

built under his personal supervision one of the strongest and fleetest and prettiest schooners ever launched in the Far East. She is named the "Fukim Maru," Maru being merely a denominative denoting ordinary vessels as distinguished from warships, and "Fukim," meaning glad tidings; Fuk meaning glad, and "in" meaning tidings. And she is rightly named, for she had brought glad tidings of great joy to those island dwellers who had never before had any chance to hear of Him who came to give Life to men. The "Fukim Maru" also has a history, but space forbids the telling of it. Suffice to say that one of the famous Allan family of Scotland, while passing through the Inland Sea, was impressed by the opportunity for work among the islands, if a vessel were available. So on his return to Scotland he offered sufficient money to build the vessel if the work could be undertaken by the American Baptist Mission Union. So the schooner was provided, and five or six years ago she set sail from Yokohama for Kobe to enter upon the work. A typhoon encountered off the coast before reaching Kobe tried both skipper and craft, but both were capable. Since then the white-winged messenger of peace has become a welcome visitant all through that vast inland sea. When she went none knew of the glad tidings. Now there are few who have not at least heard what the tall, energetic captain of the white schooner has to tell them. He has become their best friend, and to him they come in time of trouble, knowing he is quick to hear and strong to act and wise in counsel. The work has been and is very hard and exhausting. A meeting every night in a different village is the captain's programme, and only one who has been with him knows what that means. "Long night trips in a small launch, 'mid sunken rocks and reefs, and with a swirling tide almost equal to that of Fundy's Bay, and no light of any sort as a guide; long, hard climbs over lonely mountains to some village beyond; the heat of summer and its typhoons, and the cold of winter and its pitiless storms. These are only a small part of that work which has broken the health of the stalwart skipper, and would have killed anyone else. But even with such strenuous work he cannot be satisfied and is ever longing to do more.

To have spent three weeks amid such scenes and with such a worker has been an inspiration, and I write these few words hoping they will arouse your interest in this devoted captain and his work, that you may pray for him

and for the hundreds of thousands, if not millions, to whom he ministers. Without him and his vessel they would never have heard the glad tidings, and could have had no hope either in this world or in the world to come, for in spite of their beautiful surroundings and their knowledge of Buddha, falsely yeclpt "the Light of Asia," they were in densest darkness and immorality unspeakable. Now the light has dawned upon them and some have come into the light. May the dawn brighten into day till all know of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.—F. G. Harrington.

Mr. Harrington is from Cape Breton, and has been a missionary to Japan for many years under the Board of the American Union. We are privileged by a friend to have the account of this interesting trip.

A CHINESE WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

A remarkable conference of Christian women met not long since in Wei Hsien, the Holy Land of China. There were three hundred women, representing over two hundred villages, and two hundred more came from the neighborhood. Here was a gathering of women, some of them over seventy, who had hobbled on their bound feet for forty miles or less, carrying bedding, hymn-book and Bible. More remarkable still is the fact that their husbands encouraged them to go—though many had never been more than two miles from home.

Mrs. Roys, formerly of Smith College, writes that we might not consider the meetings wholly decorous. The "young tyrants, the babies, tired of sitting still, demanded a promenade pick-a-back up and down the aisles, and there was the freest exchange of greetings in penetrating tones between friends separated by half the audience." Moreover, when the meeting was thrown open, several would rise to their feet at once, uttering an imperious "I speak," with its unmistakable implication, "Let all the earth keep silence before me."

The programme included topics decidedly oriental: the family relationships, beginning with the daughter at home, her betrothal, the wife, the mother-in-law, the meaning of church membership, personal work, Sabbath observance, family worship, prayer and Bible study; unbinding the feet—which led two hundred and five of those present to unloosen their bound feet.

Mrs. Roys says that the afternoon meeting of the closing Sabbath was broken up entirely