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WOLCOTT'S ATTEND A CHINESE FEAST

GIVEN IN THEIR HONOR

Have Received No Mail From Highland Park. To Start For Home Soon.

Changsha, Hunan, October 11, 1921

Mr. Paul Udell,
The Highland Park Press.
My Dear Paul:

I am enclosing a short description of a Chinese feast which may be of interest to the readers of The Press.

I have sent you a good many letters, some of them to you direct and other to Mr. Bihler asking him to hand them to you. I do not know whether you have received any of them or not or whether any of them have been printed, I thought it would be a good way of keeping our friends informed of our doings.

We have had letters regularly from our son Leonard and from our daughter in Florida, the last being dated September 11, just a month ago today, but not a word from Highland Park except one written August 3, which reached us soon after we landed in Yokohama. I know that the fault is not with the mails, as we get other letters and I sometimes wonder whether Highland Park has not been swallowed up by an earthquake, or is it that we are so soon forgotten?

We keep well and are enjoying our novel experiences and are learning a great many things about China. I hope that I shall find you and all our other friends well when I return, and that I shall not be wholly forgotten by those of whom I think so often and with such deep affection.

Perhaps we shall receive some letters one of these days, every time a steamer from Hankow comes in I eagerly wait for the mail, there was one last evening, but nothing for us. We shall go to Peking before long and then turn our faces homeward.

With kindest regards to all my friends and in particular to all in the Press office, I am

Faithfully yours,
P. C. WOLCOTT

A few evenings ago we went to our first Chinese feast, which was given in our honor by the staff of the Salt Revenue office, most of whom speak a little English although they all wear the native costume. Beside our own party there were fifteen or twenty of our hosts including several ladies, who contrary to the usual Chinese custom sat at the same tables with their husbands and sons.

The dinner was given in a restaurant which is reputed to be the best in the city, but which is far inferior in furnishings and appointments to most of the Chinese restaurants in Chicago.

Passing from the crowded street through a door in a high wall we entered the courtyard of the inn which was crowded with servants with their chairs and rickshaws, and were welcomed at the door with low bows by our hosts and conducted to ante-rooms where our hats and wraps were laid aside and we were served with tea in covered bowls, the covers being slightly tilted as we sipped in order to prevent the passage of the tea leaves, the tea being brewed in the individual bowls.

Presently we were ushered into a large apartment and seated at two large round tables which were spread with white cloths, but upon which there were no plates, glasses or napkins; at each place was a pair of silver tipped chopsticks and a long handled silver spoon with a small dish to rest it on, and a little dish with two compartments in one of which was soy and in the other vinegar, there were also silver cups like after dinner coffee cups containing warm rice wine which tasted and looked like pale sherry, these cups were kept filled during the dinner by the servants.

The first course consisted of several large dishes, which were set in the middle of the table and which contained hors d'oeuvre, shredded chicken, smoked fish, ham and duck cut into small cubes, shrimps, Bombay duck which is a sort of dried fish, and I do not know what else. Each guest reached out with his chopsticks and helped himself to what he wanted, trying the various dishes one after the other, these dishes remained on the table during the entire meal as did those brought on later, only those which were emptied being removed.

There was a profusion of food, course succeeding course, each being brought on in a platter or dish out of which the guests helped themselves with much reaching. The two chief dishes were birds' nest soup and stewed sharks' fins, these are delicacies greatly prized by the Chinese and are served at all feasts given by the well-to-do, but as they are very expensive the common people never taste them. Bird's nest soup is rather tasteless and thick with the gelatinous shreds of the nests which taste as much like Irish moss as anything I can think of. I would not care for it as a steady diet, although it is said to be very nutritious, the same may be said of sharks' fins which consist of jelly like masses with long shredded fibres, served in a tasteless stew, in both cases the soup and stew is eaten with spoons and the solid parts with chopsticks. At intervals bowls of warm water are brought about for the very perfunctory cleansing of the

spoons, and towels wrung out of very hot water are handed to the guests in order that they may wipe their hands and faces. Beside these dishes there were many others, chicken, duck, and pork cut into small cubes and in some cases cooked with chestnuts. Besides bamboo sprouts there was scarcely any other vegetable and there was no bread if we except some flat wafers or pancakes in which we wrapped slices of duck breast and ate with our fingers. For sweets we had a sort of sea weed cooked with sugar which was not bad and some small tarts, apples and watery Chinese pears, cut in thin slices were brought on at the end and the final course consisted of bowls of plain boiled rice without which no Chinese meal would be complete.

As there were no plates the bits of bone and the shells of nuts and melon seeds were thrown on the floor, which at the end of the feast was littered with fragments and presented a very untidy appearance.

During the meal there was animated conversation, and the guests played various guessing finger games resulting in much shouting and laughter and many cups of rice wine as forfeits. Several of the guests sang weird falsetto ballads to the accompaniment of a three stringed fiddle played in strident fashion by a wandering musician called in from the street. All during the feast there was a crowd of onlookers, coolies and soldiers who stood in the doorways and in the courtyard without, where the servants and bearers had their rice and tea. At the close of the dinner tea was served in the ante-rooms and after ceremonious leave-takings we entered our chairs and rickshaws and took our departure.

GRACE M. E. CHURCH

William E. Grose, Pastor
1015 Lauretta Place

Notwithstanding the inclement weather last Friday evening there was quite a large number and friends of the church at the reception to the pastor and his wife. The music, speeches and refreshments provided by members of the church and Sunday school were indications of a fine cordiality and most excellent spirit. As a presiding officer, Mr. W. E. Bletsch is hard to excel. The event came as a complete surprise, that was most delightful. Such events mean much to a man who is new on the field, and can not help but be an inspiration. Our highest hope is that we meet all the needs and fulfill all the expectations, although that is among the impossibilities. But together we hope to make Grace church a power for good, and thus wield an influence that will be far-reaching.

On Monday evening a group of twenty young men and women had a regular old-time party in the parsonage. It was a lively bunch of youngsters who forgot cares, studies, work and all formalities in the enjoyment of the fun of the evening. We hope to have many such events during the year.

The pastor appreciates the increase in attendance at the Sunday services. One of our Sunday school classes of young ladies is to furnish the special music for next Sunday morning. The sermon theme will be "The Larger Debt." The evening subject will be "The Call of Today." Remember that the morning service begins at 10:30, and evening service at 7:30.

TRINITY CHURCH

The Rev. P. C. Wolcott, D.D., Rector
The Rev. Walter C. Bihler, Assistant Minister
Services

Sundays—
7:30 a. m. Holy Communion.
9:30 a. m. Trinity Church School.
11:00 a. m. Holy Communion and Sermon (1st Sunday), Morning Prayer and Sermon (remaining Sundays).
5:00 p. m. Vespers.
Thursday and Holy Days—
9:30 a. m. Holy Communion.

Trinity Church School
The Young People's Eucharist will be celebrated this Sunday morning at 9:30 a. m., followed by the regular sessions in the Parish House.

Next Sunday, November 20th will be "go-to-church Sunday" for everyone who looks to Trinity Church as his or her Church home. Every communicant and friend is urged to make a special effort to attend the morning service at eleven o'clock.

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A. Pichitti Jno. Nizzi

49 RED CROSS NURSES IN STATE

Has Strong Public Health Nursing Program.



WITH 49 Red Cross Public Health nurses promoting better living conditions in connection with the other activities of the 126 Chapters of the American Red Cross here in Illinois the importance of the work is of unusual interest.

The rural program has been found well adapted to this state, and many localities have been reached by this department of activity during the past year for the first time. Physical inspection of the children in the rural schools is one of the most important phases of this work. They are inspected for defective teeth, eyesight, and hearing. Weighing and measuring are a part of this health program, and frequent nutrition classes are organized to help under-nourished children reach a normal development.

Public Health nurses frequently have adult classes in Home Hygiene, as well as classes in the schools, thereby extending their services beyond routine of school inspection. During the past year 2,041 women have passed the examinations and received certificates in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick given by Red Cross instructors.

Different problems exist in the cities, where the dangers of contagion and the need of intensive health education are greater. In addition to the physical inspection of school children, the organizing of clinics and the investigation of home conditions, there is much "follow up" work to be done. Through the co-operation of the teachers, minor defects which tend to retard school children mentally as well as physically are detected and corrected in the clinics.

In both city and country communities the Red Cross has a clearly defined program which may be adapted to local needs. That 23 Chapters since last year have realized the need of this work and extended their program to include this very practical activity proves the growing appreciation for this endeavor.

On Armistice Day—November 11—the annual Roll Call of the Red Cross will be launched. Membership dollars will enable the Red Cross not only to carry on the valuable service it is already rendering, but expand the work to reach a wider field.

\$1,121,858 HAS BEEN EXPENDED IN THE CARE OF EX-SERVICE MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES BY THE 748 CHAPTERS OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS HERE IN CENTRAL DIVISION. MORE THAN TEN MILLIONS IS BEING SPENT ANNUALLY FOR THESE SOLDIERS THROUGHOUT THE NATION. YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS WILL HELP TO CARRY ON THIS WORK. ANNUAL ROLL CALL ARMISTICE DAY TO THANKS-GIVING (NOV. 11 TO 24). RE-MEMBER and RE-ENROLL.

JUNIOR RED CROSS AIDS CITIZENSHIP IN ILLINOIS.

That the boys and girls of today who are to be the men and women of tomorrow are learning the value of good citizenship not only in their own communities but throughout the world, is shown by the \$210,123 members enrolled in the 850 Junior Auxiliaries of the American Red Cross here in this state. More than five million pupils in the public, parochial and private schools of the United States are enrolled in this great organization.

Here in Illinois a number of other Junior activities have been carried on with the help of the teachers. More than 850 toys were made by Juniors in Champaign, and sent overseas to children's schools in the devastated regions. Dixon made a feature of the work in civics.

Hot lunches were provided from Junior funds in Granite City and Pinckneyville. This work is considered a great help to nutrition service, which is another Red Cross activity often carried on in the schools. Milk was distributed in schools in Petersburg and financed by the Juniors.

In many of the Chicago schools the sick and unfortunate among the service men as well as inmates of children's hospitals and various institutions have become the special interest of the different schools. Programs have been provided for the patients by the Juniors, concerts and story hours arranged for their amusement. A number of garments were made by the children for hospital use of convalescent ex-service men.

Activities for this year in Illinois are well under way. Schools are enrolling as auxiliaries to carry on the various objects. To carry on this work and increase its scope as well as the many other vital community services which the Red Cross chapters are rendering in their communities is one of the objectives of the Annual Roll which opens on November 11, Armistice day, and continues until Thanksgiving.

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