

Notes from China.

SUNDAY, January 25th, was a great and memorable day for the infant congregation in Suiping. Our mission secretary, Rev. M. Sæterlie, was with us at the services of that day. In the forenoon Rev. Sæterlie preached a sermon; in the afternoon he catechised the congregation. It was a happy day for us all. Our people here greatly appreciated what the secretary had to tell them. They all begged him to stay on, and teach them more "doctrine." However much our secretary would like to have done so, his duty called him on to other places. Both we and the native Christians wish to extend our thanks to the United Church because it sent Rev. Sæterlie to call on us. We are assured that his visit and good counsels will effect much good in our work here.

The Chinese New Year's celebrations are now drawing to a close. The legitimate New Year passed without any particular notice, while the Chinese New Year has been celebrated with great pomp. Things Chinese are rapidly gliding back to the old ways. This is true both politically and socially. Only a sham is left of the much-lauded Chinese republic. President Yaun-shi-Kai is virtually an emperor of China. The last step in this direction is his dissolving of all self-governing bodies throughout the provinces. The other officials are following the president. At the declaration of the republic a city council was elected in this city. This council has now been annulled by the local magistrate, who has resumed the responsibility for the whole district. To complete the matter of control, he has again assumed his high priestly office, which consists in making intercessions in the temples for the people.

The late revolution in China is no longer called by that name, but in the place of revolution is substituted "political disturbance." — — —

The Chinese New Year is a very trying time for our Christians. The Christians themselves call it the "devil's feast." Many of the Chinese people may neglect their gods the whole year, but upon every return of the new year, the gods must be remembered. Many of the Christians leave their home at New Year's time; many of those at home are maltreated; some of the Christians are

led astray. Some of our Christians had received wounds inflicted on them by the members of the family; others had been driven away from home; some had been abused. That they are unwilling to pay homage to their ancestors makes them especially disliked in their family circles.

We have now for the second time received orders from the local magistrate, wanting us to leave the city. We are, however, yet in hopes of being able to remain.

Large bands of robbers have passed several of our stations, Suiping, Kioshan, Chenyang and Loshan, but no damage to any of us is done yet. In this we see our heavenly Father's tender care and protection. We write our many friends at home to join with us in thanksgiving to Him. Will you also kindly remember us in your prayers, especially in these trying times?

H. M. NESSE.

Suiping, Honan, Feb. 10, 1914.



A Group of Christians and Catechumens in Suiping.