

Young Men's Christian Association in China

Interesting Letter from Former Secretary of the Local Organization

CAIRO, Egypt, April 26.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—Doubtless my friends among the readers of The Bee will wonder what has become of me since I was last seen in this city since my last communication to The Bee. I was kept so busy in my trips through China, India and to Manila, visiting and helping the Young Men's Christian Association work, and other Christian work closely related to it, that I had no spare time for anything else. It also deprived me of much interesting sight-seeing in these very old and wonderful countries.

In view of the low moral condition of the young men where I have gone I do not regret what I have done. It was a splendid opportunity to afford direct help to the young men of the two most populous nations of the earth, China and India, and to the young men of our own possessions in the Philippines.

In my trip through China I visited the cities of Sha Hai Kwan, Tien Tsin, Chefoo, Peking, Han Kow, Han Yang, Wu Chang, Nanking, Shanghai, Canton and Hong Kong, in the order given.

Famous Chinese Wall.

Shan Hai Kwan is a large walled city on the Gulf of Liao Tung, directly east of Peking. At this place the great Chinese mountain close by. At the top of the mountain it joins a high rock cliff, or natural wall, beyond which are impassable high cliffs and deep ravines. The great wall forms the eastern wall of the city. I walked a long distance on the top of the wall, which was both high and broad. It is now fast going to ruin. I am quite sure that the picture of the great wall which I first saw when I was a boy was taken from this section of the wall.

Tien Tsin, the seaport of Peking, is an important city. It figured largely in the Boxer war. It is a commercial city and does a great deal of shipping when the Pei Ho river is open, which usually freezes up in November. While this large Chinese city seems to be in a quiet way there are silent but potent influences at work which will insure great changes for the better. I visited a free reading room with much good literature, a large lecture hall where practical, up-to-date knowledge was always being given. I also visited an educational exhibit in a remodeled temple, one of the best I have ever seen. A great reform work is being done in the large prison.

Several of the high city walls were torn down and the spaces they occupied were turned into broad avenues of all kinds of travel and traffic including the electric street car. This has been a great benefit to the city. The foreign nations possessing concessions outside of the city were making wonderful improvements, especially the Japanese. Perhaps the most valuable tract of land nearest the great Chinese city and close to the canal was available to the United States for a concession. I was delighted that our country would not take it. These concessions will necessitate as many governments within the limits of the city as there are concessions, which is bound sooner or later to beget trouble that will without fail involve many nations of Europe.

Sights and Scenes in Peking.

Peking, the capital, is a very large double city, a sort of a north and south city, with a dividing wall between them. Large avenues run from east to west and from north to south. The north and south avenues are open from the north gates of the north city, pass through the large gates of the dividing wall and run to the southern extremity of the south city.

The south city is exclusively Chinese and contains the Temple of Heaven, one of the most remarkable temples in the far east and unlike any others I have ever seen. The north city contains the forbidden city, where the emperor, the empress dowager and the royal family live, several noted temples, the Lama temple, the Temple of Confucius and the Hall of the Classics, in which the writings of Confucius are engraved upon a large number of stone tablets, standing erect as slab tombstones in a graveyard, and the palaces of the different nations represented at Peking. The legations are making great improvements upon their premises. When I was there the representatives of China and Japan were perfecting a treaty between these nations. Peking has had a railroad connection with Tien Tsin for some time. A railroad was just completed when I was there from Peking to Han Kow on the Yangtze river, which will shortly be continued to Shanghai, a veritable China center railroad.

Graveyards Are Extensive.

One very noticeable thing all over north China, at least in the vicinity of Peking, is the multitude of Chinese graves, filling whole tracts of the best farm lands, as haycocks in a meadow. They range in size from a mere pile in the land to twenty feet high. They are so close as to touch each other and so many that they extend for miles in different directions. The graveyards take up the best farm lands instead of the broken lands, hills and mountains used in other countries.

Chefoo and Han Kow.

Chefoo is a small but good commercial city, with a fine sea beach. It is the nearest shipping port to Port Arthur outside of the Liao Tung peninsula. Han Kow is 60 miles up the Yangtze river, at the mouth of the Han river. Han Kow means Han mouth, and is sometimes called the Chicago of China. It is quite in the center of the Yangtze valley and doubtless in the best part of China. It has just been connected with Peking by rail, road and soon will be with Shanghai and the ocean. It has large manufacturing, among which is a very large tea plant. There is much and very good Christian work accomplished there.

Han Kow has one of the finest river fronts I have ever seen, both in kind and extent. This, however, is under the control of the foreign concessions, who have made a most unjustifiable rule, if I was rightly informed, that no Chinaman be allowed to walk on the beautiful cement walk, which extends miles along the front of the river, along the Chinese side of the river. With such a rule I had an aversion to walking upon it myself. I trust I was misinformed about this.

Close to Han Kow are two other Chinese cities which will be affected by all the prosperity at Han Kow. At Han Yang, just across the Han river, and Wu Chang, just across the Yangtze river, good Christian work is being done in both of these cities.

Nanking a Dying Capital.

Nanking, the old southern capital of the Chinese empire, about 30 miles up the Yangtze river, is but the skeleton of what it once was. It has a splendid location on the Great river and in the empire. The great wall is yet around it, but after you enter the large gate you must go from four to five miles to find the remnant of "his city in the far side of the enclosure. Vast farms could be cultivated within the walls, without touching the present residential part of the city, where once was a busy, thriving and, I might say, proud and sophisticated population. While many of its Chinese citizens claim to be the real aristocracy

of China, it looked as though the glory of the city had very materially waned, if it had not altogether departed. The noted examination halls once thronged with competing students were now deserted and crumbling.

I went outside of the great wall to see the Ming tombs, or tomb, as it is rather one tomb. Besides the great wall about the city and its gates, this is the greatest relic of the past greatness of the city. The outside approach to the great tomb was once between two rows of polished granite figures or statues of men and animals about double of life size. Four warriors, two on each side of the approach; four priests, two on each side; four camels, four lions and four hippopotami, two of each of these animals on each side, one standing up and one crouching down in quiet repose. There is much good Christian work done in this city.

Life at Shanghai.

Shanghai is a live commercial city on the direct line of ocean travel and traffic. It has no marked natural attractions; it is full of business and is perhaps the liveliest city in the empire. Much good Christian work is accomplished in Shanghai.

Several foreign nations have concessions in this city. This is particularly the case with the English. Because of this and the boycott there was an antagonistic spirit on the part of the Chinese against the English, at this time. Several foreigners, including the American secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, were told that the stores were closed and found most of them closed. We were also told that the market was looted and cleaned out in about ten minutes by riotous Chinese. While there were many excited Chinese in the streets on our way, we reached the Chinese Association building without molestation. Soon a report came that a Chinaman had been shot in the streets near our building. Then the excitement became intense and the town streets were densely crowded. The British marines were landed and all available police were put on duty. It was soon reported that many Chinamen were wounded and killed. Several Europeans and Americans had made ineffectual attempts to get to their homes in the residence part of the city. There were at that time the wives of four or five American secretaries downtown and it was very desirable that they get to their homes and children.

On the Streets During Riot. Contrary to the warning of several parties who had failed to get to their homes, it was agreed upon that I go with the women in a carriage to their homes. We avoided the main streets, but all of the streets were flanked on both sides with excited Chinese and the building behind them were full of faces peering at us. Such an array of faces staring at us I do not care to see again. One injudicious word or action would have provoked trouble, possibly riot, anywhere along our way home. We all tried to conduct ourselves as if there was no danger anticipated. I am sure none of these Chinese could discern any trace of fear or anxiety in our party. I staid with the carriage until all the women had reached their homes in safety, when I went to my place. The parties with whom I staid were outside of the police limits. We were told that the women and children, at least, must go inside of the police limits during the night to insure their safety. After a council of war, it was determined to stay in our own premises, the women and children remain

in the house and the men watch and do patrol duty during the night. At length the morning came and we were all safe. The morning papers declared that all was quiet and that everything was under control of the authorities.

Life in Canton.

Canton is one of the largest, if not the largest, city of the Chinese empire. It is quite different from other Chinese cities. The streets as a general thing are too narrow for any two-wheeled conveyances, even the jinrikshas. Chairs carried by coolies form the principal mode of inter-urban transportation. The small streets are generally cleaner than in other Chinese cities and are paved with broad flagstones. In company with an American missionary I went through most of Canton. It was very interesting.

One of the peculiarities about Canton that compels the attention of foreigners is the multitude of persons or families that live in small boats for passengers or traffic, called sampans. These boats are almost wholly controlled and propelled by women and girls. It is amazing how skillfully they manage these boats and how bright and cheerful the women and girls are on their occupations. The whole family lives in these boats, and with the exception of the men, who are possibly otherwise employed, they scarcely ever spend any time away from these boats, day or night, for the whole year. Many thousands of persons are so engaged. I am afraid to specify the number for fear I would be charged with exaggeration by those who have not seen this traffic, and by too low a figure by those who have studied it better than I. Quite extensive and good Christian work is done in Canton. There is here considerable animosity, if I may use that expression, against Europeans, and occasional outbreaks of a serious character have occurred.

Hong Kong is English.

Hong Kong is wholly in the hands of the English government, while there is a large Chinese population within its limits. It is largely built upon the steepfoot hills of the mountain range in the rear of it. Many of the Chinese buildings and government buildings have been built upon land recovered from the harbor. Fine buildings, public and private, are to be seen on almost every part of the high mountain facing the harbor, even to its top, where there is an observation station and high flag staff, from which it gets its name. Flag Staff. From this point you can look upon the city and harbor far beneath you, upon the channel outside of the harbor, as well as upon the many mountain ranges and peaks that enclose the harbor. It is one of the most beautiful and romantic natural pictures I have ever seen. Hong Kong is also on the direct line of ocean travel and traffic. If I am not mistaken it claims the greatest tonnage of ocean traffic of any city in the world. Much Christian work of various kinds is done in Hong Kong.

It was my privilege to do much effective service for the Young Men's Christian Association in city, college and university work in all the cities I have mentioned but two, Chefoo and Han Yang. I have been privileged to meet with many influential Christians, business men, merchants, managers of large government enterprises, physicians, all men of the vicerey of his province; all treated me most kindly. The Japanese, they showed me great respect and consideration because of my age. I wish I could have stayed longer and done more for the betterment of the great multitude of young men in the great empire of China. ROBERT WEIDENSALE.

Trip to the Vesuvius Country

Little Omaha Girl Describes What She Saw

ROME, April 26.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—We took the train to Naples for Pompeii. Arriving there we had lunch and then went to see the ruins. The first building we saw was the Temple of Jupiter, which is near the entrance. A baker's shop, in which some loaves of bread were found, had some mortars, which are almost perfectly kept. In the amphitheater you can see just how the tiers rose and the places where the wild beasts were kept, also the many different entrances. The baths interested us greatly, for the guide showed us the different rooms in which the different baths were taken. The rooms were warmed through lead pipes which were in the walls. We also saw the house of Glaucus, whose dog on the wall still looks very fierce, and the warning, "Beware of the dog," which is below him, is certainly needed.

Going down the Avenue of Tombs we came to the house of Diomed, which is probably the largest in the city. In the wine cellar we found the body of a man, and though they say you can see the shape of her body in the clay we could not on account of the sand and ashes which had drifted in.

The house of Vettia, which is the best preserved house in Pompeii, has a great many beautiful frescoes on its walls. The paintings in the court are still just as they were. They are little figures holding a rod or a flower, and out of these flowers and rods issue spouted the water. This fell into basins which are a few feet from the statues.

On the Road to Vesuvius.

Leaving the ruins and wishing to see what the latest eruption had done we took a carriage for San Giuseppe. The first mile or two had no ashes or cinders on it, but after that the fields and roads were covered in thin layers. It gradually became worse until the piles of cinders and ashes which had been shoveled from the middle of the road rose to two and three feet in height. The fields were so covered as to make it impossible for anything to grow. The trees also were dried and scorched and the doorways of the houses were below the level of the roads. At last the roads became so bad, notwithstanding the showelling, we could not move. We now made the acquaintance of the moola, which is the Italian for "and her name was Maud. The driver, with the combine help of the village, seeing we were stuck for good, got the owner, or "Maud's father," as we called him, who was a regular Fra Diavolo, to give him the use of Maud. It took the whole family to get her ready.

As soon as she was fixed, the "eldest" son, who walked beside her, began to whip her and the men of the village began to push and all of them began to grunt, but the moola wouldn't budge. She only turned around and said, "He Haw." Finally, after some more whipping and some more pushing and less more grunting, she started off on a run, but this did not last long, for who should we see going up the road on a nice run all by herself but our dear Maud. Then began a race between the "eldest" son and "Maud's father." She was caught and brought back after nearly kicking a small carriage over.

Travel is Impeded.

The piles of ashes and cinders were now six feet high and it was next to impossible

More Trouble with Maud.

Going back we thought we wouldn't need the moola, so we let the "eldest son" ride her back. But we found to our sorrow that we did need her, and, of course, she wasn't there. We waited ten minutes for her. It seemed an age and when she finally did come she kicked up her heels in a most unattractive way, for she evidently didn't like us. After she had helped us out we thought we could get along without her, so the driver paid "Maud's father." We thought there would be a fight soon, after the payment, for such squabbling you never heard.

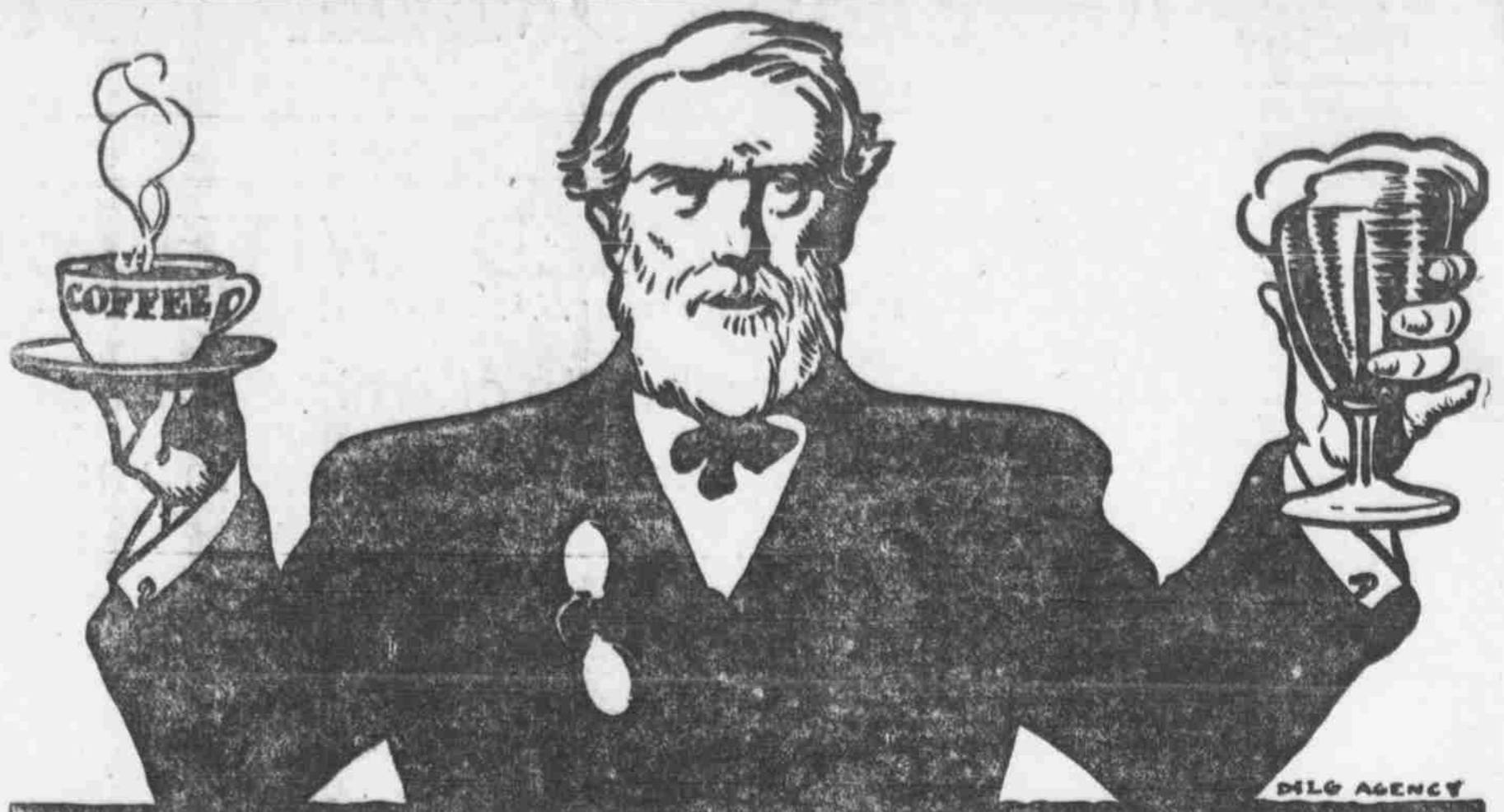
It finally ended in "Maud's father," almost in tears in a very easy thing for most Italians and wanting to throw the money back at the driver, only he was afraid if he did it the children, always numerous (I counted twenty-three in one group), would get it and that would be the last he would see of his pay. We left our dear Maud and her "father" and drove back to Pompeii without any further mishap.

NELLIE ELGUTTER.

Wonderful

The modern Sherlock had been hastily summoned to discover who so little work was done in the big office while the boss was out.

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