

here helping Mr. Lousley conduct a normal school for the training of country teachers. They also gave their assistance in all the departments of church work. The interest is growing, and many delinquent believers have been revived, also six new inquirers added to the church last Sunday. The meetings were planned for the different places with the object of enlisting the interest of the three departments of the mission, and, as Mr. Fuh said, "Have all work together for the uplift of our countrymen." The one manifest weakness in the organization is, no women have been invited to the meetings, and this, we hope, will be corrected in this generation. Thank God, we no longer have to use a microscope to see the effect of Christianity, and what is now required is careful watering and wise, Christ-like pruning of the infant church in this country. The great problem is to use what we have to give in the way of help, so as to make it count for most, without getting in the way of our Chinese leaders who are also feeling the burden of responsibility for the spread of the gospel. Would that we missionaries were "wise as serpents and harmless as doves." They take up a collection every month, and have added a few dollars to the Swang Gu Fen Fund, which I mentioned in a previous letter. Two years ago, at our annual Thanksgiving meeting, the fifteenth of the eighth moon, the people were moved to do something better than the ordinary, so under the inspiration of our evangelistic meetings the evangelists, Fan Co Dju and Fuh Lih Chen, set on foot the idea of contributing money enough to purchase a chapel in Swang Gu Fen, a big town sixty li from this city on the Jenhsow road, to commemorate the first revival held in Yulinshin. Their zeal was high but purses low, so it has taken some time to get sufficient money to make the purchase. They entrusted me with the funds, and over one hundred silver dollars stands to their credit, which they have collected during the two years. At the present time the most difficult problem is to persuade the local people to sell to the church (on account of the new government regulations), in this case we do not ask for your money, but we urgently request your electrical resulting producing prayers to influence the minds of the public men in this town to study Christianity, and then to accept Christ as their Saviour; also that the infant church of China may be implanted in all her actions by the Spirit of the Man of Nazareth, then selfishness will be eliminated and the Christ enthroned in the heart. May this be likewise true of the Church in the East.

REV. DR. W. E. SMITH.

of the Spirit of the Man of Nazareth, then selfishness will be eliminated and the Christ enthroned in the heart. May this be likewise true of the Church in the East.

Yours,

W. E. SMITH.

"Stop in the midst of the bustle and hurry and temptation of the day for thanksgiving and prayer. A few minutes spent alone with God at midday will go far to keep you in the midst of the worries and anxieties of modern life."—R. A. Torrey.

The Trouble in China

(NOTE: The following is an extract from a letter written by Rev. G. W. Sparling, B.A., B.D., before the rebellion actually broke out in China. It will explain in part the cause of the revolt against the Government. The entire letter will appear in The Missionary Bulletin.—Ed.)

JUST now China is passing through another of her trials, and we are all wondering what the outcome will be. China is changing rapidly, and reforms are taking place so quickly that one can scarcely keep pace with the changes, but the long-talked-of railroads

are not being laid with the speed that we had anticipated. I remember that years ago people said there would soon be a railroad to Chengtu, and we would no longer be compelled to make the wearisome houseboat trip, but, as far as appearances are concerned, that railroad is no nearer now than it was then. The Government repeatedly appealed to the gentry and wealthy classes, but their money was very slow in coming. The people did not seem to have sufficient confidence in the enterprise nor in the Government, to be willing to sink their funds. Just recently the Government decided that all trunk lines shall be state-controlled, and instead of appealing further to the Chinese people, has contracted for a foreign loan of some thirty million dollars. This will make the Government independent of the people, and will also put the roads under its control, so that in case of trouble, traffic cannot be impeded. This action of the Government has been resented by the people, and many indignation meetings have been held, from which the protests have been sent to Peking urging the authorities not to accept the loan. But the Government very wisely stands firm, for we believe that, in this instance, as in many others, it is far in advance of the people, and if the Government were contented to listen to their dictates, such rapid changes as we see going on would not be taking place.

THE CHINESE BELIEVE THAT POWERERS WANT TO PARTITION CHINA.

The ruling class of China are the Manchus, and the people regard it as a yoke of bondage that they are forced to submit to these people, whom they regard almost as semi-foreign. Naturally in these indignation meetings foreigners in general receive their share of abuse. A story has been circulated throughout the country that the foreign powers are ready with a knife, as it were, to slice up the country and each take her allotted share. The part which Great Britain wants is our own province of Szechwan. This a great many people believe, and when the Government allowed the foreign powers to invest capital in the railroads, it but roused them further, for they thought that it meant the entering of the point of the knife. Thus the people continue in a state of constant ferment, regarding us all as enemies waiting for an opportunity to pounce upon them, rather than friends seeking to do them good. But this con-

dition is not as bad as it was some years ago. Some of the people are becoming enlightened and know a little about international relations. They are prepared to regard China as one in the great community of nations, and are ready to allow a certain amount of intercourse. The Government has a very firm hand upon the people, and we think that trouble cannot very easily arise. It is God's own way of bringing this great nation forward on the pathway of progress, and it would be strange if any land could undergo changes such as are taking place in China without some ripples upon the surface."



REV. G. W. SPARLING.

The Elk Lake Mission

On November 2nd, the following letter was written:

Dear Mr. Tucker,—I am in receipt of your favor of the 20th ult., and note with considerable interest your kind enquiries concerning our mission at Elk Lake. I am very sorry that I cannot give you a more encouraging report of our work at that part of the field. You will, no doubt, have seen from time to time the complaint of the people at Elk Lake to the Government concerning the unsatisfactory transportation facilities. So great was the difficulty that at the opening of the Porcupine boom the people of the place, being discouraged at the slowness of the Government in sending in the promised road, simply removed by the score even the hundred to the newer and more likely place. Now, our church at Elk Lake, instead of having its ordained minister, and a large auditorium crowded with men, has only a half dozen members and no pastor at all. I was only there from July until October, when I was moved to Matheson. Another very important reason why our work at Elk Lake is at present suffering is because we have lost to our four less men up here this year than last. All the probationers are getting a hundred dollars less than the discipline allowance, and still we cannot get funds to warrant our District Superintendent in asking young men to come back here. If we had either the funds or the men we should certainly supply Elk Lake the first of all. At present we have a purely temporary arrangement whereby the Presbyterians, who are suffering equally with us, draw out of Gowganda and the Methodists out of Elk Lake. If you hear at any time of the railroad being actually built into Elk Lake or of any considerable move into Gowganda or West Shining Tree, you may rest assured that the work in Elk Lake is prospering. But unless there is assurance of something better than this there at present, our cause is a thing of indefinite futurity. My work is now at Matheson, a circuit of over a hundred miles, and with, not a roving, unstable mining population, but a farming and more permanent people. Thanking you for your interest in us up here, and wishing you every success, I remain,

Yours in the love of Christ,
WILFRED L. CULLIS.

The Improvement of Time

It seems that life is all a void.
On selfish thoughts alone employed;
That length of days is not a good,
Unless their use be understood;
While if good deeds ONE year engage,
THAT may be longer than an age;
But if a year in trifles go,
Perhaps you'd spend a thousand so:
Time cannot stay to make us wise—
We must improve it as it flies.

—I. Taylor.