

AKERSON, LEROY L.

Leroy Lind Akerson.

On Friday, June 17th, 1921, a brief telegram brought the sad news of the death that day, by drowning, of Leroy L. Akerson. With the older boys and girls of his little school, the Gan English School of Poerbolinggo, Central Java, he had gone on an early morning hike. They crossed the river Kewing and while brother Akerson was eating his breakfast some of the children tried to launch two bamboo rafts. In some way a lad of thirteen, Gan Koen Djin, accidentally fell into the water. As the lad could not swim Mr. Akerson went to the rescue, but owing to the presence of treacherous and deep whirlpools at that point both were drawn under and drowned. The body of Koen Djin was soon recovered by a Javanese man with a long bamboo, but that of Mr. Akerson did not rise until two days later.

In response to the telegram the superintendent of the district hastened to Poerbolinggo. Early on Sunday morning the body was recovered and carried to the nearby Dutch Mission hospital where Dr. Vogelsang and his assistants prepared it for burial. The funeral service was held at noon in the chapel of the hospital. The school children sang two appropriate hymns in Malay in which language the whole service was conducted. In addition to the ritual service there was a brief address based on our Lord's statement, "Greater love hath no man than this, that he gave his life for his friends." Those in attendance included quite a number of Chinese, the hospital attendants and the Regent, who is the highest native official of Poerbolinggo.

Interment, in accord with the wish once expressed by Brother Akerson, was in the Chinese Cemetery. Following the desires of the lad's family, Gan Koen Djin's body was disinterred and reburied in one large grave with that of his teacher, whose body the Chinese placed in the position of honour. At the grave a second service was held and the two left to sleep together there on the beautiful hillside until that last Great Day when all shall be summoned before their Maker.

Brother Akerson first came to the mission field in 1916, just after his graduation from Iowa Wesleyan College. He gave a year and a half of hard work to the island of Banka after which he was transferred to Poerbolinggo where he continued to serve without a thought for himself until his unfortunate death. He was very successful in winning the hearts and confidence of his pupils, both boys and girls. His Sunday School was among the most successful in the intensive work which he did. The ideals which he instilled into the minds of his boys and girls will be of the ut-

News of the death of Leroy L. Akerson, a Methodist Episcopal missionary in Java, by accidental drowning on June 17 has been received by the Board of Foreign Missions at New York and forwarded to the Committee on Conservation and Advance, Chicago. Mr. Akerson's home was in Keokuk, Ia. He graduated from Iowa Wesleyan in 1916. He was a Student Volunteer, and licensed to preach in 1912. August 1, 1916, Mr. Akerson sailed for Malaysia as a contract missionary for the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was assigned to that part of the Malaysia Conference, which in 1919 became the Netherlands Indies Conference. Mr. Akerson was ordained a deacon by Bishop J. W. Robinson at Buntenz Java February 13, 1920. At the time of his death he was actively engaged in Centenary mission work in Poerbolinggo Java. No details of the accident are available at this time, as the news arrived by cable.

most value to them throughout life. His tragic death emphasized, as nothing else ever could, the unselfish character of his devotion to those in his charge.

At the time of his death he was within less than a month of the day when he expected to sail for America. His plans had long been laid to work his way through the three years of Theological Seminary with an eye single to the needs of the work to which he had hoped and planned to return. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Akerson were back in the old home town of Keokuk, Iowa, looking forward with eager anticipation to the return of their missionary son. Instead there came a sad cablegram telling of his journey to an eternal home. To them and to the other members of the family the deepest sympathy goes out from every one who knew Lerov.

The body, which he used for an earthly tabernacle, is fast passing away; but in a most real sense his death has only caused his spirit to abide in greater power in that town where he did so much good for his Master. He lives over again in the lives of those for whom he poured his soul unto death.

H. B. Mansell.

The New Klang School.

The new school building at Klang was opened on Saturday the 16th of July under the most favourable circumstances. The weather was fine and a large crowd had gathered on the grounds before the arrival of His Highness the Sultan, and the Hon. the British Resident of Selangor who formerly opened the building with the silver key which was presented to him as a memento.

These two together with the Resident's wife, Mrs. Oliver Marks, Bishop Geo. H. Bickley, Reverends W. E. Horley, A. D. Hareus, Mr. Shaw, headmaster of the Victoria Institution, Kuala Lumpur and Rev. Abel Eklund, the newly appointed headmaster of the Klang School, took their places on the platform. After a prayer by the Rev. A. D. Hareus, Rev. W. E. Horley gave the address of opening which was responded to by the British Resident, Bishop Bickley, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Eklund each spoke in turn on the various phases of the work to be done in this school.

Following the programme tea was served in two of the class-rooms after which the visitors proceeded to explore the newly erected edifice. All pronounced it a magnificent building.

The cadets of the Methodist Boys' School, Kuala Lumpur were reviewed by the British Resident on his arrival and later assisted in serving tea and making the visitors comfortable.

reason and revelation, mind and heart, fail,
and receive their final answer and satisfactio

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying, W
Lord from henceforth yea, saith the Spirit, i
their works follow with them. Revelation
mortality," by James H. Snowden. Macmillan*

LEROY LIND AKERSON

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News of the death of Leroy L. Akerson by accidental drowning June 17, 1921, reached the Board this morning (June 22), from Malaysia.

Mr. Akerson was the son of Mr. Peter Akerson of 1803 Franklin~~ing~~ st., Keokuk, Iowa. He was born February 1, 1892. He graduated from Keokuk High School in 1911, and received his degree of A.B. from Iowa Wesleyan in 1916.

Mr. Akerson was a Student Volunteer, and was licensed to preach in 1912. August 1, 1916 he sailed for Malaysia as a contract missionary for the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Church.

He was assigned to that part of Malaysia Conference which in 1919 became the Netherlands Indies Conference. He was ordained a deacon by Bishop J. V. Robinson, at Buitenzorg, Java, February 13, 1920. Mr. Akerson at the time of his death was actively engaged in mission work in Poerbolinggo, Java.

June 22, 1921

Photographs from this
file have not been
included but are
available upon request.
For more information
please contact
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