

LETTER FROM REV. DR. SMITH, HONAN.

EXTRACTS FROM PRIVATE LETTERS TO HIS BROTHER.

HSIN CHEN, July 10, 1892.

MY DEAR TOM,—We are now entering upon our malarial season. The rainy season is on, and from this until the frost comes in the fall we will have floods on every hand.

We have felt the heat pretty keenly this year, worse than last summer I think; 112° in the shade and 103° in the room, is just hot enough.

My dispensary patients have kept up remarkably well thus far, sometimes I would be well pleased if they would give me a rest.

A week ago last Sabbath was a joyful day for us in Hsin Chen. The two Chous, father and son, were baptized, the old man is 56, the son 24 years of age.

You remember them. The old man was blind for six or seven years, and I operated upon his eyes two years ago last March, and ever since that time he and his son have shown much anxiety to know about our doctrine. Over a year ago they professed their faith in Christ and applied for baptism, but we put them off until now. I preached, and then baptized them, and later in the day Mr. McKenzie and McVicar conducted a communion service and we all sat down at the table of the Lord for the first time in this place. Four Chinese in our employ are Christians, and so altogether we had six Chinese and six foreigners.

We had the two men here for over a week beforehand and we were gratified to see their earnestness, and their knowledge of God's word would put to shame many who have for years had all the privileges of the gospel. We pray that they may be kept from the snares of the evil one, and from the pollutions around them. The whole family is interested and also many others in their village.

September 10th.

We have been four years in this land and have seen a great number of changes. I have been three years continuously in the interior, and I think I have stood it well. The Dispensary patients have kept up and the chapel work is encouraging.

October 8th.

Your last letter found me in bed suffering from temporary illness. I have been up for the last three days but have not been outside yet.

October is a beautiful month in China and we enjoy it very much, November brings cold raw winds and frost.

We have had several months of peace for which we are thankful.

We have about secured another Compound but have not yet taken possession of it; we hope we may have no fresh outbreaks on account of it.

November 6th.

We had a big theatre here for five days, and

great crowds attended. They begin about 9.30 p.m. and continue until after 12 m., then at 2.30 p.m. until about sundown, and again at 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

The platform was erected a few yards from our front gate, and several thousand crowded in the space in front of a temple. It was fortunate that our Compound was not between the platform and temple for we were thus saved much annoyance.

We have been bargaining for a new Compound for a long time, and now, that we have almost completed the bargain, our enemies are aroused and we do not know what the result will be.

The new comers (missionaries) will likely arrive in Chu Wang in a few days.

It will be Xmas when this reaches you and we all join in wishing you a merry one and a glad and happy New Year.

Your brother

JAMES.

LETTER FROM REV. D. MACGILLIVRAY.

TANG YIN HSIEN, Dec. 7, 1893.

MY DEAR JOHN,—I arrived here yesterday about noon when it began to rain. The weather continued wet, so that no one went out unless he had something to do, absolutely unpostponable. Hence we did not discover Goforth until this morning. He had been several days waiting in the inn south of the one we entered. You may be sure we had a happy meeting. It was some seven months since we had met before.

The latest news from Hsin Chen is that things are quiet.

Miss McIntosh and Miss Dr. Graham had gone in their boat in charge of Mr. McVicar. The rain will spoil the fair and also our opportunity.

Goforth proposes walking north to Chang Teh after a few days, while I intend to start off in another direction. At present we are both confined to the dingy inn room, but the presence of two foreigners and six or seven natives makes a considerable stir.

Later.—43rd day out. You see I have passed the momentous 40 for the first time. Once before, I got to it. Another time I reached 39. The rain is still pouring down and me "shut in."

Latest.—55 days out. A messenger from Chu Wang, our station, found me with a request to return so as to enable McVicar to attend the fair at his station. I arrived at Chu Wang on Saturday, and will leave, D.V., on Monday for the field again.

Delighted to greet Grant. Drs. Malcolm and Graham have gone on to Hsin Chen.

Lovingly,

DONALD.

"It is a blessed trouble that brings a sound and lasting peace."