

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 System and Its Effect on the People of the World. Illustrated with Drawings and Photographs.

Notables from the West Who Do Things in Far East

Shanghai, China.—These articles engaged to tell of the American men and women who are investing their lives in heathen lands. It is in the nature of the case that these should be pronounced personalities, and full of interest; many of them will get volume biographies when they die. Let me recall, in a paragraph each, a few of those whom I have met in China, the reader remembering that there are many other hundreds in the interior of this immense empire whom I have not had the opportunity to meet.

As he is the acknowledged foremost writer upon Chinese subjects, so Rev. Dr. Arthur H. Smith, of the American board, is probably the most interesting personality among Americans in China. His books are not more brilliant than himself; he is a scientific conversationalist, at a two-hundred-words-a-minute gallop. Yet there is not a more inconspicuous or modest American in China. He has never been mistaken for a fakir, for he is as unassuming as the most unassuming of fakirs, and as broad and original. He probably understands the Chinese better than any other white man. If the legations and missionaries had listened to his urgings there would have been fewer massacres and no siege of Peking in 1900. At President Roosevelt's request, he has just written a book, "America and China."

Mrs. A. P. Lowrie, of the American Presbyterian mission, has been more than 50 years in China, yet the Chinese have not robbed her of her beauty and delightful American. Her tongue is

Prof. Isaac T. Headland, of the Methodist Episcopal mission, Peking! This book brought Prof. Headland no little reputation in America; but his more serious hobby is not nursery rhymes, but Chinese art. He has the finest collection of Chinese paintings owned by any white man, and he is, besides, the world's leading authority on this subject. Incidentally, he is a connoisseur on Chinese rugs. These pursuits are merely avocations; his vocation for life is teaching in the Peking university, where several hundred young men are learning the best that the west has to give, including its Christianity.

"Two rare men, who long-headedly have elected to be inconspicuous in great China, rather than to stand among the many strong men in America," are Robert D. Galley ("Bob" Galley, Princeton's greatest football player), and C. H. Robertson, who are associated in Y. M. C. A. work at Peking. Both are statesmen, with breadth of vision, altruism and nobility of character have won the confidence of the highest Chinese. Robertson, like Galley before him, lives in a Chinese home in the native city, and, considering it the biggest work open to an ambitious man, he has invested his personality as a foundation stone in the New China, over which he is so enthusiastic. Both these men are truly leaders of a constituency of young Chinese.

China is full of Boer stories, tragic and amusing. One of the latter concerns Dr. W. H. Park, of the Southern

China's oldest missionary, is known wherever men read thoroughly about China. He was long head of the Imperial university, is author of standard works in Chinese and upon China in English. His magazine contributions have been legion. Withal, at 85 years of age, he is as energetic, as full of life, as ever, and still looked up to for the last word upon obscure Chinese subjects.

Another veteran, a type of New England at its best, is President D. K. Sheffield, of the North China Union college, Tung Chow. To tell of his literary labors, ranging from his universal history through his many publications to his present work of Bible translation, would be to outline a great life work for any man. Yet, these have been a mere phase of his character and a mere missionary effort. At once a dry Yankee and a cultured gentleman and good companion, Dr. Sheffield is living through a long life to know the same group with him, much to be classed as the famous Timothy Richards, of the Christian Literature society, an overflowing Welshman; Dr. Wherry and Master, of the Dr. Williams' Dispensary, of the Southern Baptist board.

The romantic story of Bishop Scherewsky, the famous Chinese scholar who died a few months ago in Tokio, is a story of a man and his work. I saw him recently, although paralyzed and scarcely able to speak intelligibly, he was working on a complete set of reference for his Chinese Bible. He was 74 years old, when he died in the chair where he sat for the 35 years of his paralysis; during which time he had translated the Bible into easy, plain, or Mandarin, which is the written language of three-fourths of all the people in China. His Old Testament. Mandarin is issued by both the Bible societies. For several years he worked eight hours a day, seven days in the week, on the translation and revision of this classical version. He called it his "two-fingered Bible," because he laboriously wrote it with only two fingers on his paralyzed hands that he could use at all. Not alone for his splendid battle against affliction was Bishop Scherewsky famous; his ally as a Chinese scholar, and as a linguist generally, was almost uncanny. He was a Lithuanian Jew, and when past his majority he went to America, where he became a Unitarian minister in the Protestant Episcopal church. Even before he was accepted as a missionary he had determined to translate the Bible into Chinese. During the six months of his stay in America he learned enough Chinese to be able to write it acceptably when he arrived at Shanghai. Twice he declined the bishopric, which he was finally obliged to accept. When I saw him he said, after outlining some translation projects which he had hoped to undertake: "But I am weary. I want to go home, and I hope you will send for me soon." Not many days later I was shocked to learn that he had quietly passed away while at his labors.

American Churches Abroad. Just now the west seems to be flooding the east with missionary authorities and religious leaders. The tour of President Cuthbertson, of Hall, of Union Theological seminary, New York, through India and China, has been a notable triumph. Dr. Hall seems to possess a rare genius for impressing his ideas upon the people. Mr. Charles Alexander, the famous evangelist of the Torrey-Alexander evangelistic combination, has been in the east for his wife's health, bringing a visit to his home in Peking. He has demonstrated the power of a winsome personality over even people of an alien tongue. At Hongkong he met the missionaries of the city's history, and at Manila he spoke in both the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. A week later, as my ship was entering Hongkong harbor by night, I was amazed, full of men singing lustily. "The glory song." Considering that this was Hongkong, the incident was a notable one of the Alexander meeting. Not were the singers Y. M. C. A. men; the working force of that organization has gone to Canton, to attend the marriage of Secretary C. O. Rutledge, of Philadelphia, to Miss Edmonds, of Baltimore.

There are three special reasons for the presence of so many American churches in the orient at this time; the Methodist Missionary Jubilee in India the last year; the World's Student federation convention in Tokio in May and the centennial celebration of Chinese missions in April-May. I have chanced to meet personally on the trip of Bishop Cyrus D. Foss, of Philadelphia; Secretary Lloyd, of the Protestant Episcopal mission board; Secretary Barton, of the American board; Secretary Wood, of the American Bible society; Secretary MacKay, of the Canadian Presbyterian board; John R. Mott, of the International Y. M. C. A.; President Goucher, of the Woman's university, Philadelphia; two Methodist editors, Dr. Parkhurst, of Zion's Herald, Boston, and Dr. Rader, of the Western Christian Advocate; John B. Sweeney, of the Wilmington, N. C. A., and dozens of other friends of foreign missions, clerical and lay.

The missionaries are now having a foretaste of the visitation they expect when the committee of 50 members of the business men, arranged for in connection with the recent celebration of the American board, comes out to greet them on the steamer. This is one of several signs, apparent on here, of a remarkable increase of interest in foreign missions on the part of the churches of America. (Copyright, by J. C. B. Bewick.)

BEGIN TO SEE LIGHT

Defect in Plan for Guarantee of National Bank Deposits.

Mr. Bryan's prescription of a government guarantee of national bank deposits is being given to the public. It leaves to the imagination. It is one of those characteristic financial Bryanisms that sound well but leave a question in the mind. The individual deposits in the national banks of the United States in August, 1907, reached the total of \$4,319,355,402.87. It may be well enough for the government to guarantee the owners of this money that it will make good every penny of it in case of the failure of the banks, if somehow it can be made sure of protecting itself. The government now guarantees bank notes issued by these institutions. But in the case of circulation it secures itself simply by taking in its own bonds, and the banks, as collateral. What guarantee can the government demand and obtain from the banks to secure itself from loss in case it is called upon to make good the losses or deposits? Inasmuch as the deposits are the heaviest of the banks' liabilities there is little chance to find any medium of security sufficient to cover the government's responsibility.

The government in a certain measure now guarantees the security of depositors by maintaining a system of bank examination under which it has the authority to close at any time the doors of an institution to prevent losses or to curtail them when once the institution has begun to go wrong. It has been urged that the United States State's great Health bill, a congressional enactment, a larger degree of power in the premises, stiffening its examinations, expanding its force and thereby increasing the degree of insurance against failure and fraud. Some such reform would be more likely to impress the business world as practicable than the Bryan plan to guarantee deposits.

Mr. Bryan's scheme, indeed, is strongly suggestive of the case of the accommodating chap who offered to hold the stakes of a wager. "Yes," replied one of the gamblers, "that will be all right, but who will hold 'em?"

Enthusiasm for Waterway Projects. The Trans-Mississippi Commercial congress in session at Tuskegee, Okla., has not yet been closed. It is interesting to discuss, but some transcended in interest the question of river improvement and canal construction. The presidential address briefly indorsed the "great Atlantic and Pacific inter-oceanic deep waterway from the great lakes to the gulf" and declared that the people of the Pacific coast would earnestly support the middle west and the south of the Atlantic coast to build that project. In the Atlantic states, too, there is much sympathy with the "lakes to gulf" movement and it is certain that congress will be urged from every direction to get up in a practical and businesslike manner the question which means so much to agriculture, to transportation, to commerce.

But the people of the Atlantic states have a great waterway project of their own, into which new vitality has been infused by a convention held in Philadelphia, which was attended by delegates from 17 commonwealths. They expect, in turn, sympathy and support from the west. Their project involves an Atlantic coast inland waterway from Boston to Beaufort, N. C. Such an unbroken passage for modern vessels in coastwise travel would, it is argued, not only increase enormously the trade of that coast, but would constitute a potent aid in national defense.

The subject of water communication has taken firm hold of the popular mind. From every point of view, including that of fair railway regulation, such improvement is eminently desirable wherever it is feasible and commercially meritorious. No quarrel over precedence should arise, however. The "lakes to gulf" project stands at the head of the list.

Raise Soldiers' Pay. The United States has a population of 88,500,000, cannot get under present conditions the handful of men, comparatively speaking, needed to fill the ranks of the regular army. The situation is getting worse year by year. Desertions outnumber enlistments, and if that shall go on there will be no army. That may suit the peace societies, but it should alarm those who know that the nation cannot safely be without a regular army, comparatively small in numbers but composed of the best material and educated up to the highest standard of efficiency.

More pay and shorter hours, the adjutant-general's recommendation. The war department can decrease the amount of work required of the soldiers, though it should not go so far as to attempt to improve their efficiency. Congress alone can raise the pay, and it should do so. The army needs good men and they cannot be had without paying for them.

Obviously. Lieut.-Gov. Chanler of New York insists that the tariff issue should be taken out of politics. As the congress makes the tariff, and the political parties select the members of that body, Mr. Chanler's first step should be to abolish the congress.—Philadelphia Record.

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STRUNG ON CABLES

Novel Method of Supporting Temporary Track.

Inventive Engineers Found New Way of Making a Fill Across Marsh—Expense Saved by the Operation.

An interesting use of a cableway to support a temporary track used in making a fill across a marsh is described in Engineering News (New York, October 12). The writer notes that although the suspended cableway with traveling bucket is a standard method of making long, inaccessible railway fills, a cableway has rarely been used as the framework on which to lay a track for the carrying of dump cars. The railroad on which this method was used in two places is the Lake Shore & Pittsburg railroad, where an extension from Cleveland to Pittsburg, Wis. read:

"Although the same general principle was utilized in each one of these examples, the local conditions were different and the details of construction were independently solved. The first was made over a deep marsh of



Cars Filling Embankment from Cableway.

too soft a nature for the maintenance of a pile trestle, the described method was adopted. Only a few other schemes had failed; the second fill was over a deep gorge with good soil foundations, and the cableway was adopted primarily because it seemed to be the cheapest and most efficient method.

"About 35 miles south of Cleveland... the line of the new railroad crosses a wide, flat embankment from 25 to 33 feet high and one and one-fourth miles in length. The bottom lands across which the line is located are used for raising celery and are overgrown with weeds, decomposed vegetable soil, incapable of sustaining any material weight. Soundings showed the greater part of the ground to have a mud crust about 15 feet thick, then a layer of soft clay overlying the hard blue-clay bottom. At intervals the mud crust was only 15 feet thick, and under it was a heavy undergrowth of soft clay. The ground was so saturated several feet out of the sounding pipes. These subterranean lakes were so numerous as to make impracticable the ordinary methods of filling."

Two unsuccessful attempts at filling were made; one by laying track on a trestle built on a foundation of crossed timbers and brush, and another by constructing a pile trestle on ordinary piling. In both cases the track sank into the mud, and the cable scheme was tried as a last resort. Says the writer:

"Two one-half five-eighths-inch steel cables, about five feet apart, were stretched from an anchorage in the fill already made, over the nearest bent of the pile trestle remaining and on to the end of the embankment. The other end was anchored. Upon these cables ties were fastened, and a track laid, upon which the loaded cars were pushed and dumped, one at a time, at the end of the fill. The first span used was over 300 feet, covering the hole into which the trestle had sunk and which was at that time a pond of water 175 long and 14 wide. The material placed in a month above and completely carried away the remaining portion of the pile trestle which was serving as forward anchorage for the cableway. Timber towers were built and the cables blocked up and skidded forward as the work progressed. This is the manner in which the work is now being carried on. Permanent towers, founded on piles, have been erected far ahead of the work to act as anchorages, and the movable towers are used as supports for the cableway."

In the second place where cables are being used there is a deep gorge with solid bottom, but calculation showed that the cable method would be cheaper than the ordinary plan, saving about \$1,700, or more than half the cost. The illustration is from the Engineering News.—Literary Digest.

World's Longest Bridge. The longest bridge in the world is at Sangon, China. It extends five and a quarter miles over an area of the Yellow sea, and is supported by 300 huge stone arches.

Needs of Greek Railroads. Among the most urgent needs of Greece is the linking up of its railroad system with the rest of Europe. Some progress toward this end was made in 1904.

Palace Gate at Peking.

as quick as ever at colting back searching and, at times, satirical, apothegms.

Bishop Roote, of the Protestant Episcopal missionary district of Hankow, seems more like an alert, aggressive professional or business man than an ecclesiastic. His personality (almost to a great degree that of his wife, who was Miss McCook, of New Haven) would be characterized as delightful by any company of men anywhere. He is rich in that quality colloquially called "horse sense," and there is no better administered mission than his in his activity for the Chinese he does not overlook the white community at Hankow, and half of the time of his clergy is given to the latter.

I have met several missionaries who hold decorations from the emperor, a prize which, I understand, the commercial community in China covets in vain. A missionary doctor who has been so honored is Dr. R. C. Beebe, of the Methodist Episcopal mission, Nanking. His steady, beneficent and self-sacrificing work for the Chinese came to the attention of the emperor, and in sending him his gift he placed somewhat the Christian attitude toward Sunday. For some reason the letter did not reach the viceroys until the feast was in progress. The latter read it aloud and declared that he, too, was going to keep the first day of the week free from official cares; and since Luen the yamen has been closed to business Sunday.

One of China's great women is Dr. Mary Fulton, the head of the Presbyterian Woman's hospital and the Woman's Medical college, Canton; the latter is the only one of its kind in the empire and it can never begin to receive all the students who apply for admission. What is thought of it by the Chinese is apparent from the fact that, at the recent commencement, three gold watches were awarded as prizes to the students by the viceroy. The most eminent and discriminating natives do honor to Dr. Fulton, for she is a physician, and has the rare quality of a woman of unusual ability. Her hospital is maintained on the plane of first-class hospitals at home; just to have trained her staff of native doctors would be a great work for any woman.

"The Chinese Mother Goose" is—

Methodist mission, whose long service in and for Soochow has made him one of the city's prominent and honored citizens. He was riding in a closed sedan chair one day during the recent time of the 1900, when the story was raised: "Here comes a foreigner! Kill him! Kill him!" The mob took up the refrain, "rush the chair, opened it, and then fell back to their homes, as if they were not a foreigner; it's only Dr. Park."

It is rather something unusual to have a whole warship or two to love with you, when you already possess a home, and it is the unique experience of Mrs. C. A. Nelson, of the American board mission, Canton, and Mrs. W. H. Boyd, of the Presbyterian mission. In case of trouble, the United States government keeps a warship up at Canton, which is hard lines for officers and men. These two young matrons open their homes weekly to officers and men, and both the ladies believe that their gifts graciously entice them to be. Incidentally, the lonely American has a jolly time, and is kept from the power of the lure of the east. The government has given medals for less worthy work than that which is done by these two ladies. Mrs. Nelson, by the way, conducts a girls' school which is no inferior to the one at Peking, after inspecting it, promptly asked permission to send his daughter to it.

Canada probably knows little of one of her noblest daughters, Miss Annie H. Gowans, of the Presbyterian mission, Pao Ting Fu, who went through the Boer troubles heroically, and who is still, undaunted in spirit, appealing her life beautifully for a people whom she clearly realizes may demand her life any day. Miss Gowans labors under the delusion as to the sentiment of the Chinese, or the hostility which the future holds, but serenely, steadily, and moves ministerially among the Chinese, gazing at life all unafraid, through clear gray eyes that have seen deeply into great things of existence.

Two associates and friends of Miss McGowans are Miss Grace Newton, of the Presbyterian board, and Miss Lella Miner, of the American board. Both are survivors of the Boer campaign, the latter having written a book upon that great experience. Both are engaged in female education, with results that would rank them in the class of the foremost women educators in America.

The fame of Rev. Dr. W. A. P. Mar-