

THE STORY OF SIU CHIN.

BY MISS DANIELLS.

In the village of Toa-Po, in the Tie-Ie district, a poor family, surnamed Tie, live in two rooms and the house rented at that. There is no direct communication between these two rooms, so in going from one to the other, persons must go out of doors. One room is furnished with two beds, a table two cupboards, a bench and two chairs—this is the room in which Miss Norwood and I were invited to partake of tea, cake and candies, when we visited the family in October—in the second room is a bed, a loom, a chair and small articles used in cooking, beside the loose stuff, sticks, dried grass, etc., which belong to every Chinese family and must be stored.

The father of the family is a heathen and an interpreter of the gods, the mother is a Christian and Bible-reader, the elder son is a Christian and a theological student, the eldest daughter is a believer, but having married into a heathen family she is not allowed to worship the true God and only does it secretly; the second daughter died many years ago; the third, a bright girl fourteen years old, was betrothed to a heathen before she or her mother believed, and these betrothals being like the laws of the Medes and Persians she will be obliged to marry this heathen and go into a heathen family to live, to the great regret of herself and her mother. The second son is a believer but is kept in the heathen schools at his home by his father. The fourth daughter is in the school at Swatow, and she is the little girl of whom I wish to tell you. Her name is Tie Siu Chin. Siu Chin came into the school less than two years since. She has the advantage of a mother's care and consequently the prospect of being betrothed to a Christian lad. You may feel like smiling at the idea of a little girl only twelve years old being betrothed or "engaged to be married" as we often say, but this you know is the practice all over China and so it seems all right to these children. "All right" do I say? No! I think not. I believe that many of the girls rebel against the custom, and feel in their hearts as bitter as many girls at home do in following fashions that are inconvenient and disagreeable. Yet custom in China is just as great a tyrant as fashion in America, and both work ruin to the domestic happiness which God ordained for the good of both Chinese and American girls. Siu Chin is said to be naturally very amiable and industrious, so that she undoubtedly has a pleasant life before her. The neighbors all praise her and say that she never deserves a beating. Her mother says that when she was only six years old she went to the house of a neighbor and see-

ing the woman spinning she urged her to teach her to spin. She allowed her to go for many days but did not believe she could learn. She persevered and when she brought the yarn that she had spun to her mother she was greatly delighted.

She was about eight years old when her mother and brother first believed, and they at once began evening prayers. She was always present, but her mother did not know how she felt about it until one night as she sat sewing, Siu Chin said to her, "Mother, do not sew now, I am very sleepy and want to go to bed, but I do not want to go until we have had prayers." This was before she fully believed, but

the devil, and interpreting for the false gods. Her father received the letter when there were many heathen present. He was very proud that she had written to him, so he read it aloud, and showed the writing to the company, who declared that the writing was good, but the words were not good. Then the mother, who was also present, told them many things about the gospel, and no one made an answer.

While Siu Chin has been in school she has read the hymn-book, the four gospels, Acts, Corinthians and Genesis in the language of the common people, and she has read Exodus in the letters of the educated people. Every Christian Chinese woman

begin in the lowest place in the office; but if found competent he would be advanced. Mr. Silas Brown was a sharp, and some said hard, business man. But he was just, and had a really kind heart under his sharp ways.

Edward Clayton had seen the advertisement, and as he wanted to do something to help his widowed mother, he determined to apply for the situation, though he had heard not a little about Mr. Brown's sharp ways. So he presented himself in that gentleman's office, and told him why he had come.

"Your name?" said Mr. Brown.

"Edward Clayton," was the response.

"Age?"

"Seventeen."

"Ever been in business?"

"No, sir."

"What do you know?"

"My teacher, Mr. Grey, of the High School, will tell you that I stood well in my classes."

"Do you smoke, or chew tobacco?"

"No, sir. My mother would not allow that, even if I wanted to."

"So you are not too old to mind your mother," said the merchant.

"No, sir."

"Go to church?" asked Mr. Brown.

"Yes, sir, and to Sabbath-school."

"If I employ you, will you do exactly as I tell you?"

"Certainly, sir," said Edward, "so long as you do not tell me to do anything wrong."

"Well, that's cool, I declare," said the merchant. "Who is to be the judge, I should like to know, as to what is right and wrong?"

"So far as I am concerned, Mr. Brown," replied the young man, "I must decide by my own conscience. But I do not believe that you would ask me to do anything that was wrong."

"Have you any recommendations?" persisted Mr. Brown.

"No, sir. I have never been in business, and so have no one to give a recommendation."

"Oh, well," said the merchant, something like a smile coming over his sharp features, "I think you have some very good recommendations. A young man in these days who does not smoke or chew, who is willing to acknowledge that he is obedient to his mother, who attends church and Sabbath-school, and who says that he will be governed by his conscience, is, to my thinking, well recommended."

So Edward got the place, and I fancy will be able to keep it, at least until he grows out of it, into a better one.

Good principles, boys, are the best foundation you can have for true success in life.—*Child's Paper.*



after a time she came to school, and when she went home she wanted to pray with them.

One day she said to her mother: "I want to be baptized." Her mother replied, "You are very small, and I fear you do not understand much of the gospel." She repeated, "I positively want to be baptized, and be a disciple of Christ." She soon returned to school, and two communions after the brethren thought her a suitable subject for baptism.

Not long after this she wrote a letter to her father in which she said to him that she felt he ought to know the gospel, and she was writing to exhort him to believe in Jesus Christ and worship God, and to throw aside the affairs of

who can read gives hope for the native church, for though as a girl and a woman she be much neglected, as the aged mother she becomes monarch of the household, and as a Christian her influence is felt in everything that pertains to religious worship in the entire household. So we trust that all of our girls in the school are yet to be helpful in the church.

Swatow, June 20, 1882.

Does not this interesting story make you want to help Chinese girls to know the way of life? —*Standard.*

GETTING A SITUATION.

Mr. Silas Brown had advertised for a clerk. He wanted one to