making a special headline out of this news item, for it remains to be seen how much that event will affect the work of Christian missions. His wife and her family are Christians but we hope that this is a personal matter with Mr. Chiang, instead of a meaningless step to please his wife and mother-in-law. It does seem to us that there probably will be some change in the attitude of other Chinese towards the Christian church, because of this event. Whether there will be much change in the attitude of the Board of Education towards mission schools remains to be seen.

NOT ALL RETREATS ARE ALIKE.

The retreat of the Shansi army is not the only retreat that Pootingfu has experienced this fall. Near the end of Sept. plans were made for Dr. Lennig Sweet of the Peiping Y.M.C.A. to come to Pootingfu for a two days Retreat with the Christian leaders of this city to discuss Religious Education. A few days before he was due trouble arose in a Y.M.C.A. school in Peping which made it impossible for Dr. Sweet to come. The question was raised whether the Retreat should be given up, but as Mr. T'sai Yung Ch'un, a young graduate of Yenching University, had just come to do evangelistic work in our field we decided to hold the Retreat and ask him to take Dr. Sweet's place. Mr. Ts'ai had just finished, in cooperation with Mrs. Barbour of Yenching, a book on "Christian Leaders attended the meetings and there was a fine spirit and lively discussions. Since then we have had a very successful "Better Homes Week" in Pootingfu and some of our outstations are planning similar meetings.

"Education in the Home" and he proved to be an excellent leader. About 60 Christian

A second Retreat which was held in our compound Oct. 10 - 12 was attended by over 70 boy and girl students from the several middle schools of the city. About 30 of them came from our own school. Mr. Ts'ai helped with that Retreat and some student leaders and a Christian teacher came from Peping. We all feel that such meetings are decidedly worth while and the interest in Christianity that was shown by this fine group of students made us believe that even among Chinese students there is evidence of changes in "time and tide".

A few weeks ago, when new members were taken into the church, over 20 students from our school took steps towards church membership and a goodly number are meeting weekly in Fellowship Groups, Bible classes, C.E. meetings and discussion groups. There are 600 students in our middle school this year, over 100 in our primary day school and 45 in our women's school. In all these schools there is a fine spirit and good work is being done. On Sundays some of the students from the women's school go to the nearby villages with Miss Chapin to hold church services and recently we took a couple of boys from the highest class in the middle school to a nearby village to help in a church service. They did very well and we hope to do more of that kind of service in the future. The two students who went are now called "foreign missionaries" by some of their schoolmates but it will do them good to learn early in life that being a Christian means "bearing one's cross", whatever it may be.

BETTER TIMES FOR OUR HOSPITAL.

About two years ago we purchased a building in Shihchiachuang for our hospital but so long as the Shansi soldiers were there they occupied the building. When they had to evacuate that place Dr. Li moved into the building at once and when we visited Shihchiachuang recently we found that inspite of great confusion due to having moved into a very dirty and badly abused building the hospital was carrying on as usual. While we were there Dr. Li amputated a leg for a Shansi soldier who had been hit by a piece of a bomb. As we saw the opera-

tion being done in one of those un-hospital-like rooms where the soldiers have been living, we felt like taking off our hat to this Chinese doctor. We were told next morning that the patient was doing well. An interesting incident in connection with that operation took place the following day. Since no trains were running we needed a bicycle to go to another place and were told that we could probably borrow one that belonged to a relative of the one-legged patient. When we sent for it we learned that the owner had taken it to carry the amputated leg home for burial!

Dr. Li came to Paotingfu last week and discussed means of raising money for repairing the hospital building. He estimates that it will require \$6000. Mex. for repairs and new equipment and he offered to raised \$2000. in Shihchiachuang if the sation would raise the balance. We voted to approve of that plan but as we have only about \$1000. Mex available we don't know where the other \$3000. that we need will come from.

YES, TIMES DO CHANGE EVEN AMONG THE STAFF.

If there has been a "Gad-about" on the staff of the Chimes the Pretender would be the one to plead guilty. He has at times been conscience stricken because he has had business that took him to Peping and other places occasionally while the other members were tied down at headquarters from September to June. The tide seems to have turned, for with the Cub Reporter and Sport Editor both in school at Tunghsien this year, the Busy Manager and Treasurer felt recently that a trip to Tunghsien was in order. The Pretender quite agreed with them and for a whole week he managed to carry on with only The Office Dog for an assistant. Had he found time for writing verse he might have sung

"Everybody goes but Father,
He at home must stay;
All in peace and quiet,
With loved ones far away."

The feminine members of the Staff brought back good reports of the behavior of the two in Tunghsien and recent quarterly grades indicate that they are making good use of their time. Although the Sport Editor was promoted to the seventh grade, his second week in school, he seems to be doing good work and so far as we can learn hasn't been homesick.

The Treasure had a great time in Tunghsien because besides seeing her brothers she was able to visit her former "twin", Jean Hunter. She didn't want to come back to Paotingfu and when she was told that she must, poor Jean shed tears because she could not come along.

EVEN THE COLONISTS PROFIT BY THE CHANGE IN TIDE.

During the summer we received several letters from the colonists whom we helped to go to Manchuria last spring and in most cases they were appeals for help to get back to their former homes, or to get through the cold winter that was ahead of them. We asked a missionary in that region to investigate their conditions and because there were some who had not found a good living we engaged two of the Christian leaders among the group to make a careful investigation and we raised \$500. which was sent to help those in need.

Recently more encouraging news has come and we are glad to learn that a good many of the families have made good already. One man wrote back that he received \$25. Mex. a month working in the fields, another got \$85. and his food for five months in the fields, a third received \$1.50 a day for similar work and still another had found such good fishing that he was making several dollars a day. Conditions were so encouraging that one man wrote for his father and mother to sell their land and come up there at once. They sold their land and the last we heard they were expecting to start for Manchuria as their son had written that work was available, even in the winter.

A few families have come back already but one man who

returned reported that if the people who have not made good yet can get through the winter they will have a good opportunity to till land on shares next spring. He said that if people would only stay up there a few years they would certainly get a much better living than they could get here. He thought that he might return to Manchuria next spring.

A THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY GOES TO THE COUNTRY.

When one wants to take a post graduate course in a Theological Seminary he usually has to leave his work and go where the seminary is located but in these changing times Mohammed doesn't have to go to the mountain, for the mountain comes to him. Let us explain. We have already mentioned our new evangelist, Mr. Ts'ai Yung Ch'un, who graduated from the Arts College of Yenching University last June. His letters telling of conditions in this field were of such interest to his Yenching friends that some of them decided to make us a visit. Dr. T. C. Chao, the Dean, Dr. Li Jung Fang, Professor and Mrs. Barker, and six students, including one young lady, from the School of Religion, came first to Paotingfu, where they spent three days visiting the schools and churches, and learning something of the organization and work that is being done.

From here they went to Tingsien and the Pretender was invited to go with them. Altogether he was with them about a week and the experience was indeed like a short course in post graduate work. At Tingsien we spent one day visiting the Mass Education work where there are now more than 100 workers and the annual budget amounts to about \$300,000. Mex. There are several "Phds." among the workers and the nature, as well as the scope, of the work makes it one of the outstanding movements in this everchanging nation.

The Yenching party visited a Mass Education class that our church was conducting near Tingsien city and the next day we went in carts to a village forty li (13 miles) away. There we visited an inquirers' class for women and another Mass Education class. On Saturday night we had a church service in the little village chapel but it was so crowded that we had the Sunday morning service out in the court yard. There was a good attendance and Dr. Chao preached the sermon. The students' quartet sang two hymns. Some of those students have been brought up in luxury in South China and had never been in the country districts of the North before. They were good sports in putting up with the inconveniences and we believe that they gained on that visit valuable information that they never could have found in books. Since the School authorities are considering some important changes in the School of Religion this visit of students and Professors may have an important bearing on the future life of the school.

THE CHRISTMAS TIDE.

The real reason for sending this issue of the Chimes at this time is that we hope to have it reach even our most distant friends by December 25. In our meditations on "Time and Tide" we have recalled that some "tides" are caused by the moon; and although "time" in some places is measured by the moon, it usually is governed by the sun. Throughout the long history of this venerable nation its calendar has been determined by the moon, while we of the West have used the sun. So far as we know, the "Kingdom of the Christ Child" is the only Kingdom that has hitched its calendar to a star.

Scientists tell us that there was a time when there was no moon, and we conclude that at that time there therefore was no tide. Scientists also inform us that the time will come when

there will be no sun. Whether there are any who are so bold as to predict a time when there will be no stars, we do not know. Neither do we care. We have hitched our wagon, and our calendar, to a Star, -the Star that led the wise men of old. As this Star makes its annual appearance, and we feel its tide come sweeping over us, we are more and more convinced that it is the most certain, the most dependable, the most enduring, and the most satisfying of anything by which we may set the compass of our lives.

We do not know what the "time" or "tide" will be for those to whom this is to go. From what we hear of conditions in America it seems that the constellation to which some have hitched their wagon has moved somewhat from the Zenith. If this be true we hope for them that the Star of the Christ Child will but shine the brighter. We hope that all of you are enjoying with us a more favorable time, and to you all we send our heartiest greetings for this approaching Christmas-tide.

As, at the ebbing of the year we stand, and contemplate the future,

Wondering, - since Times and Tides do change, -

What next may chance, what storms may toss our barks;

Lo, from the East there gleams the Star that hung o'er Bethlehem
To guide those Travelers seeking Truth.

From out its glowing ray there flashes clear
The hope and certainty of a New Dawn

When that bright Star, indeed, shall light the world,
And radiant, powerful, glorious transcend all Times and Tides.

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