

CHINA.

*From the Rev. Wm. Farebrother, Missionary from China.*

"I will give you one or two scenes which occurred during my residence in China. I heard of a city thirty miles from Shanghai, and in company with Dr. Medhurst and Mr. Lockwood we studied some topographical books, and were anxious to reach it. We procured a boat, with provisions for the following day. When midnight came, we left our dwelling, and passed through the silent streets, till we came to the place where we knew it would be anchored. We laid ourselves down on the deck, rolled up in our blankets, till daybreak. We then found that we were passing through a village. We landed, and distributed some of your books, and towards noon we reached the great city. We stepped on shore at a small landing place, and passed through one of their narrow streets—for many of them are not more than four or five feet wide—till we came to a principal thoroughfare. On each side there were splendid shops. As we passed along, the streets poured forth their artisans, and at length we found ourselves wedged in. The streets were so filled that Dr. Medhurst looked and said, 'What shall we do? we shall have a disturbance.' I replied, 'Appeal to their politeness; that is generally successful.' The crowd tried to make a way, Dr. Medhurst going first, Mr. Lockwood and I followed, and Mr. McClatchie, of the Church Missionary Society, brought up the rear. We stood in an elevated position, and near the end we saw the three golden images—the three precious Buddhas. Standing in the presence of their gods, an elderly gentleman, in a satin dress rose and said, 'Give an account of yourselves. Where do you come from? where are you going? what is your business? and what are your ancient family names?' These questions were answered, and the people expressed themselves satisfied. I suppose they never saw a European before. The doctor said, 'We bring with us a book which the great God, of whom you have some knowledge in your ancient writings, has given to us; and we are commanded as his servants, to go into all the world, to carry the book, and make it known to every creature.' The astonishment of the crowd I cannot describe. They all came closer to the place where we stood, to hear something more about this wonderful book. The book was opened. The doctor said, 'If you will give attention to its contents, I will state them.' In a quarter of an hour he gave a simple outline of the truths of Christianity. They listened with profound attention; and, though I have passed through many troubles and dangers, as I stood gazing on that vast crowd—many of them educated young men—and saw them listening to the great truths of the gospel, I felt that it was a moment worth living for; it repaid me for all I had experienced. As soon as we had done, a shout arose from the crowd, 'When will you come again, and tell us more?' We said, 'We will wait on you in a month, but in the mean time, we have got books to give away.' We had got a sack of tracts; we placed them near a wall, where we knew we could defend them if any attempt were made to steal them. Standing there, we distributed the tracts, allowing each one to come, and when he had received a tract, to pass away. I believe all had one or more; but as we were passing to the boat, we saw