

1911 - May

8-1911

ON May 22, 1911, the Rev. R. A. Jaffray, representing the executive committee of the South China Conference, the Rev. Paul M. Hosler, and the writer, as pioneer missionaries, left for Tourane, in Annam, for the object of making investigations regarding the possibility of establishing mission work in that long neglected land.

We had been led to choose Tourane as our objective point by a series of providential leadings which, in substance, were that Mr. Bonnet, of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in Tourane, entirely ignorant of the fact that we were preparing ourselves for Annam, wrote and told us that, for eight years he had been praying for missionaries to come to Annam and that he sincerely hoped that we would come and he would do all in his power to help us.

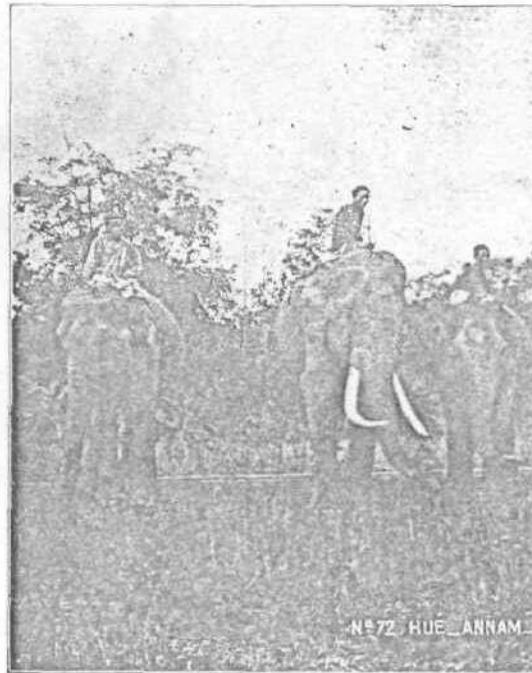
But before proceeding further with this article it might be well, for the sake of those who are not acquainted with Annam, to give a brief sketch of this country. French Indo-China, consisting of Tonking, Annam, Laos, Cochin-China, and Cambodia, forms the Eastern side of the Indo-Chinese peninsula. It is bounded on the Eastern and the Southern sides by the China Sea, to the North by the Chinese empire, to the west by Burmah and Siam. In size it is much greater than France. Its population is estimated at about 22,000,000. The Annamese form four-fifths of the population of the Indo-China of today, which moreover differs very little from the ancient empire of Annam. Annam proper is that strip of country, more than six hundred miles in length, which unites Cochin-China to Ton-

king. The government is a protectorate. The emperor reigns at Hue with the help of regents and of the chief council of the kingdom, the Comat. The "Résident supérieur de France" at Hue, is president of the council and represents the protecting power. The whole of the native administration is under the direct control of French officials. The Annamese are descended from the kau chi, which means "separated big toe," and is a peculiarity which the natives have not yet lost and which enables them to use their big toe in a skilful manner. Nearly three thousand years before our era they occupied Yunnan, Kwang Si, Kwang Tung and Tonking.

A Momentous Crisis An

REV. G. L. HUGHES, A

A-W. Aug. 26,
1911
p. 337

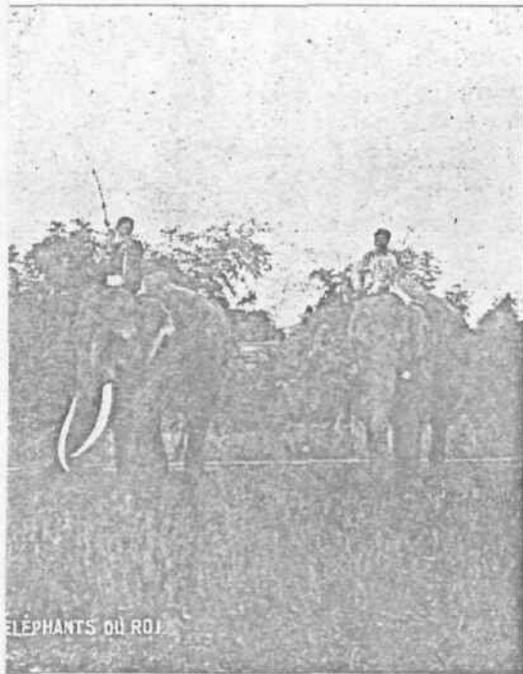


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ELEPHANTS BELONGING

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VUCHOW, SO. CHINA.

coast about half-way between Saigon and Haiphong. Its commodious harbor, with a lighthouse at its entrance, might prove an excellent typhoon shelter but for the shallow water. The appearance of the town from the steamer's deck is not very interesting. A low-lying, sandy land, with a sprinkling of cocoanut trees in the distance, does not lend much charm to the place, but after disembarking and looking around a little, one gets a different impression of the town. But it was upon our arrival at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bonnet that our hearts were made glad by meeting friends of kindred faith. We stayed with them several days during which time we visited some native villages in the neighborhood and traveled to Hue, the capital of Annam. We also went to Haiphong, the chief seaport of Tonking; Hanoi, the capital of Tonking; then crossed the country to Langson on the Kwang-Si border. During these



TO THE KING OF ANNAM.

the heirs of the good-will of both officials and people which Mr. Bonnet has so deservedly secured during his eight years' residence in the place.

(4) The Roman Catholic influence in this district is decidedly less than in other parts.

(5) It is in about the center of Annam.

It might be said that during our stay in Tourane Mr. Bonnet introduced us to the "Resident" as Protestant missionaries, belonging to an American society, who, in a few months would return to Tourane to begin missionary work. He appeared pleased and even told Mr. Bonnet that he was glad we were coming. In

This sketch of the country having been given let us now come back to our trip. A two and a half days' voyage brought us to Tourane, which is a seaport in the province of Kwang Nam and is situated on the Annam

coast about half-way between Saigon and Haiphong. Its commodious harbor, with a lighthouse at its entrance, might prove an excellent typhoon shelter but for the shallow water. The appearance of the town from the steamer's deck is not very interesting. A low-lying, sandy land, with a sprinkling of cocoanut trees in the distance, does not lend much charm to the place, but after disembarking and looking around a little, one gets a different impression of the town. But it was upon our arrival at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bonnet that our hearts were made glad by meeting friends of kindred faith. We stayed with them several days during which time we visited some native villages in the neighborhood and traveled to Hue, the capital of Annam. We also went to Haiphong, the chief seaport of Tonking; Hanoi, the capital of Tonking; then crossed the country to Langson on the Kwang-Si border. During these spying expeditions we had ample opportunity to converse with different people as to the best place to locate our future work. The following conclusions commended themselves to us as a just reason why Tourane would be the best location.

(1) For a town in the tropics it is considered healthy.

(2) Mr. Bonnet desires to sell or rent his property to us. This would protect us from Roman Catholic interference.

(3) By our beginning work in Tourane we would have the opportunity to become

making us acquainted with officials, bankers and shipping agents we were made known as Protestant missionaries—no attempt whatever being made to conceal the fact.

But although the present circumstances are so unusually favorable to make a start right after our annual conference to be held in Wuchow next July (1911), yet we are confronted with a formidable obstacle, viz.:—the necessary finances to begin the work.

On account of the stringency of the home treasury, we do not, in the least, desire to draw from the regular funds of the Alliance, but rather pray God to move on the hearts of His stewards and thus not encroach upon the regular missionary offering to the Alliance.

Our intentions are to start on a modest scale. First, secure a place where we can learn the language and then, at the first opportunity, go out and preach and thus from the inception of the work make the simple preaching and teaching of the Word our chief occupation. After careful reckoning we feel that \$1,000.00 (U.S.A.)

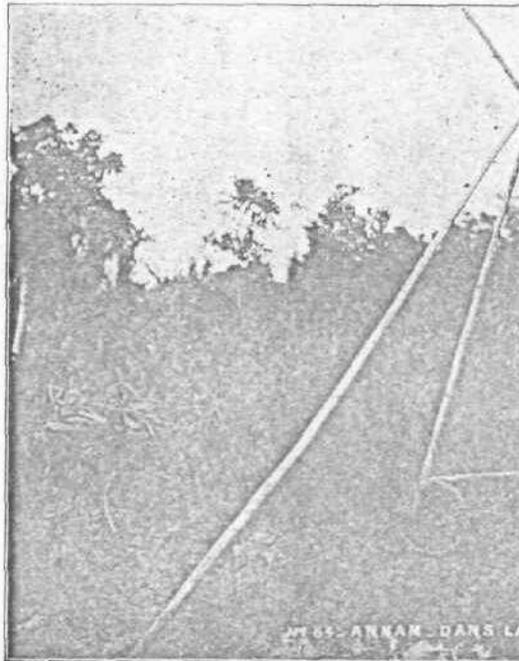
would defray the first year's expenses.

Over 100 years ago Dr. Morrison, the first Protestant missionary in China, landed in the province of Kwang Tung.

About seventeen years ago, the Rev. A. B. Simpson, the president of our society, while on his round-the-world tour, heard at Canton and elsewhere, of Kwang-Tung's sister province, Kwang Si, which was neglected and unoccupied. His missionary soul was stirred. By pen and voice he pleaded for Kwang Si until a few young men came out to open this, with the possible exception of Hunan, the most anti-foreign province in China. The Lord evidently honored them for at this time the society's books in South China show a church membership of over five hundred.

But, today, across the border of Kwang Si, in the province of Kwang Nam, in the protectorate of Annam, the Lord of the harvest has given us an "open door and effectual," but to keep this door open and prepare ourselves to give the Bread of Life to the unreached millions behind it, needs, we believe, \$1,000 (gold) for the first year.

Beloved brethren, we emphatically say that we do not want offerings for the Annamese work to curtail in the least on the regular missionary funds of the Alliance. But at the same time we cannot lose sight of the fact that here, today, is a glorious opportunity to step in, and only the above sum is necessary to keep it open for a year. It is a mere pittance when we consider the infinite possibilities and the tremendous issue at stake. The maintaining of this open door involves the glory of Jehovah and the eternal destiny of 22,000,000 souls!



AN ANNAMITE WATI

Napoleon Buonaparte, before engaging battle with the renowned Mameluke cavalry, pointed to the Pyramids and, addressing his men, said, "Soldiers! forty centuries are looking down upon you today."

The Lord's stewards in the homeland, a greater than Napoleon, who stood "at the treasury" long ago and who died on the cross to redeem mankind and, who, nearly twenty centuries ago commanded us to preach the Gospel everywhere is, today, looking down upon you to see how much will you, my fellow Christian, lay down for this open door in French Indo-China which, according to the report of the World's Missionary Conference, held last year, contains nearly one-half of the unreached masses of the continent of Asia!

The Christian & Missionary Alliance
August 26, 1911 page 337

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