ON THE TRAIL OF THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

This Distinguished American Journalist is Traveling Around the World for the Purpose of Investigating the American Foreign Missionary from a Purely Disinterested, Secular and Non-Sectarian Standpoint. Illustrated with Drawings and from Photographs.

THE IDEAL MISSION FIELD IS IN NORTHERN KOREA.

Seoul, Korea.—To get close to the actual facts of missionary work in any country, as well as of the true political and social conditions, it is necessary to move out from the capital or port cities and to sojourn for a time in rural parts. So I have been out seeing the real Korea, itinerating among country villages where there are churches, and in the meantime seeing at first hand what is said to be the most picturesque people in the orient. The "how" of missionary work in this country may be set forth by a recital of this concrete experience.

Sometimes the missionary on tour puts his outfit on a little Korean pony and then, mounting on top of it, rides. At other times he walks. Women missionaries often travel in chairs, borne by coolies. In the present instance we walked, and two coolies carried our packs containing folding cots, bedding, food and cooking utensils. It is impossible for most white persons to subsist in health upon the Korean diet of rice and pickled vegetables. As to the matter of sleeping—move of that later.

The Orient Which Changes Not.

A pedestrian tour through rural Korea is better worth while than the same amount of time spent in Seoul. The first afternoon we traveled for five hours over the narrow paths between rice fields which serve for roads in Korea; they are the "waysides" of the familiar parable of the sower. Wheeled vehicles are unknown outside of the cities, though

A Korean Village.

the Koreans have a ponderous two-wheeled ox-cart which they claim was the original wheeled vehicle. Unlike Japan, where only a hand plow is used, the Koreans cultivate their fields with oxen. The last of the rice crop had been gathered and the threshing floors of the farm houses in the villages were busy places. There are no solitary farm houses in this country; the farmers live in villages and go out to their fields early in the morning.

The Missionary with a Gun.

In many of the villages through which we passed, churches are established; and occasionally we stopped to speak to some native Christian. The "Moksa," or missionary, is a person of distinction, and his passage an event. Of course, all speech is in Korean; there is no such widespread knowledge of English as in Japan.

As we traversed the country side the absence of the shrines and idols that mark every Japanese highway was noticeable. Now and then we saw a neglected booth, erected for the propitiation of some evil spirit. At a pass in the mountains we came to a tree with stones heaped around it; it supposedly embodied an evil spirit, and every traveler casts a stone at it. The hillsides are covered with grave mounds, regarded as sacred, and before some of these are tablets, now and then sculptured crudely into human form. Broadly speaking, however, Korea may be regarded as a country without a religion.

The country itself is beautiful, largely mountainous, but with fertile valleys. There are many wild fowl, geese, ducks and pheasants, and it is quite usual for the itinerant missionary to carry a gun to provide the meat for his meals. In the interior the missionary occasionally bags a deer or a wild boar; and there is always the possibility of meeting a tiger. Some missionaries, who are a hundred miles from a beefsteak, eat pheasant three times a day because they cannot afford bacon or ham.

From Fifth Avenue to Korea.

After a 15-mile tramp, we reached at dusk the village which was our destination. The welcome that was given to the missionary was really beautiful to behold. Old men and young, with little children in their train, came forward with beaming faces, and with the ancient salutation of "Peace." They caught the missionary's hands, squeezed his arm or affectionately patted his shoulders. Yet they had never seen this particular "Moksa," or "shepherd," before. The field is that of Rev. Dr. H. G. Underwood, one of the missionary veterans of Korea, but he is absent on a furlough, and his duties have fallen to Rev. Earnest F. Hall, a young man who was for several years assistant pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church, New York city. Mr. Hall is still supported by the Fifth Avenue church as its representative in Korea. Many times during the days we were together I wondered how often he thinks of the contrast between Fifth Avenue congregations and these Korean villagers, who, in truth, personify the simple life.

The best room in one of the largest farm houses in the village was made ready for us by the easy process of the family's tumbling out, since the room was absolutely devoid of all furnishings except a chest for best clothes and treasures. From the ceiling, which was a lofty one for Korea, being seven or eight feet high, hung various articles, such as a cheese-shaped hat box. The entrance to the room was through a paper-covered doorway four feet high by two wide. There was a small window, likewise of paper, on either side of the room. The dimensions of the latter were 8 feet by 12, so that the missionary congratulated himself on our roomy quarters. Eight by eight is the normal room.

Christianity's Remarkable Growth.

While we were at supper a Korean Christian entered with the news that in a small village two hours farther on where no missionary had visited, a group of believers (that word is commonly used in Korea) had recently sprung up, numbering ten families. They had been visited each Sunday by the Christians from our village and given instruction, but they wanted the missionary to visit them and establish a catechumen class. Mr. Hall's program was too full on the present tour to admit of this. In our stopping place the elder further reported, there were 40 candidates for baptism to be examined. This particular community illustrates the phenomenal Christianization of this country, which is now less than a generation removed from the rank heathenism and a seclusion which earned for it the title of "The Hermit Nation." The settlement comprises 18 houses and of these 25 are Christian.

Practically the entire village turned out for the evening service, most of them carrying Bibles and hymn books. The singing was led by the missionary, there being no organ. The congregation is dependent upon his visits for new tunes, though they retain with surprising correctness the ones formerly learned. Mr. Hall also taught the people, by having them repeat the words after him, the first question and answer of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, which has lately been rendered into Korean. The time-honored figure, "drank in every word," best expresses the attitude of the congregation toward the sermon.

While the missionary preached, I watched the people. All except the children were in white. Many of the women, who were curtained off from the men, had babies on their backs or at their breasts. Some of the men wore the wide, horn spectacles of the Chinese scholar. All except the few unmarried ones had their hair done up in top-knots, with a brain squeezing black net band around their heads. Most wore the horse-hair inner cap.

The children wore clothes of many colors—pink, yellow and green predominating. Candidly, all would have looked better for an application of soap and water; the Korean has not yet fully learned the godliessness of dirt. None of the people showed the foreign influence in their clothes, as is the case in Seoul, where even the top-knot is beginning to disappear. In the latter place I saw a boy in church whose dress consisted of Japanese imitation of American shoes; stockings with black, yellow and green stripes fastened with a purple garter; white, baggy Korean trousers; a red coat, tied under the arms with lavender ribbon; a pale green sweater peeping above it at the neck, and a brown plush scarf about his throat somewhat like the hangings of an old fashioned pullman car. His headgear was a Japanese military cap. Korean children, like their elders, sit on the floor during service with the foot of one leg crossed over the thigh of the other; and, like their elders, they are quiet and attentive.

Putting Converts Through the Mill.

After the service was over, the elders gathered around the missionary and proffered formal request that he come as soon as possible and spend a few days in teaching them the Bible. Mr. Hall had to put them off with a vague promise, as his field is too large for him to do more than look over it. I was interested to note that, while elsewhere missionaries have to adopt various devices to attract hearers, such as English classes, cooking classes, etc., in Korea the people seem to want simply the Bible; and the missionaries are unable to meet the demand for the teaching of it.

Early the next morning, after a night which in the interest of delicacy would better be passed over without comment, the missionary began the work of examining the 40 applicants for baptism. The three "leaders" of the local church, and a visiting elder from Seoul, sat on the floor of our sleeping room, and the candidates were brought in one by one. The first was a man of 40 who had learned to read in order to read the Bible, a common experience among the Korean converts. The next was a boy of 12, son of Christian parents. Then came a young man of 28, then an old man. A bright boy of 12, with his hair up in a top-knot, in token of being "a man," had been married a year to a girl of 15, also a believer. Although married, these children reside with their own parents; the missionary instructed them to do so until they have reached the marriageable age fixed by the church, which is 16 years for a girl and 18 for a man. Many such practical problems as these arise among a people fresh from rank heathenism.

After watching the examinations for several hours, and having the questions translated to me, I must say that the fitness of the candidates for church membership is very rigidly guarded. The examination is much more rigid than a person has to undergo in order to become a member of a church in America. I told the missionary that I would not risk it myself; he requires almost a theological education on the part of converts. This strictness is necessary, however, to keep the people from joining the church from un-Christian motives; it would be easy otherwise to turn Christianity to political uses in Korea. I was pleased to note that the strictness of the examination was abated in the case of some ignorant peasant women. One had been a believer nine years, and the leaders testified to her piety; so, although she could not read nor answer many of the questions, she was taken into the church.

All day long the missionary worked over these examinations, and at five o'clock he had only got through 26 persons; the others would have to wait until his next visit. Fourteen of the candidates were passed for baptism and 11 retained in the catechumen class for a while longer. Just before dusk a leader went out and blew a whistle to summon the village to church, and the people laid aside their labors and assembled for the baptismal service. This was simple, brief and impressive. I think I shall remember the sight of the procession of white-robed villagers with Bibles and hymn books under their arms, filing down the hill from the church at sunset.

When we hastened away from the village, the people gathered with many good wishes. The simplicity, open-heartedness and affection of these child-like Christians is really affecting. Because I was with Mr. Hall they considered me a missionary-in-law, I suppose, and they sent me off with such demonstrations of interest and such repeated benedictions as do not often fall to the lot of a journalist. It was a new sensation. I really liked it so that when on the day following, a boy carrying on his back two 15-foot timbers of telegraph-pole thickness (a Korean coolie will carry four times his weight and six times his bulk) stopped me with beaming face and squeezed my arm, I took it for granted that he had seen me at church and I responded with the salutation of "Peace," which I had learned.

As we went on our way from each village some of the elders would accompany us, as the Ephesian elders accompanied the Apostle Paul. The custom is an oriental one, as is also the constantly repeated salutation of "Peace! Peace!"

Summing up the whole trip, three facts especially impressed me. 1. The receptivity of the Koreans toward Christianity, in eagerness and sincerity. 2. The thoroughness of the work of the missionary, and the vigilance with which church membership is guarded. 3. The remarkable fact that the missionary has no time to go after people or do any pioneer evangelistic work; the church is propagating itself. Here, in two decades, has been created a native church that is wholly self-supporting and self-extending. I have no doubt that if the present missionary force in Korea were quadrupled or sextupled at once, practically the whole nation would become Christian in less than a score of years.

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Illinois State News

Recent Happenings of Interest in the Various Cities and Towns.

ARE TO CHOOSE DELEGATES.

Methodists Will Elect Representatives to Lay Electoral Conference.

Sparta.—Great interest throughout Methodism in southern Illinois is manifested in the choosing of delegates to the lay electoral conference, which will meet in Mount Carmel September 20.

The conference is composed of one layman from each pastoral charge, and meets every four years in connection with the annual conference, the ministers' body. Its chief business is to elect its quota of delegates to the general conference, which is the supreme legislative and judicial body of the church in which there is equal representation of ministers and laity.

The next session of this body will convene in Baltimore in May, 1908.

SEEK HOME FOR MRS. DAVIESS.

Former Wife of Ex-Governor Ford in Need of Succor.

Middletown.—Rev. W. N. Connelly has presented to Gov. Deneen a petition asking that Mrs. A. E. Daviess, an aged invalid of this place, be sent to a home for old ladies. Mrs. Daviess, who was the wife of ex-Gov. Ford, of Illinois, has been making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Henry Gambrel, at Middletown, but is at present in the Deaconess hospital at Lincoln.

Real Estate Increased.

Virginia.—The tax assessment now being reviewed by the county board shows a falling off in the personal property assessment in the county and a gain in real estate. The Beardstown real estate increased $291,220, and personal decreased $337,750 in a year. Virginia's real estate has risen from $625,100 to $784,170, and personal property has decreased $217,125. The total of personal property for the county is $4,541,095. Last year it was $5,189,040.

Moved Car; Two Killed.

Madison.—While 15 employes of the Madison Car & Foundry company were eating their lunch under a new freight car the car was set in motion. Carl Eblin, aged 18, and John Jiedling, aged 36, killed; John T. Jocko suffered internal injuries from which he will die; John Chirko was injured internally; Peter Antones had a hand cut off.

Nets Forbidden in Sangamon.

Petersburg.—Because the Sangamon river is not used for commercial navigation, it is unlawful to fish in the stream in any manner other than with hook and line. Fishermen who applied for license for nets were refused on this account and as several men were making a living in this manner they will be forced to quit.

Baby Drinks Gasoline.

Pittsfield.—The two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Rheinhardt, of New Salem, is dead as the result of swallowing gasoline. The mother had been cleaning the boy's cap with the fluid and going into the other room left the bottle sitting on the window sill. The baby secured it and drank a portion of the contents.

Receives Pay Long Due.

Carmi.—After waiting for more than 40 years for back pay due him for services rendered in the civil war, John F. Eddings, who lives near Iuka, received a voucher from the war department for $26.19. There was no accompanying note to explain why so long a time had elapsed without the money being sent.

Shell Explodes; Burns Boy.

Pittsfield.—Not satisfied with having his fingers badly burned by an explosion of fireworks on July 4, Arthur Sanders, a small boy of this city, tried to extract the powder from a shotgun shell. The shell exploded and he was seriously burned about the face and neck.

Christian Prohibitionists to Meet.

Taylorville.—The seventh annual Christian County Prohibition Chautauqua assembly will be held at Sharpsburg, August 20 to 25.

Liquor Seller Heavily Fined.

Danville.—George Dial, of Blue Mound, has been fined $550 and sentenced to jail for 110 days for selling liquor to minors.

Two Holdup Men Captured.

Kankakee.—Fred Link and Edward Bott were captured by the police at the end of a desprate battle after they had held up Ladis Runskewitz. Both men struggled fiercely, but were clubbed into submission.

Physicians Die Within an Hour.

Jacksonville.—Two prominent physicians, Dr. M. H. Goodrich and Dr. C. E. Burkeholder, died within an hour of each other. Goodrich was 50 and a member of the city council. Burkeholder was 32.

TO HONOR WAR GOVERNOR.

G. A. R. Post Starts Movement for Yates Monument.

Jacksonville.—Matt Starr post G. A. R., started a movement to build a monument to War Gov. Yates, and appointed a committee to arrange to bring the matter before the next state encampment. They will ask the encampment to petition the legislature to appropriate a sum for a monument to be erected in front of the statehouse. The argument will be "what Indiana did for Morton Illinois should do for Yates." The remains of the war governor lie buried in Diamond Grove cemetery and are designated by a small unpretentious monument.

SWEDES SING IN DULUTH.

Society In Convention at Moline Decides on Next Meeting.

Moline.—The business session of the western division of the American-Swedish singers was held here. The financial statement shows total receipts of $9,113.55, with disbursements of $7,753.65. An invitation from the Duluth delegation for the next festival in 1911 was accepted with enthusiasm.

The following officers were elected: President, C. D. Forsell, Duluth; first vice president, Dr. Victor Nilson, Minneapolis; second vice president, Otto Johnson, Chicago; financial secretary, Ernst Lindskog.

Boy Drowns; Playmate Silent.

Staunton.—George Nixon, aged six, and John Boyle, seven years old, went out on a pond here on a plank raft. George was shoving the raft across the shallow pond with a stick when he slipped and fell into the water. John ran home, but fear kept him from telling what had happened. At night Mrs. Nixon began worrying about her boy. After much coaxing John told the story. The pond was dragged and the body found.

Costly Fence Brings Little.

Carlinville.—The iron fence around the Macoupin county courthouse was sold for $205. It cost originally $96,000. The cost of the fence was in proportion to the $2,500,000 paid for the Macoupin courthouse, erected in 1882, and famed the country over. The courthouse is being paid for at the rate of $50,000 per annum, and in 1909 it is hoped to pay the last dollar of debt.

$200,000,000 Mortgage Filed.

Mount Sterling.—The $200,000,000 mortgage that the Wabash is placing on all their railroad property was filed here. It is made in favor of the Bowling Green Trust company of New York, J. C. Vam Blarcom, St. Louis, and James B. Forgan, Chicago. It contains 33,000 words and the fee for recording in this county is about $30.

Gov. Deneen Addresses Chautauqua.

Havana.—Gov. Deneen delivered the recognition day address at the Epworth League chautauqua here. The largest class in the state, 18 young ladies, graduated into the Chautauqua Literary society circles. Two thousand people were here.

Train Kills Two Women.

Staunton.—While picking coal here Mrs. Anna Shimonitz and Mrs. John Belavich were killed by a Wabash train. The women endeavored to get out of the way of a freight train on another track and were run down by the passenger.

National Building League President.

Taylorville.—J. N. C. Shumway, of this city, was elected president of the United States League of Local Building and Loan associations at the annual meeting at Chicago.

Farmer Killed by Lightning.

Mount Vernon.—Charles Howard, a prominent and wealthy farmer, was killed by lightning while working in the harvest field near Bonnie, in this county.

Heat Paralyzes Girard Man.

Girard.—J. C. Beeby, aged 76, an aged resident of this place, is paralyzed as a result of becoming overheated while at work in his garden.

Will Dedicate Chamberburg Church.

Pittsfield.—The new M. E. church at Chambersburg will be dedicated Sunday, August 18.

Overturns Hot Water on Self.

Clinton.—Ethel Chandler, aged seven years, tried to lift a kettle of hot water from the stove but turned the receptacle in such a position as to throw scalding fluid over her abdomen. She was badly burned but will recover.

Odd Fellows' Home is Full.

Mattoon.—The State Odd Fellows' Old Folks home at this place is crowded to the limit and no more members can be sheltered. The board of trustees will be asked at their next meeting to erect another building.

Is Pe-ru-na Useful for Catarrh?

Should a list of the ingredients of Peruna be submitted to any medical expert, of whatever school or nationality, he would be obliged to admit without reserve that each one of them was of undoubted value in chronic catarrhal diseases, and had stood the test of many years' experience in the treatment of such diseases. THERE CAN BE NO DISPUTE ABOUT THIS WHATEVER. Peruna is composed of the most efficacious and universally used herbal remedies for catarrh. Every ingredient of Peruna has a reputation of its own in the cure of some phase of catarrh.

Peruna brings to the home the COMBINED KNOWLEDGE OF SEVERAL SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE in the treatment of catarrhal diseases; brings to the home the scientific skill and knowledge of the modern pharmacist; and last but not least, brings to the home the vast and varied experience of Dr. Hartman, in the use of catarrh remedies, and in the treatment of catarrhal diseases.

The fact is, chronic catarrh is a disease which is very prevalent. Many thousand people know they have chronic catarrh. They have visited doctors over and over again, and been told that their case is one of chronic catarrh. It may be of the nose, throat, lungs, stomach or some other internal organ. There is no doubt as to the nature of the disease. The only trouble is the remedy. This doctor has tried to cure them. That doctor has tried to prescribe for them.

BUT THEY ALL FAILED TO BRING ANY RELIEF.

Dr. Hartman's idea is that a catarrh remedy can be made on a large scale, as he is making it; that it can be made honestly, of the purest drugs and of the strictest uniformity. His idea is that this remedy can be supplied directly to the people, and no more be charged for it than is necessary for the handling of it.

No other household remedy so universally advertised carries upon the label the principal active constituents, showing that Peruna invites the full inspection of the critics.

Poor Paint is Expensive

If one is rich enough to repaint his buildings every year for the pleasure of having a change of color scheme, the quality of the paint used may cut little figure. But if it is desirable to cut the painting bills down to the least amount possible per year, it is of the utmost importance that the paint be made of Pure White Lead and the best of Linseed Oil. There are imitations in the form of alleged White Lead, and there are substitutes in the form of ready-prepared paints.

We guarantee our White Lead to be absolutely pure, and the Dutch Boy on the side of every keg is your safeguard. Look for him.

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