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Dec. 29, 1903

Miss Shields

DR. BROWN

Dear Dr. Brown -

Your kind letter of October tenth reached me today, and I thank you for it. I have been intending for some days to write to you, in answer to an earlier letter, and also in reference to Dr. Field's furlough.

While in Pung Yang last Autumn, your good long letter of July 16th reached me, and I delivered your message to Dr. Sharrock and others. Now we are back in the midst of the work in Szeu Chyuan, finding so much to be glad and grateful for, and also finding many opportunities of using the principle voiced in Moody's (?) suggestion: - to set ten men to work instead of doing ten men's work.

Jan. 11th 1904. Tomorrow is to be the last day of a workers class which we've been having with the women of the church at Nap Chuan, in Mr. Rose's territory.

King Si, Miss Chao's faithful helper, is with me, and we have been having profitable days. I am sure, tho' I realize my deficiencies very keenly, especially in the use of the language, and in the number of questions asked which I cannot answer promptly. But it's delightful to meet these women, and I'm sure we do help each other.

I expect to spend a week in study at "Nymbang," following this class, which will make the seventh place visited since Annual Meeting. I hope to be in Szeu Chyuan during February, & to go in March to Eui Ju, for "Girls' School", and class work there; Our Spring class for the women (from "all one") who can come, is to be held in April; then we shall see if I can go to Szeu Ju in May, as I should very much like to do.

I have not opportunity now to give you any details of the class-work, but hope to send reports later.

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I hope that nothing will make it necessary for the Board to render a decision different from that which the Mission expressed at last Annual Meeting about Dr. Field's furlough. She really needs very much a relief from the work, as she forces herself to do much of what is now in her hands, and feels utterly worn out when it is done. In a recent letter she said that it was "a drag" yet she enjoyed thoroughly much of it - but found that she was looking forward expectantly to the furlough this year. This is not what I had intended to write & is not the most important reason, tho I don't know how much longer Dr. Field could keep on without a change.

She is greatly needed at her home, and I have been impatiently waiting for the time to come when she could go, and feel that her detention might be a very serious matter. Miss Parsons can tell you how nearly

Dr. Field came to asking for her furlough the year she visited me, and I am not sure but what Dr. Field herself wrote to Dr. Ellinwood. Another not unimportant reason is that I now hope to spend next year in Seoul, and hope to do part of the work that Dr. Field would ^{be likely to} probably do, should she remain, thus probably making it more convenient in Mission plans to have her absent next year than later.

But I still think that the all-important reason is that her heart is not at rest because she feels the homefolks need her now, and it seems to me that it is clearly her duty to go, so I do trust that the Board will grant approval of the Mission's request.

With best wishes for the New Year, and kindest regards to Mrs. Brown, I am

Yours sincerely,
Esther Lucas Shields.

Syeu Chyun, Korea.