

# THE CHINESE CHIMES

Now and Then Number

**"Now we see through a glass, darkly;  
but then face to face"**

T'unghsien, Peiping, China  
November, 1935

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H. W. Robinson, Pretending Editor,      James W. Robinson, Sport Editor.  
Mary S. Robinson, Busy Manager,      Harold S. Robinson, Cub Reporter.  
Elizabeth A. Robinson, Treasure.

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## **A Broken Bell.**

When we mentioned in our last issue of the Chimes, the cracked bell which had been so skillfully mended that its perfect tone was restored, little did realize that we should soon have the task of attempting to repair one of our bells, but such is the case. It was the "Gold and Silver" one that was broken, and the damage was done when three American banks and Trust Companies, operating here in China, closed their doors last summer. Ours was a very small part of the millions involved, but it represented most of the savings for the education of the younger members of our Staff. A Chinese bank in which we had most of the remainder of our savings soon followed suit, and for a while it was a question whether the Cub Reporter would be able to go to America to enter college as he had planned. We still don't know how much, if any, of the gold and silver will ever be available, but we are trying to keep music in our lives without that bell, and we know that there is a host of others who are doing likewise.

All over China there are missionaries who had their private savings in those American banks, and there were large sums of mission funds that were lost, besides our personal funds. We know of at least five Schools for American children in China, including the one with which we are connected, which lost heavily and there were a good many Chinese who thought that American institutions were dependable who lost not only their money, but their faith in things American. All America has been hurt by the calamity that cost us our bell, and we believe that we now know how multitudes in America have felt as they have experienced during the past few years fates similar to ours. We trust that we are a little more sympathetic towards those in adversity, and sympathy is certainly a necessary quality if one is to make music in his own life, or in the lives of others.

## **Ten Thousand Miles to College.**

The Cub Reporter left China July 11, crossed the Pacific third class on the Empress of Japan, went by bus from Seattle to Vermont, via Southern California, and is now a freshman in Dartmouth College. He had the misfortune to crack a bone in his foot during

a freshman-sophomore football rush, which put him on crutches for seven weeks but we hope he is on two legs before this. He has a scholarship which covers his tuition, and a job where he works for his board. There is a void in our hearts since he left, and we expect that there has been one in his heart at times, but we know that he is making friends and we are glad he could go. We believe that the life in his new environment will mean much to him.

### **The Rest of Us.**

The rest of our Staff is still at the North China American School. We had a good summer at the seashore and are glad that we can all be together again this year. The Sport Editor lacks only half an inch of being six feet tall, and the Treasure is so near the size of her mother that one of our neighbors said this summer that he had to look twice to see which was the daughter. Our school is smaller than it was last year, but we find enough work to keep us busy, and with us that is one of the requisites for a happy life.

### **Revising the Mailing List.**

We have often wondered how many of our "subscribers" read the Chimes but enough response has come from time to time to encourage us to continue publication. We have decided, however, that we must cut down our list now so hereafter we shall send only to those who indicate a desire to receive future copies.

### **A Winter with the Prophets.**

Our compound group is studying the Old Testament Prophets this winter, and we have recently spent two stimulating and enjoyable evenings with Isaiah. What a store of great literature that book contains! Can anyone study it carefully without having his life influenced by the noble spirit that breathes through its pages?

Perhaps one reason why it has meant so much to me this time is because of the similarity between the situation in Judea when the first part of the book was written and the environment in which we are living here in North China today. The young Prophet was alarmed by the great nation at the east which had already captured some of the small countries between Judea and Babylon, and was threatening his own nation. Who says that history does not repeat itself?

For twenty-five years we have watched a great nation push its boundaries westward until today we hardly know whether that boundary is to the east or to the west of us. Since we sent out our last copies of the Chimes, nearly one year ago, there have been significant events which indicate that we are more under the control of Tokyo than that of Nanking. Last June there was a big turn-over among the military rulers of North China and the general report was that only those who were willing to take orders from Tokyo were permitted to remain. Recently the mayor of Peiping resigned and when asked for a statement he replied, "The less said the better". A newspaper report stated that the Japanese authorities had ordered him to arrest members of a certain "Blue-shirt" society because they were working against the interests of Japan. The mayor is reported to have replied that there were

certain people in North China under Japanese jurisdiction who by their connection with the drug traffic in this area were acting in ways not favorable to the interests of China. When the Japanese arrested those culprits the mayor agreed to look, after the members of the "bad" society. The reprimand that he got from the Japanese for such "insolence" caused the mayor to resign.

Not only are the Chinese not able to control the drug dealers from Japan and Korea here in North China, they are in the same predicament regarding the smuggling of silver out of China. It is a capital offence but last summer I saw a group of smugglers, not Chinese, get on a train headed for Manchuria. They took off their shirts as soon as they got on the train and each one had hundreds of silver dollars in jackets made for the purpose which they wore around their bodies. The silver was placed in suitcases which they carried and stored under the car seats and in the baggage racks. No one did anything to prevent them, for China has no jurisdiction over such foreigners and those who do have jurisdiction pay no attention to them. I was told that this smuggling of silver was a daily occurrence last summer, and it has gone on for so long that the National Government at Nanking has recently passed a law that silver shall not be used as money henceforth. Whether she will be able to enforce this radical measure remains to be seen. Already Japanese spokesmen have stated that Japan will not permit the Nanking Government to take the silver out of North China which is now being held here.

Not long ago a Japanese military leader in Tientsin announced publicly, and had his announcement printed in the newspapers, that Chiang Chieh Shih is the enemy of the Chinese people and their only salvation is to refuse to co-operate with Nanking and join up with Manchuria and Japan who are the preservers of peace in Asia, or words to that effect. A little later an Economic Union was formed in North China between Chinese and Japanese leaders, for the purpose of developing the industries and communications of North China. The South Manchuria Railway, a powerful Japanese organization, is reported to be planning to use millions of dollars in North China during the next five years to develop the natural resources here. Is it strange that it seems to us that we are seeing "through a glass darkly", and are not able to tell whether we are more under the control of Tokyo or Nanking?

### **Whose Fault Is It?**

When the Prophet saw the war-cloud in the east which was to envelop his own nation he did not put the blame on the invaders. His explanation was that Jehovah was using the Babylonians to punish Israel for her sins. Was he right? Is the universe run that way? Certain nations seem to think that they are under "divine appointment" to civilize their "backward neighbors", and America's record is not too clean on that score, but I doubt if most nations take that attitude because they have learned it from Isaiah. Neither have they gotten their ideas from a Prophet later than Isaiah who said, "He who takes the sword shall perish by the sword".

There is, however, some reason for following Isaiah in not putting *all* the blame on the invaders in North China. Thinking

Chinese leaders would be the last to deny that their own country is not partly responsible for the plight in which she now finds herself. An outstanding Chinese Christian leader said in my hearing that only a great suffering could save China. He did not know whether it would be a great war, or some other form of purification, but he was convinced that suffering alone could cleanse China. We hear similar statements frequently from the lips of our Chinese friends.

But it does not seem to me that even Japan and China combined, are responsible for all the guilt. The world is now too much a unit for any one of us to escape completely some responsibility for the state of affairs that exist in the world today. One reason why the Japanese have been taking silver out of China is because they can melt the Chinese dollars and sell the bullion to America at a handsome profit. We are all tarred with the same feather and should acknowledge our share of the guilt. When others suffer we must expect to suffer; when others sin we cannot expect to escape, as they also will have to suffer for our transgressions. Isaiah was right: the world is one, at least it was meant to be one, and there is bound to be suffering, but out of the suffering will come the Jerusalem for those who learn the great lesson of adversity and hardship. They shall be the founders of a Commonwealth of Nations in which one member shall not lift up sword against another, neither shall they learn war any more.

#### **Now and Then.**

These seem to us to be the two significant words in the verse printed at the beginning of this message. Christians are not content to look at the present, but must always have their faces towards the future. We may not be able to see clearly now, but there will come a day when we shall understand. That is the thought that lightens our horizon as we face again the coming of another Christmas season. In fact, we wonder if we have not sometimes looked too much to the past as we have celebrated this most meaningful day of the year. To be sure the Babe of Bethlehem was born a long time ago in the past; but was he not born, and did he not become what he did, partly—more than we are accustomed to think perhaps—because the author of the last part of the book of Isaiah was looking to the future when he saw that only the Suffering Servant could save Israel and the world? He then applied his solution to his own people who he said were to be the Suffering Servant for Humanity, and whether he was right or not, the fact remains that Babylon is no more while Israel still remains a great force in the world.

This concept from the soul of Isaiah became the form in which the character of the Christchild was formed, but again he was not content with looking to the past. He, too, had a dream for the future,—a dream of a day when Brotherhood would cover the earth. True, that day has not yet arrived but if we humbly acknowledge our share in the guilt for things as they are, look forward and not backward, and lend a hand, there is still much reason for wishing one another a

VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

H.W.R.