

A person may be ever so highly educated, but if he uses his powers for his own advantage solely, he will not aid materially in the advancement of the well-being of his own country or of that of the real civilization of the world as a whole. So education has always been one of the most vital parts of the Christian enterprise for the complete regeneration of mankind.

Mission education in China started in a small way with a few primary schools. Some of these were developed into secondary and higher educational institutions. But Baptists were slower than some other Christian bodies in developing higher forms of education. A half a century after they entered East China there was not one complete secondary school among them. But by the year 1900 the demand for higher forms of education became imperative because of the necessity for having efficient teachers, preachers, doctors, and Christian leaders in all walks of life to spread the blessings of Christian civilization among the vast millions of the people of China.

Two men were primarily responsible for the inception of the idea of founding Shanghai College, R. T. Bryan and J. T. Proctor. Each was a leader in his own mission and each was constantly planning in order that the kingdom of God might come the more quickly among the people of China. Dr. Bryan was more interested in the building of the Seminary while Dr. Proctor was especially anxious to prepare young men to enter the College and afterwards the ministry and every other avenue of useful life. Often did Dr. Proctor, as he travelled in his evangelistic work in the Huchow district, walk the deck of his boat and plan the future of this now great institution. And it was largely because of the strong foundation which he laid that the institution has been able to weather the storms which beset its early years.

But there were others also, notably Dr. M. D. Eubank, Dr. Proctor's colleague in Huchow, who in



Dr. J. T. Proctor.



Dr. R. T. Bryan.

all his years in China and later in America has been a staunch supporter of the college, and Dr. C. G. McDaniel, who has rendered such a notable contribution to Christian work in the city of Soochow in the foundation and building up of Yates Academy. Dr. McDaniel has been a lifelong supporter and member of the Board of the University.

Other names also could be mentioned, such as Dr. Philip Evans, then of Yangchow, Dr. J. R. Goddard of Ningpo, while others come into this history as members of the staff of the institution. Dr. Bryan became the first president of the Seminary and Dr. Proctor became the first president of the College. For these were at first two separate institutions under the same board of trustees and located on the same campus.

2. THE WRATH OF MAN

In the year 1900 when the Boxers drove all foreigners out of the interior of China, they probably thought they had accomplished their purpose of getting rid of all foreign influence. Of course they could not be expected to distinguish between friendly and unfriendly activities. But when the Baptist missionaries were compelled to congregate in Shanghai, they did not remain idle but at once began to consider how they could more efficiently bring a real knowledge of the aims of Christians for the welfare of China. At once it was proposed to found an institution of higher learning. It was high time that such a project should be set on foot. Baptist missions had already been working in China for more than half a century. While many boys and girls had received a primary school training in the rudiments of modern education as well as in a knowledge of the Chinese Classics, not one Chinese teacher or preacher or layman in the whole Baptist constituency was a full graduate of a secondary school, much less a graduate of a college.

Several conferences were held and plans were laid to remedy this defect in mission work. When the Boxer

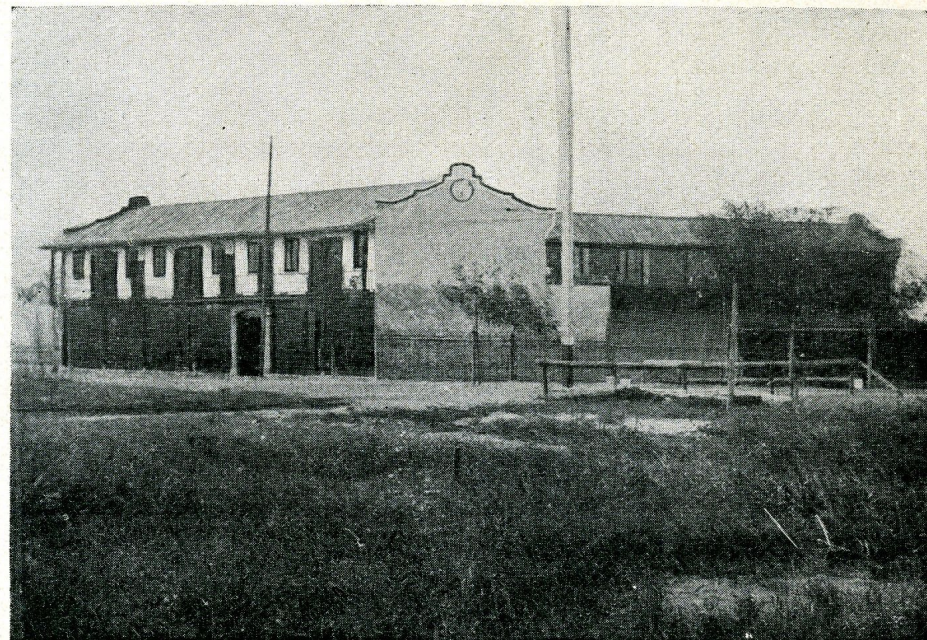
movement collapsed and the missionaries were able to return to the interior cities, they were soon absorbed in the routine tasks before them. All available funds were needed to rehabilitate the shattered work to which they returned. Year by year the question of higher education was discussed in mission meetings and joint committees were appointed by Northern and Southern Baptists, but five years passed before any definite steps were taken to build an institution to crown the educational work of the two missions.

But these and the previous years were not wasted, for the foundations of higher education were laid in primary and boarding schools for boys and girls in both missions and in the Bible schools carried on by both missions for the training of Christian preachers.

3. WHAT THE RIVER SAW

On a hot summer day, in 1905 under a blistering sun a party of ten enthusiastic men pushed their way through reeds ten feet high in a muddy marsh on the banks of the Whangpoo river below Shanghai. They were looking at prospective sites for a college. Perhaps if they could have looked into the river as into a mirror of the future, they could have seen a college rising slowly and painfully, growing out of the ooze and pushing its way up among the reeds.

It was not a promising location with the damp marsh all about, with low-lying rice fields stretching for miles back toward the great city. There was no approach except by a narrow path raised above the marsh to keep the water from flooding the rice fields behind. But most unpromising of all was the soft mud of the marsh with no solid foundation on which to build, with nothing but the ooze brought in by the great Yangtze, building up its delta a thousand feet deep. A poor foundation on which to erect buildings! And it seemed a no less poor foundation on which to build a college, with only a small appropriation, no teachers, no students, and a very small Christian constituency of less than two thousand.



Rented Seminary Building on Szechuen Road.



Land Raising.

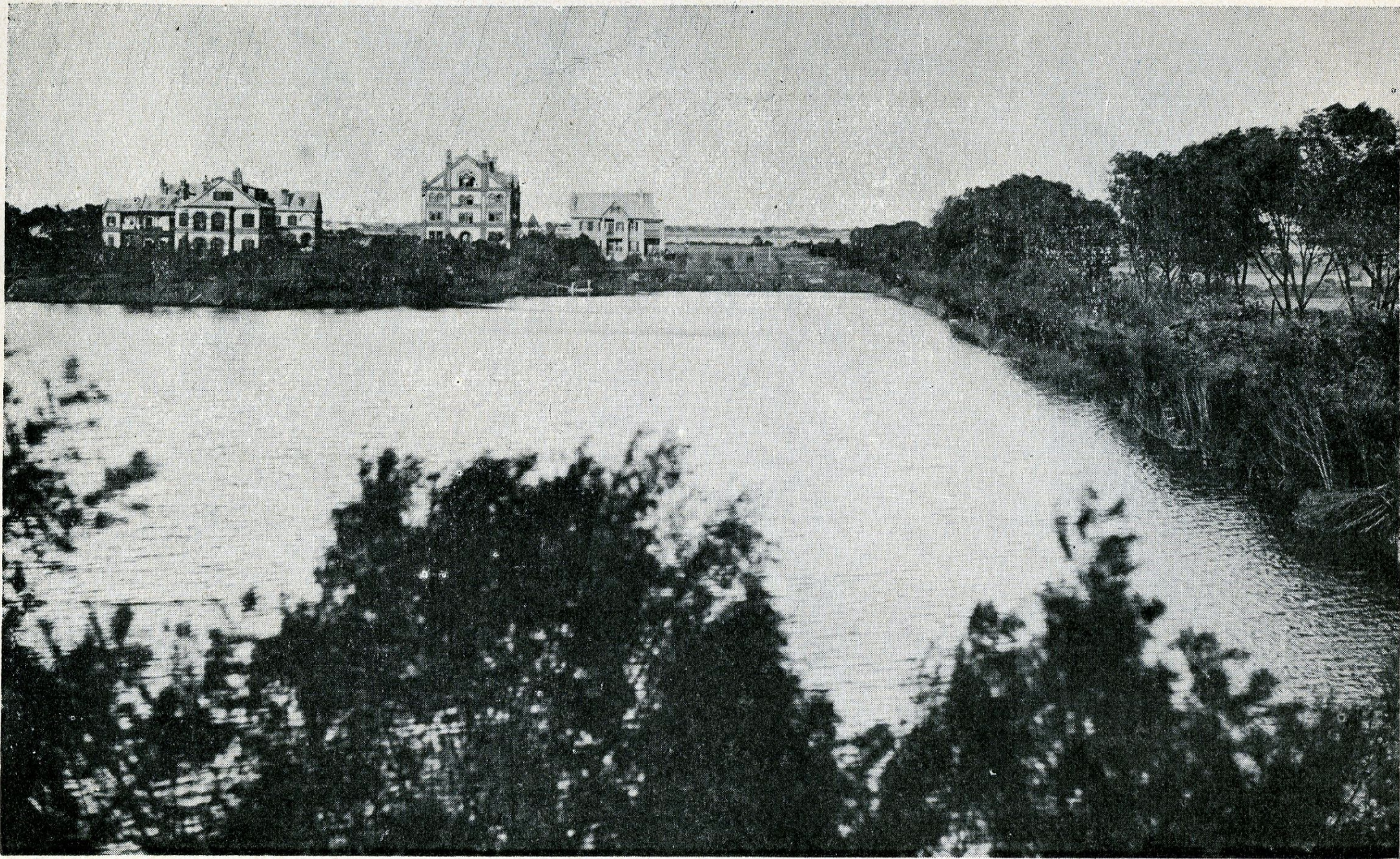
But the site had one advantage, that of a wide view on a great river. And these men saw something not yet reflected in the waters of the muddy river. They saw the advantages of the proximity of a great city some time to become one of the greatest cities of the earth. They saw the great land of China with its boundless resources and its countless millions of people to which this great city served as the gateway.

And they had faith to believe that in the face of such need and such opportunity God would supply the resources necessary to cope with the emergency, and they saw what the river could not see, a great educational institution rising out of the marsh. They saw the whole marsh rise up many feet, not by earthquake but by the puny hands of men piling up the earth basketful by basketful. They saw foundations being laid by patient workmen driving piles and pounding rubble as they hummed their ceaseless chant. They saw the buildings rise one by one slowly, haltingly, but surely, year by year. They saw the students coming at first one by one, only a few tens, then by hundreds until a great student body had been gathered together.

4. WITH MANY A SIGH AND MANY A GROAN

The foundations of Shanghai College were literally laid wide and deep. Never, perhaps, did a college have its foundations laid not only under its buildings but also under every foot of its campus. The most of the campus had to be built as well as the buildings. For at high tide very little of the campus-to-be was visible. So it had to be built up with infinite patience and heart-breaking toil.

At first many men were hired, each with a five-foot pole across his shoulder from each end of which was suspended a little bamboo basket shaped like a clamshell and holding about a peck of dirt. Part of the land was dug out in order that it might be carried basketful by basketful to make another part high enough to be above



The Old Pond.