

CHINA.

From Dr. Maud Killam.

CHENTU, Oct. 18th, 1898.

I feared lest many rumors should reach you, and that these together with what Miss Brackbill had already written, might make you anxious concerning us, but to-night all seems quiet within and without. Miss Brooks and I took a trip to Kia-ting in the first part of September. On the whole we found the people not unpleasant. At one place we were accused of eating children.

On reaching here we learned that a special messenger from Kia-ting had outrun us to complain of many unfavorable rumors there, and to learn about the state of things here. While we were on our way up, placards had been posted against foreigners, and the talk on the street was very bad. One day had been named for the destruction of our houses and ourselves, but it had passed; another appointed day was yet to come. That day also went by and we were undisturbed. The unpleasant remarks continue, but are not quite as many as before. We have been very little alarmed, however, despite all the rumors, because the officials seemed to be doing their very utmost to protect us from any disturbance. For a while soldiers were stationed at each foreign compound.

The man who posted a defamatory placard, not the one who wrote it, was convicted and beaten.

The soldiers were here not because of any mob or disturbance, but for prevention. Now they do not seem to be about, but the officials are on the alert, and very frequently one rides by. The soldiers were also on guard in Kia-ting and in Sin Foo for a while.

The uneasiness seems mostly in the neighborhood of Chung-king, quite a distance from here. There they were alarmed enough to send the ladies out of the city for a few days. At one place near Chung-king the foreigners' places were destroyed. This time the officials mean to protect us, but the rumors and disturbance have come because of some insurrection in the province. These insurrections seem to have particular enmity towards the foreigners. Just how