


present regulations. We notice that in connection with the C.M.S., in England, certain parishes have become responsible to the Society for the support of some particular Missionary to the Foreign Field. The title "Our Missionaries" being applied to these, the funds raised being, as we understand it, remitted directly to the Society. Perhaps the principle might be adopted in Canada, and perhaps one or more parishes may find themselves able and willing to assure to the Board the amount necessary to send forward this Missionary. The need is great, the labourer is ready, who will provide the means?

THE DOMESTIC FIELD.

Urgent appeals have been made to the Board for assistance from the various Dioceses embraced under the term "Domestic Missions" or "Domestic Field." Perhaps the most urgent and persistent is that which comes from the Diocese of Rupert's Land, in which it is represented that there are many openings for extension of Church work, which it is impossible to fill for lack of means. A sum of \$5000 was asked from the Board for this work, but owing to the very small amount to the credit of the Domestic Missions Fund, and the more urgent claims as it appeared to the Committee of other sections of the Domestic Field, only a grant of \$250 was possible.

THE WOMEN OF CHINA—HEATHEN AND CHRISTIAN.

 O understand a woman—Chinese or American—one must have some knowledge of her home, her family cares, and her habits of thought. A typical Chinese family consists of the father and mother-in-law, two or three sons and their wives, and several grandchildren, all living in rooms opening upon the same high-walled courtyard, and sharing the same kitchen.

The father and sons work for and contribute to the common purse, and so strict are their ideas of impartiality, or rather so jealous is each member of the family of the others, that a husband may not take even of the money he himself has earned to buy a present for his own wife, without buying one equally valuable for each of his sisters-in-law. The Chinaman has ways and means, however, of evading almost every law or custom, and the fond husband buys a handsome gown and sends it and his wife for a few days to her maternal home. From there she will return triumphantly displaying her gown as a present from her mother.

In the home the mother-in-law is usually—but not always—the head. Sometimes a

daughter-in-law of unusually bright mind or vicious temper rules the whole household. The quickest way a daughter-in-law possesses by which to bring her mother-in-law to subjection is threatening suicide. If a woman kills herself her spirit is supposed to return to haunt the mother-in-law, but worse than this, to the practical mind of the Chinaman, her living relatives will gather and by demanding a costly funeral, will plunge the whole family into debt that they will be unable to pay for years.

Imagine the situation in a Chinese home, and it becomes at once apparent that peace and happiness cannot reign continually. On the one hand is the daughter-in-law, a young girl, perhaps, indulged and spoiled from her babyhood in her mother's home, and untrained in housework and sewing. She is suddenly introduced by marriage into a new home. Her husband, her mother-in-law, her neighbors, are all total strangers. She is miserably homesick; she gets wretchedly tired doing all sorts of unaccustomed work; she is criticised, laughed at, or reviled for her stupidity or her indolence.

On the other hand, is the mother-in-law. She has perhaps suffered for years under the hard reign of her mother-in-law; she is now ready for her turn to sit on the throne. She expects to be treated with obedient consideration by her son's wife; she expects to take life easily in her old age. Instead of this she discovers that her new daughter-in-law is saucy, careless, and wasteful, if not actually thievish; she is, above all, taking the place in her beloved son's affections which the mother has always held.

Remember, they are two heathen women with hot and hasty tempers which have never been controlled; each with a stock of vile words and insulting epithets at her tongue's end, and it is easy to imagine the result. When there are several daughters-in-law in the same house, and children of different mothers ready to quarrel at a moment's notice, and each mother ready to take her own child's part to the bitter end, it is often "confusion worse confounded."

It is well in such a household if there be one at the head who can command obedience and at least a semblance of peace. As the daughters-in-law grow older and wiser, as they bear sons to add lustre to the family name, and as the various elements of the family become accustomed to each other, terrific outbursts of temper and violent chastisements by the mother-in-law becomes less frequent.

There are, of course, some cases where the mother-in-law and her son's wife live together in loving harmony, but these are, unfortunately, rare exceptions.

The saddest and most hopeless lot in China is that of the "nourished daughter-in-law"—