

World of Missions.

New Year's Day in China.

Through the courtesy of the Rev. Thomas Natress of Amherstburg we are enabled to reproduce the following interesting letter, addressed to the members of his congregation.

Chang Te. Honan, China, Jan. 31, 1900.

Dear Friends,—It will not be necessary for me to search long for a subject for this letter as the day suggests quite as interesting a subject as I can well choose: it is the Chinese New Year, and every Chinaman's birthday. Since the year in China is differently reckoned from that in other countries the New Year comes at a different time. This year it is exactly a month later than our own New Year. The Chinese holiday season centres around the New Year, their festivities lasting not for one day only but for a week or two after the first day of the year. For a long while before the day arrives the pulse of the nation is throbbing with expectancy. It acts upon the people much as the coming of the twenty-fourth of May or of Dominion Day acts upon the people at home. All is hustle and preparation. An extra amount of shopping must be done for all the shops close for the holiday season, an extra amount of food must be prepared for the mouths to be filled are supposed to be large and numerous during the festive season; the temples must be decorated, for the gods must be worshipped. I was

To the Deaf

A rich lady, cured of her Deafness and Noises in the head by Dr. Nicholson's Artificial Ear Drums, gave \$10,000 to his Institute, so that deaf people unable to procure the Ear Drums may have them free, Address No 9926, The Nicholson Institute, 790 Eight Avenue, New York.



Placer Mining Claims in the Yukon Territory.

NOTICE is hereby given that all of the placer mining claims, whole and fractional, the property of the Crown in the Yukon Territory, will be offered for sale at public auction at Dawson, by the Gold Commissioner, on the 2nd day of July, 1900.

Twenty per cent of the purchase money shall be paid to the Gold Commissioner at Dawson on the day of sale and the remainder within thirty days of that date.

There will be no restriction as to the number of claims which may be sold to any one person or company holding a Free Miner's Certificate; but no hydraulic claims will be included in the sale.

So soon as the purchase money has been paid in full, entries for the claims will be granted in accordance with the provisions of the placer mining regulations then in force, with the exception of the provision as to the staking out of claims, and the claims sold shall thereafter be subject to the placer mining regulations.

A survey of the claims sold will be made by the Department at as early a date as possible, and the claims shall include ground the Government Surveyor may define by survey in accordance with such Regulations as may be made in that behalf and the decision of the Gold Commissioner shall in respect thereof be final and conclusive.

In case for any reason it is deemed impossible by the Gold Commissioner to give title and possession to any claim disposed of at such auction sale, the Gold Commissioner will refund the deposit paid at the time of sale, and no claim shall lie against the Crown in respect to failure to give title or possession.

A second auction sale under the conditions above set forth, will be held at Dawson on the 2nd day of August, 1900, of all claims not disposed of at the auction sale of the 2nd July, 1900, and of any other claims which have in the meantime become the property of the Crown under the regulations in that behalf.

PERLEY G. KEYES,

Secretary.

Department of the Interior,
Ottawa, 21st February, 1900.

reminded of all this yesterday forenoon when Mr. Goforth and I went into Chang Te city. We found the streets crowded and the crowds were so busy that they evidently hadn't time even to stop and call "foreign devil" after us, as is their custom. We had no sooner stepped out of our compound than we were reminded that heathenism is at our door. There is a small temple at our front gate and this was decorated with paper bearing different Chinese characters. This morning long before daylight one could hear guns and fire-crackers in every direction. The approach of the gala-day was being heralded. Later on something corresponding to the file and drum was to be heard, and this reminded one of the twelfth of July in "Orange" lands. This evening the sound of gongs and bells of the neighbouring villages breaks in upon me.

Now one would think no more of these fire-crackers and drums and gongs and bells than we do at home did one not know that they are all connected with heathen superstitions and worship. Old men will be seen lighting a string of fire-crackers in front of their houses hoping that evil spirits will thus be kept away. We are told that the worship of the day begins at the home when the whole family is present. They all gather together in the open court where worship is performed to heaven and earth; then they enter the house and worship the family gods and their deceased ancestors. After this family worship the men may be seen going to the temple to burn incense and, amid the sound of the drum, gong and bell, and the song of the priest, bow with head to the ground before their favorite idols. This festive season is also a time when each person is expected to call upon his or her friends and congratulate them. I had almost a score in to day to wish me a good year. Some of them just shook hands Chinese fashion, while others knelt and bowed their heads to the ground. As a rule they did not stay very long as they found the new missionary somewhat "tongue-tied;" his vocabulary is small as yet. Some one writing on this custom of New Year calling, tells us that "the period is introduced by a general wash-day." Every person now takes a bath. This is all the more important event in the lives of some from its occurrence only once a year. Having thus been made clean himself the Chinaman now puts on his best clothes. If he has none good of his own, he hires or borrows a dress. Every one well-dressed in silks, satins and furs, marches forth to make calls, to bow or be bowed to, and, more than all to impress self and others with the fact of elegance. About the third day the women begin to exchange calls, likewise showing a desire for fine dress, good looks and flattery.

The great majority of the Chinese spend the two or three weeks of holidays in gambling, drinking wine, smoking tobacco or opium, and in theatre-going. Gambling is the most prevalent vice in China, opium-smoking comes second.

The Chinese seem to make the New Year season more of a complete separation between the old and new year than we do; with them it is more of a complete beginning anew. For example all debts must be settled before the New Year or no settlement can be claimed; this year has nothing to do with last year's debts. If the debtor has nothing with which to pay the creditor may enter his house and take or break whatever he pleases.

Whether the custom of making New Year resolutions is in vogue in China, or not, I have not learned. If it is what "good" resolution do you suppose a poor heathen Chinaman could make? He might resolve to be more faithful in bowing down to "wood and stone"; or to be more constant in his devotion to the spirits of his dead ancestors but are these "good" resolutions? Oh shall we not hasten to give this people the Gospel in order that the old year with its drums and gongs and bells and superstitions may be driven out, and a real Happy New Year ushered in. Oh that we might:—

"Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be."

Yours very sincerely,
T. CRAIGIE HOOD.

After Doctors Failed.

HOW PERLEY MISNER OF WELLPOROT RECOVERED HEALTH

He Suffered from Hip-joint Disease and Abscesses—His Friends Feared He Would Be a Permanent Invalid.

From The Journal, St. Catharines, Ont.

A reporter of the St. Catharines Journal visiting Wellport not long ago heard of one of those remarkable cures that have made Dr. Williams' Pink Pills famous as life savers the world over. The case is that of Perley Misner, son of Mr. Mathias Misner, who had suffered from hip joint disease and abscesses, and who had been under the care of four doctors without beneficial results. Mr. Misner, gave the particulars of the case as follows:— "In the spring of 1892 my son Perley, who was then in his thirteenth year, began to complain of an aching in his hips, and later my attention was directed to a peculiar shamble in his gait. As the trouble gradually grew upon him, I took him to a physician in Duville, who examined him and said the trouble arose from a weakness of the nerves of the hip. This doctor treated Perley for six months. The last slightly improved at first, but later was taken worse again. He would startle in his sleep and was continually in distress as he could neither sit nor recline with ease, and was weak, faint and confused. During this time the abscess had broken and was discharging in three places, but would not heal. A third doctor advised a surgical operation, which he objected to, and a fourth medical man then took the case in hand. This doctor confined Perley to the bed, and besides giving medicine he ordered a mechanical appliance to which was attached a 15-pound weight, to be placed in a position by a pulley system so as to constantly draw downwards on the limb. This treatment was continued six weeks causing much pain, but nothing in the way of benefit was noticed. The abscess was dressed twice and thrice a day for months, and frequently, despite the aid of crutches, it was necessary for me to carry him in my arms from the house to the vehicle when taking him out. In October of 1893, I decided, other treatments having failed, to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills would quite likely be of much benefit. After using four boxes I could see some improvement. After this Perley continued the use of the Pills for several months with constant improvement and new vigour, and after taking about 18 boxes the abscess was nicely healed, the crutches were dispensed with, and he was able to work and could walk for miles. I attribute the good health which my son enjoys to-day to the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. This medicine achieved such a marvelous success in my son's case as to set the whole community talking about it. I consider no pen expressive enough to do Dr. Williams' Pink Pills justice, as I believe my son would still be a hopeless invalid but for this medicine."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure by going to the root of the disease. They renew and build up the blood, and strengthen the nerves thus driving disease from the system. If your dealer does not keep them they will be sent postpaid at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Lemon Custard Pie.—The Juice of one lemon, yolks of 3 eggs, 1-2 spoons flour, 1-2 cup sugar, 1 spoon melted butter, 1 cup sweet milk. Frosting, whites of 3 eggs beaten to a stiff froth and 3 spoons sugar.