

by ruthless brigands, because the suppression of these bands would be too unpopular a step, and would appear to be taken in the interests of and at the instigation of foreigners, who are at the present time even more hated than usual, especially in Shantung. These ruffianly bands carry flags with an inscription signifying, 'To the aid of the dynasty—to the destruction of the foreigner,' and there seems much reason to suppose that the supreme authorities fear that should they be suppressed in their hateful work of harrying peaceful Christians—the avowed preliminary to driving out all foreigners—they would just as readily oppose the dynasty as they do now the foreigner. The ministers of the various countries concerned—France, Germany, England, and the United States—are fully aware of the gravity of the situation, and are urging upon the Chinese Government the absolute necessity for utterly proscribing these two sects and exterminating their adherents if they refuse to disband; but it remains to be seen whether 'the powers that be' will really take this step, the only one which can possibly give peace and quiet again to the distracted provinces and enable the work to proceed as before in comparative security."

Meanwhile, as Bishop Scott well says, we can always take refuge in the unfailing source of comfort: "The Lord sitteth above the water flood; the Lord remaineth a King for ever." With such a precious seed-sowing we may in His own time look for an abundant harvest.

To the families of the missionaries who have laid down their lives the Society offers its deepest sympathy. May they as well as the Church in China be remembered in our intercessions.

"For all the Saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confess'd,
Thy Name, O Jesu, be forever blest.

Alleluia!"

—*The Gospel Missionary*—S. P. G.

A LADY MISSIONARY'S GARRET.

A LADY missionary from South China, who would not like her name mentioned, writes:

"I have the queerest little garret here, in which I have to be careful of my head and the roof-beams would be too often in contact. I am divided from the outer world by a curtain hung across the end of the room, and I descend by the most awkward ladder I have ever climbed—except one. I am in terror when the women come to pay calls on me, lest they should fall down. You must not think my garret is a hardship though, I am getting quite attached to it, except when cooking is going on in the kitchen below and all the smoke ascends."

THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S WORK DURING THE LAST YEARS OF THIS CENTURY.

(BY MISS SPILLER, ENGLAND.)

THE Lord gave the Word, the women that published it are a great host." Such, as the best scholars tell us, is the right translation of this prophetic word, of which during the past few years we have seen abundant fulfilment. Surely there never was a time when female agencies were so numerous, so varied, and so widely distributed as now. In almost every department of public usefulness, women are to be found successfully competing with men, and in those more especially where quickness of observation, delicacy of touch, and tenderness of handling are required, even surpassing them.

We need not in this inquiry dwell on women's work in art, in literature and in the public service, in all which during the past twenty years great strides have been made. Just now it is to see what progress has been made by women in the line of benevolent, philanthropic, and Christian work, and we shall not have to seek far before we find that in all these it has been in God's great plan for our world to assign a very high and prominent place to the ministry of women. In this respect we gratefully recognize the use and place given by God to the advanced civilization of the nineteenth century, for in no other epoch of the world's history could such developments of women's work have been possible. She has had her place and work at all times, but until the last half century, it has been mostly in the narrow sphere of home. Occasionally in the world's history has God called a Miriam or a Deborah in the east to come forth from the seclusion of purdah to fulfil a special mission, as in later times He called a Joan of Arc, a Queen Elizabeth, or an Elizabeth Fry to do some great public work. But it is only of late years that women have been called to be doctors, travellers, evangelists, missionaries. Thus we feel that for us on whom the ends of the world are come, a unique opportunity is afforded, an edifying spectacle is presented of the noble work female energy can accomplish, particularly when guided by the Holy Spirit and fired by love, in so many and varied walks of life. The solemn thought comes to us at this juncture, God has a special purpose, may we not reverently say, a special need, calling for numerous and hitherto untried laborers, and therefore He is enlisting His army recruits from the number of those to whom in times past so little of his work has been entrusted. My sisters must we not feel deeply the honor conferred upon us, that God has appointed us to