

but had the same general features. A large gateway led into a quadrangular courtyard. The signs were on red paper, *e.g.*, "Official Preferment Inn." "Merchants and travellers peacefully lodged." "Scholars and merchants assemble here." On each side of the gateway are the innkeeper's quarters and kitchen. Within the compound are the carts and mules, and on the side opposite the gate is the best room, which we regularly occupied. The floor is always mud, the furniture two chairs, a table, a native lamp, and the Kang of brick or wood covered with clean matting. On this we put our bedding and never slept more soundly. One difficulty with the inns is the absence of heating apparatus. The first night my friend ordered some fire, and the host lighted a heap of straw in the middle of the floor. This answered the purpose till the smoke began to descend, having passed through the tattered and falling paper-ceiling and filled the garret, and finding no outlet began to descend and go out of the door, out of which we also speedily ran with tears in our eyes. Only one other night did we order any fire, and that night we got charcoal in a pan, which did very well indeed. Notwithstanding the absence of heating, Chinese wadded clothes and shoes and ample bedding are quite sufficient for all except those with very torpid circulation. These must simply bear it or not travel in cold weather.

The Chinese food, which we ate with chop sticks, consisted of rice (a luxury in Shantung), millet, which makes an excellent porridge (*à la Knox*) three times a day, pork sausages, beef, bread (very fair), and once or twice the luxury of a chicken of venerable age, for which 25 cents was paid. The reckoning one night for four persons, ourselves and our boys, was about 36 cents. But most missionaries find it true economy to take foreign stores in small proportion with them, especially butter and condensed milk. By the aid of these, as accessories, good living was obtainable all the way.

Town and village life seem characteristic. I do not remember passing a single farmhouse standing alone. The people huddle together, partly for mutual protection. The Taeping rebels overran this region once, and bands of robbers occasionally terrorise whole villages. If possible a mud wall is thrown up around the village. The mud houses and walls, in many cases sadly crumb-