

## Letters from our Missionaries—Diocesan.

TORONTO. *From Miss Kirkby, Life Member, Toronto, W. A., to Annual Meeting.*

It is now more than a year since I landed in Foo-Chow, to many the first year is very trying, but I have found the verse so true "and when He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them" We have so much to be thankful for that the hearts of the people have been made willing to hear, and in many cases to believe the Gospel message. There never was a time when the schools were so full, as at present, and on all sides people are asking us to go to their villages. The applicants for the three months station class for married women are so many, that it is possible to have the house full without one baby, in former years each woman could bring one. This is a boon to us, as Chinese babies can be fully as troublesome as English ones and often prevented their mother's from reading. Out of twenty pupils eight have expressed the wish to receive more instruction so go on to the Bible Woman's Training School, while all but two have, we believe become true converts. Down-trodden, hard-hearted and despairing until they believe, it is no wonder the expression of their faces change and that in spite of many trials—they find rest and peace. Last night we heard of a young man of twenty-seven beaten to death by his parents, because he refused to worship the ancestral tablets. Parents in China have absolute control over the lives of their children, and are upheld by law in enforcing obedience. Pray especially for these parents that they may repent of their great crime and accept Salvation so freely offered, even to the murderer. You probably know that a new Emperor has been placed on the throne, and the rightful one deposed by the Empress, this may mean civil war before long. Already literature is being circulated inciting the people to uphold the rightful king. Although there are so many dialects spoken, the written language is the same every where and is the strongest link binding the Chinese Empire together and the Literate or reading men are the most influential class. Every family aspires to have one son a "reading man." So it is easy to see what influence these men can have in desiring progress, or the reverse for their country. The "breaking up of China" is sure to affect the Christian