

LETTER FROM REV. D. MCGILLIVRAY.

Chang Te fu, Honan.
Jan. 16th 1899.

Dear Mr. Scott.

Since my return to this field, I do not seem to have done my duty by my correspondents at home in the face of more pressing duties here in the heart of so much destitution.

When in India on my way hither I received the news of the series of Reform Edicts issued by the Emperor of China, I could hardly believe my eyes. The young Emperor seemed to want to go too fast, so his female relative with her usual astuteness arranged a coup, and he now takes a back seat. Who says that the Chinese women have no ability after that.

The latest report is that the Queen, for whom various opprobrious epithets were freely used, has actually received the various ladies of the Embassies to an afternoon tea. Which, say her detractors, is another sign that she knows how to govern, for she has heard that the women rule in Western lands and therefore may be reasonably inferred to have some influence with their august lords, who represents the foreign powers in Peking and so dispose them to acquiesce in the present regime.

It did look as if young China was waking up, for to the amazement of all who think that China never changes the scholars began cheerfully to prepare for the Deluge which was to sweep away the old fossilized methods of examination.

The immobile theory is scarcely as true as the same feature ascribed to the church of Rome. There is change of a certain kind always going on even in the stagnant East. The scholars swarmed around the doors of every missionary's study, clamoring to know the new way of (official) life.

Now while they thus willingly came within range of the Gospel they received more enlightenment on the real nature of the gospel than many of them had ever any opportunity to before. They got the books on Foreign Science, but they got something better. Thus the reform movement, though the agents among the Emperor's advisers were not Christians, was a grand thing for Christianity. It was a repetition of Acts 9: 31. "Then had the churches rest, — and were edified." It seemed as if the old days of persecution and misrepresentation were over.

Suddenly the Emprress took the reins in hand, and the books which missionaries had ordered for their Chinese friends arrived only to find that a sudden coldness had sprung up, and the books still wait for the coming of those who ordered them.

Notwithstanding all this there are signs that the reaction will only be temporary. The feeling among the Chinese themselves is that reform will ultimately sweep all opposition before it. Even despised Corea is rising up and crying for reform and the other day myriads of helpless people besieged the doors of the palace with no other weapon than the widow who by her importunity won her cause from the unjust judge.

 BACK AGAIN TO DHAR.

LETTER FROM DR. MARGARET O'HARA.

Canadian Mission, Dhar, Feb. 15, 1899.

Dear Mr. Scott:—

When leaving Montreal I promised you a letter for the RECORD, but it has been a difficult task. I realize now, that all my letters were really written for my dear mother's appreciation and now that she has gone, it seems hard to write.

The first part of our voyage was rather rough. From England to Bombay the weather was fair, but being second class and our cabins down in the hold, we found it anything but comfortable. I should not advise second-class travelling, especially for missionaries with little children. Mrs. Russell and the children suffered very much. The one redeeming feature was the nice companions we had by the way.

We only remained in Bombay a few hours leaving the same night for Central India.

Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Russell and their little daughter, Margaret Heath, were in Mhow to welcome us. It was good to see them, and to hear about the way they had been kept in health, during a very trying season. I returned with them to Dhar the next day when a very cordial welcome was given by the Christians, orphans and others.

The medical work commends itself to the needs of the people; but they are very slow to see the benefits to be obtained from girl's schools or the entrance of the Gospel into their home—only one school for girls has been opened, and the attendance at that is small so far.

This is the season for "making marriages," and many of the little girls are either being married or attending the ceremonies of their more favored friends.

In the Zenanas, the women seem less inclined to listen. The priests have taken advantage of our absence in warning the women against the Gospel message.

There have been a number of in-patients since my return. One a boy of nine years of age. The father came to call me to his village telling