

hindrances to the progress of the Gospel in China. They think they know everything worth knowing, but a walk about here, and a talk such as Mr. Goforth's, in which everything is used as a means of leading their minds up to the great Creator and Governor of the universe, usually send them away more conscious of their ignorance, and therefore more humble and thoughtful.

Not only so, but such friendly treatment is one of the most powerful means of breaking down opposition to us through the country, and of ending belief in the false stories so widely current at present. These students are leaders in their towns and villages, and the hostility or friendliness of a community often depends upon them. They also form the only class from which Chinese officials are drawn, and our friendliness may in some cases be deciding that a future powerful official is to be favorable to the Gospel and to the foreigners.

THE EXCHANGE.

This Mss. paper, from the Honan Mission field, has just arrived, and except one or two items, we copy it wholesale.

Hsin Chen, Honan, China,

Feb. 1st, 1898.

We owe an apology to the youngest Miss Goforth, for publishing last issue a few hours too soon to announce her arrival, on the morning of January 1st

The appearance of the sun as we caught sight of it between the clouds during the eclipse on Chinese New Year, was in shape like that of a crescent moon, 1st quarter. The weather was too cloudy for many to notice it, but a few of our towns people saw Sol's danger and did their best with gun, gong, cymbal, and drum to rescue him. They, however, would have to wait till morning to judge of the success of their labor.

Our landlord is bemoaning the probable dissolution of his beloved country. A rumor has reached the natives here that the Emperor is to retire to Mongolia, the Empress Dowager to Thibet, and Prince Kung to Nanking, leaving the northern provinces to the rapacious foreigners. Good news has ar-

rived from Dr. Malcolm of the success of his operation for appendicitis, and we shall hope for a speedy return.

The report of woman's work at Ch'u Wang is brief, but indicates faithful daily work, in teaching women and girls from the town, five being recorded as catechumens. There is a station class of women from other towns, three new names being recorded. There is active work in visiting homes in the town and surrounding villages. One woman, Mrs. Chang, was baptised, the first fruits of the class of Ch'u Wang women.

During January there were 559 treatments in the dispensary here.

For nearly two years a row with Mas Hwan Chang, our most rabid enemy of the baser sort, might be looked for, about monthly. Last fall he started a cook-shop to make his living off the dispensary patients, but a scalded foot made him one of them. Lately, in preparing for the New Year, he had the point of his finger bitten off by a pig, bringing him again, as a meek man, to the dispensary, and last Sunday to service. While looking for yet better things, the absence of quarrels is very acceptable.

We have at present a station class of seven staying with us. Last mail from Ch'u Wang told of a class of 25, with prospect of more.

Our local church has been trying to ease the distress of poor people during New Year, closing of shops by giving a bowl of millet gruel to needy applicants at dawn each day.

We yesterday accepted an invitation to a New Year feast. By one hour beyond our regular dinner time we had developed a goodly appetite. One wishes he could know beforehand the number of courses to a Chinese feast that he might regulate his eating.

Boy :—"Can one kill rats?"

Missionary :—"For weeks I've been trying nightly to do so, but I can't with a butcher knife."

Boy :—"But is it a sin to kill a rat?"

Missionary :—"No."

Boy :—"I've got one in the millet barrel, but was afraid to kill it for fear of sinning." (After Buddhist idea.)