

## MR. GOFORTH'S FIRST LOSS.

THE latest news from our missionaries is contained in a letter received by Rev. Dr. Kellogg, from Rev. Hunter Corbett, of Chefu. This letter has been handed to us for publication. Their many friends in Canada will regret very much this rather serious loss. The burnt building had previously been occupied by Dr. Williamson, and was put at Mr. Goforth's disposal at a nominal rent. It was expected that Mr. and Mrs. Smith would, on their arrival, occupy the same house.

CHEFU, March 19th, 1888.

To-day about 1.30 p.m. we noticed a fire in the village where Mr. and Mrs. Goforth were living. I went over and found their home in flames. While they were at dinner the house caught fire from a defective flue. As the ceiling was only paper and other dry material under the tile roof, the fire spread with great rapidity. Servants and all worked with a will in carrying out of the house all that they could. It is surprising how much they accomplished in a very short time. The most of the goods were rescued—some of them injured by the fire. Mr. and Mrs. Goforth think possibly \$300 may cover their loss. Many presents beyond a money value were ruined. Soldiers came from an encampment about one-half mile distant and tore down the house, thus preventing the fire from spreading in the village, and also guarded the rescued goods from the crowd ready to steal.

We all feel very sorry that their bright prospects have been thus clouded. They had just got their home in order and felt free to give their whole time to the study of the language. At the same time all are thankful that the fire did not break out in the night as it might have caused loss of life.

HUNTER CORBETT.

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## Open Letters.

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### HOME MISSION APPOINTMENTS.

A LETTER appears in the MONTHLY for April, calling attention to the system adopted by the Home Mission Committee in appointing student missionaries for summer work. Will you allow me very briefly to say in reply: That the rule *was never adopted*, that no literary or university student should be chosen *until all the theological students had been appointed*. The statement, therefore, that the rule has been laid aside