



*Co. 10  
M*

AMOY MISSION  
OF THE  
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA.

RECEIVED July 26: 1924  
PRESENTED TO EX. COM. Sept 18: 1924  
~~ANSWERED~~ 30. viii. 24 Ed.

AMOY, CHINA. June 26, 1924.

Rev. W. I. Chamberlain, D. D.,  
Sec. Board of Foreign Missions, R. C. A.,  
New York City.

Dear Dr. Chamberlain-

Before the time of our Mission meeting on July 15th I am anxious to have items of news and information that should be communicated to the Board forwarded to you, so that I may at that devote myself more largely to the communication of matters of business.

Since I last wrote to you, on May 4th Dr. and Mrs. Hofstra were made happy by the birth of a daughter, Dorothy Lucile.

A week later Dr. and Mrs. Holleman went thro the heart-breaking experience of parting very suddenly with the little daughter Edith, who had come to mean so much to them. Without the warning of a worrying illness this sudden bereavement was a very hard blow. Our hearts have all been sad because of this grief that has come to them after the already trying experiences this spring due to fighting.

Amoy University has stirred up quite a little excitement over a student strike the last month. The trouble arose over the resignations of four teachers. The students called a strike and came with a number of ultimatums, among which was wiring to Tan Ka ki, the founder of the University, who is now in the South, to remove the President, Dr. Lim Boon Keng. Finally the feeling grew so strong that physical force was resorted to and workmen and police called in. The Amoy Chamber of Commerce tried to settle this quarrel, which was filling the daily papers and which the students were trying to get support for also from other schools. Nothing very satisfactory was arrived at, however, and the order that students clear out of the

*H. 2  
Records?*

*Records?*

Rev. W.I. Chamberlain, D.D. 2.

dormitories has broken the strike. The students have really lost out, but it has done the University considerable harm. Sectionalism was strong and there was a split between students from Fukien and other provinces. A number of the professors are leaving, among them Dr. Chow, about whom you wrote some time ago and whose wife is the daughter of the former well-known Chinese pastor, Huie Kim, of New York city. Some one made the statement recently that in Fukien alone there had been 37 school strikes during this present term.

E.C.  
Excitement of a far more useful kind was furnished June 7 when the three American fliers landed at Amoy and left again on the 8th. Many were out to see them land and start off, and the entire affair was a fine exhibition to the people of Amoy of the control that has been achieved over these ships of the air.

We were glad to receive on June 14th your cable of telling us that: MR. H. POPPEN'S FURLOUGH IS GRANTED. THE BOARD APPROVES THE RETURN OF MISSIONARIES NOW ON FURLOUGH.

On the 15th Inst we received your letter of April 30th and on the 25th your letter of May 28th. We rejoice with the Board over the relief that has come in the financial situation, and the response that the Church has made to the call of retrenchment. We hope that it will prove to be not a spasmodic effort but a steadily growing advance throughout the whole church. Of course we are happy over the removal of the threatened interference with the return of missionaries on furlough or the granting of furloughs to those who were due to return to America. Mr. Boot has already written that they <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ expecting to return and I suppose that before long we shall hear of the plans of the Talman's. Miss Van Der Linden is expecting to sail on the "President Madison" which leaves Shanghai on July 17, and Mr Poppen will leave on the "President Mc. Kinley" on the 29th of July.

E.C.

We are glad that arrangements are being made for a Quit Claim deed for Wilhelmina Hospital. It made be that the repeated statement of the urgency of a speedy settlement of this question has led to misunderstanding and so called forth your wise and very fitting cuation that we should adopt "methods of patience and conciliation" in this whole matter. I am sure our strong statement of urgency was not due to any intention of the Mission or any member to assume a belligerent attitude. It was because of our very desire to avoid any possibility of trouble that we wished these questions of the past completely finished and disposed of. The Chinese are asking questions about Dr. Strick's returning to work independently, and altho there are evidences that the position of the Mission is much misunderstood, I am sure it is better not to engage in explanations and defense of our position. The truth will prevail in the end. We realize that thro Dr. Strick's returning to the field independently there are bound to result much to be regretted misunderstandings both at home and amongst the Chinese. And we feel too that in the situation occasioned here much prayer is necessary that not for a single moment any one of us may depart from a truly Christ like attitude. We are not worried that the hospital will be lacking in patients; but, without the income of the consular surgeonship, some wealthy Chinese, and some contracts with firms, there will be a difference in the income on the field. Miss Murman has expressed her purpose to leave Wilhelmina Hospital on July 15, when she will join Dr. Strick in his hospital on Kolongsu, back of the American Consulate, and so very near our hospital. The building is a house belonging to Dr. David's brother and converted to a 11-bed hospital.

E.C.

Our schools here have closed, and also a number of those up country. Next week, on July 4th, begins the annual Preachers Conference, to last until July 13. It is to be held at Tong An. Dr. Hodg-

kin of the National Christian Council, Rev. D. MacLeod of Formosa, and Dr. Chen Wei Ping of Shanghai are to be the speakers, and we hope the gathering may again be a source of great help and inspiration to our workers. It seemed some time ago that there might be some difficulty in having the Conference, as the Trustees of the Milton Stewart Fund had decided that they could make no grant to any conference as in previous years unless they made all the arrangements for the speakers. The location of Amoy and transportation facilities would make the conference a failure and disappointment if people in Shanghai had to arrange everything. Experience has taught us this would be impossible. However, someone generously offered \$500., and the churches in Amoy agreed to raise \$300. if the missionary body would undertake \$200.; and the Conference was assured.

Our own Mission meeting will follow the Conference on July 15, and the following week a conference of the three Missions here will be held.

E.C.  
Dr. C.G. Sparham, Secretary of the L.M.S. Missions in China met with the members of the Inter Mission Council and other interested persons in Amoy to discuss the question of preachers salaries on June 22nd. The point raised was that there could be no real full unity in the church as long as there was a difference in the salary paid preachers and all were not able to join the present plan of paying salaries. At the opening of the discussion one of the members of the English Presbyterian Mission called attention to danger of attacking questions in the way in which this one was brot to us. The Secretary of the L.M.S. in London brot the question to the Secretaries of other Boards in England and America, and then it was brot up for conference on the field, instead of a conference being first sought on the field. In their case <sup>(Eng. Presb.)</sup> the request had come

Rev. W.I. Chamberlain, D.D. 5.

from their home Secretary that they meet Dr. Sparham for this Conference, just as if the missionaries on the field found it hard to get together. In our case we had no instructions from home to meet on this question as we had no official communication, your letter not yet having arrived. The only information we had had was a copy of a letter Mr. Boot had written you on the question, but this was only his answer without the careful statement of the question. Dr. Warnshuis had also enclosed a copy of his statement in an envelope and mailed it without any explanation of comment. I am glad the Board has had these explanations of the question. Our conference here showed that we understand the differences and wish they could be removed; that plans of pooling funds such as were suggested some years ago will not satisfy, and that further thought must be given to the matter. A sub-committee was appointed to report to the Inter Mission Council later.

I am sure we shall be glad to welcome Miss Broekema to Amoy. She is known to a number of us, and we shall look for fuller news as to the time of her sailing. Having seen in some of the home papers that Miss Mary Geegh had been appointed to China, we have been disappointed at not receiving official news of the appointment and later hearing that she is to go to India. She also is known to a number of the members of the Mission and others have heard of her ability. We have had word that Miss Green has arrived in Peking early in June.

The Chinese papers to-day speak of floods in the North River that have destroyed <sup>thirty</sup> villages between Leng Na and Gan Chieh, and that bodies have floated down to Chieh Be. Letters just received from Leng Na do not mention it, and altho they may have been written previously, we hope it may not be as serious as reported.

Since my last letter we have received from you  
On June 14, 1924 Cablegram  
On June 15, 1924 Secretarial letter of April 30, 1924  
On June 25, 1924 " " " May 28, 1924

Rev. W.I. Chamberlain, D.D. 6.

The pamphlets on the Preparation of Articles for the papers which you enclosed, have been received, and the suggestions made will be noted. We have also received the report of the Student Volunteer Convention edited by Mr. Stauffer, which you sent us.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*H. G. DeBree*

Sec. AMoy Mission.

P.S. On June 26th I sent you by deferred telegram the following message for Rev. Ng. Ma hui of Amoy: WIRE HWANG FATHER DIS\*  
APPROVES HONOLULU. Since sending by telegram the \$400. , the receipt of which you acknowledge in your letter of May 28th, he had heard from his son that he was planning to go Hawaai for further study. In fact the \$400 sent was because of this plan as you will have learned from my letter of May 3rd. Now after receiving a letter from him telling him that his son had been told by you that the Audubon Sugar School or Tulane University would be the best place in the country to study the sugar industry he wanted to let him know at once that he fully endorsed your advice, and disapproves of his going to Hawaai. As his attendance of Summer School the summer before had increased his expenditure it was also because of this having made his regular allowance insufficient that the money needed to be sent; altho had it not been for his plan to leave for Hawaii so soon it would not have been necessary to telegraph it. Pastor Ng. feels very grateful for the interest you have shown in his son and the good advice you have given.

*H. G. DeBree*