

returned early this morning by boat. Yesterday there was a gathering of the whole mission at Dr. Smith's to spend the evening. I have been busy unpacking although I shall not put up any of my things until our new home is finished, which Miss Brackbill thinks will be about the middle of July. Our new home will be very pleasant. The men are pretty well on with the plastering. I like everything very much and hope to feel quite at home very soon. I shall be glad when the building is finished on Miss Brackbill's account, for between that and Miss Ford's illness and death, she has had a very trying time. We are on the look out for a teacher, but in the meantime both Miss Brackbill and Miss Foster have placed their teachers at my disposal for a short time each day.

The news of Miss Ford's death would be to you as it was to us, a great shock, but as the old woman servant said when telling Mrs. Endicott about it, "She was Jesus' disciple, and so it was all right for her."

A BUSY WOMAN.

From Miss Brackbill.

CHENTU, *June 12th, 1897.*

Dr. Hart wrote from Chung-King that either Miss Ford or I had better come down to Kia-ting to escort our ladies up. At that time he had not received word of Miss F.'s sickness. After they reached that city they all wrote urging me to come for the sake of my own health as well as to meet them, but it seemed impossible for me to leave just then, as I had put a large force of men at work on the house that it might be completed at an early date, as we were very much crowded and would be more so when the other ladies arrived.

I had hoped to report the completion of the buildings at the end of this month, but you will understand why all work had to be stopped, and then we did not think it wise to have a large force of men at work at the time of the fifth month feast—the anniversary of the riot which was last Friday.