

ones. Reaching the station about two minutes too late, we had to wait an hour. I soon decided it was useless to try to study, so held a very informal meeting with the crowds of children that soon collected, and three women who were waiting for the train. At 6.30 I reached here, quite prepared to appreciate Miss Hargrave's hearty welcome, the cosy fire and the other comforts of "home."

China.

From MISS BRACKBILL, HANKOW, February 13th, 1899.

YOUR letter giving information of the annual meeting was awaiting me on my arrival in Ichang last week. It had been a long time on the way. Until its arrival I was rather expecting to see Dr. Henry and, perhaps, one or two other ladies in Shanghai, however, in God's best time we know they will come, and nothing then can hinder. On my way down the river I was wondering how I could best arrange for them to go up, as the times are very troublous just at present and some are being delayed.

The French priest, who was so long in captivity near Chungking, was released while we were there. Yu-mant-ze, with his diminished number of followers, was surrounded in a temple, and there were hopes of his capture in the near future.

Another French priest near Ichang has been brutally murdered and his body horribly mutilated. It is hoped these troubles may soon come to an end; but there is not much prospect of a speedy settlement as long as the government remains as it is at Peking; the trouble is too wide-spread. However, amidst it all the work goes on much as usual though there cannot be great advancement along new lines.

The rebellious people certainly have distinguished between Protestants and Catholics, for although many native Catholic converts as well as these French priests have endured persecutions—some twenty or thirty having suffered death—strange to say, with the exception of Mr. Fleming who was murdered, the Protestants, native and foreign, have been left unmolested.