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Bostick Family, Missions

First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

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2-13-1932

### Correspondence - Annie Bostick - Feb. 13, 1932

Attie T. Bostick

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*copy*  
To The Shanghai  
Times - I got the paper  
free for writing  
Feb. 13, 1900. now & then.

Your paper of the 11th reached here the 15th of Jan. No more came till the 11th of this month than those of Jan. 10th and 11th with that of Feb. 1st, yesterday. We had as late as the third of this month, including that of Jan. 10th which seems very good considering the great disturbances the P.O. Staff has been subject, but when we recall your paper formerly reached us the second day after it came from the press it seems a long time, especially when we are so keen to hear how the disturbance goes in Shanghai.

We have passed over the Chinese New Year, with more of the old-time celebration than has been manifested in many years and business is just now picking up again.

There is a temple two miles out, called "The Saving-from-trouble" temple, because of the god there in. There has just been celebrated the annual Fair and thousands of people from this city and as far as forty miles out in the country came, usually in companies, flying flags and carrying incense as well as paper to burn at the temple on the little knoll. They mostly brought bread to last them while on this trip, to save the extra expense of buying food. Yet there must have been some thousands of dollars burned during those four days. They say fifty thousand is a conservative estimate of the number who attended. Many booths were erected and sold necessary articles, while the seller of cheap toys and the seller of peanuts, candy and cigarettes, there were also side shows, pictures etc to catch the coppers. Water still covering part of the road from last summer's heavy rains allowed the boatmen with the boats they use on the most to do a good business in carrying passengers till the end of the second day when an old boat leaked and went down. All the eleven passengers were rescued, not specially hurt by the ducking, but were sent forth that two were drowned and so the boats were avoided yesterday. There was ice on the boat, and yet in the great throng walking along the road after we left the boat, there was a man with only a thin pair of pants and his socks on walking casually along, going to pay a visit he had made, probably for his mother in extreme illness. As the foreigners mingled freely in this large throng, offering tracts to those who could read, the good will of the people was very noticeable and the lack of the "foreign devil" epithet so often heard on the streets of our city and not far from our homes was happily noticeable.

Bandits have given the country people in the south east villages a great deal of alarm. The farmers met them with guns, trying to stand for their rights, but some lost their lives. One young man who was to fight only three days and then come one else from his village was to take his place, fought five days and then lost his life.

If one went and came through the city gate the last month of the Chinese year, it was rather interesting to watch the citizens collect something of every thing being carried through flour, fuel, vegetables etc. They were the gate keeper and the night watchman and I am told they use this plan yearly to collect for their services.

I was recently picked up by a two year old band and was carried to the Canadian Episcopal Hospital and was operated on, but it is feared he cannot live, both hands and one foot badly damaged.

Some of the foreign wheat has reached this place and is being given out in small quantities to the poor.

*At the T. Bostick*