

sad procession to make their way across the river in a small ferry boat, which came backwards and forwards for them all until at last the whole party had reached the other side. It was a long business, all in the rain, and then the wall had to be climbed by a ladder, for by this time the blocking of the gateway was complete. Near our chapel the wall had not been rebuilt to its full height, and the chapel ladder, the only one to be obtained, just reached to the top. This was one of the many incidents that showed us that the hand of God was controlling everything. The next day that part of the wall was built to its proper height, and the ladder would then have been several feet too short, and we could never have got the women, with their cramped feet, and the children over the wall. For the next three days the wall was guarded by bands of citizens, posted at short intervals from one another, and armed with the best weapons they could find; but, indeed, they were poor things, old three-pronged forks, centuries old to judge from their appearance, with moveable rings on the handles, to shake and to strike terror to the hearts of the foe. Rusty, too, were their swords and rarely to be seen. We watched the proud possessors washing them in a pool and scraping them with a brick. The majority had no scabbards, not that the "braves" had thrown them away, but they had lost them. One I examined had a useful sort of scabbard; it covered all but the last couple of inches of the blade, so you could stick your enemy without the bother of pulling it out, a good thing if you were in a hurry. Those three days while the city was straitly shut up were anxious ones. Then the gates were opened. What took place between the Mandarin and the Vegetarian leaders we do not know, but no one believes that we have seen the end of the matter. Such a serious affair cannot be so easily patched up; probably we have as yet had but the beginning. Much depends upon the course that the war takes. If a treaty is arranged during the present armistice of three weeks, I think perhaps all will be quiet. Soldiers can be spared from Fu-Chan, and some arrests of the ring leaders can be effected, and