

1913

## Back to Work Again.

WE have just returned from a short stay in Ching-shan. When the intense heat of the summer sets in, and the putrid air of a Chinese city is felt on every turn, then the mountain heights offer an appreciated refuge. But the pleasure of recreation can never be compared with the pleasure of work. As soon as the cool nights of September set in, every missionary's mind is again directed to the plains below. Just what makes these places so attractive to us is often difficult to explain. Surely, some of our Christians are not very attractive—the non-Christian less so—yet we feel we would not wish to exchange our lot for that of any other.

A large number of friends, from this city and the surrounding neighborhood, awaited our arrival, at the railway station. Our Sunday services (meetings) are very well attended. The people are indeed very long-suffering with our "barbarous" brogue. Too bad that we have not a separate chapel for our Sunday meetings. To conduct services in a street-chapel for a foreigner, is apt to result in wasted energy. And worse still, the better classes among the Chinese do not want to be seen in a street-chapel, together with the "cursed multitude, that does know the law."

I have made two short journeys into the surrounding country-district, since I came down from the mountain. People are everywhere enquiring for the new doctrine. What we feel our greatest burden, at present a burden we kindly invite you to bear with us—is the lack of efficient native workers. Believe me, friends, without the native brother by our side, we missionaries can do very little. It is comparatively easy to speak to Chinese farmers about everything else except his soul. He simply can not grasp what you are talking about. Here the native brother comes to your rescue. He has on hand a good store of illustrations, by which means he makes possible, at least in a rudimentary way, the opening up of the spiritual horizon.

We need efficient workers. The man who only knows that the "doctrine" is good, will not be able to accomplish much mission work now-a-days in China. The Chinese who are at all awake want to know the reason why the "doctrine" is good; he wants to know why the Christian doctrine is better than that of Confucius, and others of China's many "sainted" men. And in view of the high moral system, both of Confucius and the others, is the Chinese entitled to get their questions answered—every man is entitled to get that question answered. What we need, therefore, is a number of intelligent men and women, thoroughly permeated by God's Spirit, and wholly consecrated to the service of Christ. Will you, friend, kindly join with us in prayer for such men and women? God knows where they are, and He will also call them forth in answer to your prayers.

Yours in His service,  
H. M. NESSE.

Suiping, Honan, Sept. 25, 1913.

## News from Suiping, China.

THE people in this district are at present in great distress. Their suffering is twofold: that inflicted by robbers, that of a continued drought.

Ever since the late revolution in China, lawlessness has been at a steady increase. The ranks of the banditti have all the time been augmented. The name of Beh Long has undoubtedly become familiar to all of you. This man is the notorious robber-chief in China. He and his followers are the fright of the Chinese people in our district. A Chinese gentleman made the remark a few days ago, referring to Beh Long, that the wicked is also becoming famous. *Beh Long*

But brigandage is by no means limited to Beh Long and his men. A multitude of smaller robber-bands have sprung up everywhere. These are recruiting their forces from dismissed soldiers, and idle men of all classes. Our neighborhood has especially been harassed by the latter. Their work of spoilation has now gone on, without ceasing, for more than a year. The rural population is suffering most terribly: their villages are burned, their few belongings taken away, their children, especially their girls, taken captives. Vast sums are demanded by the robbers, in return for their children. If these sums are not forthcoming, the captives are first abused and then killed. This fall, the prospect is even darker than it has been before. With the continued drought the ranks of the bandits are greatly swelled. About a week ago, a country town, ten miles from this city, was burned. We are now daily receiving tales of new horror. The country population are flocking to our walled city. Houses are now getting very scarce here.

Some efforts have been put forth to suppress this evil. Last year a number of soldiers arrived to remedy the situation. But this only made the situation worse. The country people were just as much afraid of the soldiers' coming to their village as when the robbers came. Some of the brigands were caught and beheaded or shot, but no change for the better was effected. Since that time, the local soldiers, with the magistrate at their head, have also made some tame advances. However, it is safe to say that the latter dread the robbers much more than the robbers dread them.

For the time being one evil is almost overshadowed by another. We have had no rain here since the latter part of July. The parched earth is rapidly taking on the appearance of a desert. This year's crops have come far below the ordinary. The winter wheat, the main crop in our district, ought by this time to have been in the ground; but the people can do nothing before God grants us rain. The Chinese people are resorting to the old means for getting rain. I was told yesterday, by my language teacher, that notices were posted on the main street, prohibiting the people to butcher any hogs or sheep, and enjoining them to diligently implore the idols. Some weeks ago, I passed through a small country village, where I heard a woman say, as she looked

toward heaven: "Oh, thou old man of the sky, if it would please thee to let the rain descend this day, I will, to thine honor, dash my head three times against the ground!"

We who live among these people are brought to realize their suffering as our suffering, their sorrow as our sorrow. We would also invite our many friends at home to join with us in sympathy and prayer for this benighted people.

Tomorrow we plan to leave for Juning. The annual fall convention of our mission will this year be held in Juning, from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. If God be willing, I shall later tell something about this meeting.

H. M. NESSE.

Suiping, Honan, Oct. 29, 1913.

**The Young Ladies' Aid** of Upper Coon Valley congregation, Wis., Rev. O. O. Søvde's charge, has decided to support Evangelist Leo at Rev. H. M. Nesse's Station, Suiping, Honan, China.