

about nine hundred feet above a beautiful valley. We had been following a small stream, and saw its origin in a little basin at the foot of a cliff. Opposite us, on the other side of the river, the city looked like a great fortress from its high wall. It is eight hundred feet above the river.

*May 3rd.*

Yesterday I enjoyed a long ride into the country. How odd to see so many beautiful hill-sides covered with graves and vaults.

Five soldiers accompanied us from Ichang in their own boat, on account of a reported famine. We saw nothing of it along the river. The people looked well nourished, and the crops flourishing. We have, however, reason to believe that the famine is very serious away from the river. In one place sickness has taken hold of the famine stricken, and it is said that one hundred out of every one thousand are dying. Inland from Wan-hsien it is said to be very bad. Our soldiers leave us here. We expect to reach Chen-tu about June 5th.

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From Miss Brooks.

FAMINE, CONSEQUENT ON CULTIVATION OF THE POPPY.

CHUN-KING, *May 5th, 1897.*

We are glad to report a safe journey thus far, and every one of our party in good health. Yesterday morning we reached this city, which is the last open port, and where we must register and obtain passports from the British Consul. We are making as short a stay as possible, and will leave early to-morrow. We have travelled about 550 miles since