

A Beginning in the Language.

FROM DR. JEAN I. DOW.

Chu Wang, March 7, 1896.

Miss McIntosh has already told you that after our two month's trip I landed here perfectly well and strong so that all apprehension along that line will have been removed.

For nearly two months and a half I have been making a beginning in the endless study of this language, so the tale I have to tell is just the old story, common to all new-comers who have spent several hours of each day, six days a week, trying to catch, interpret, and reproduce sounds that are bewildering enough to unaccustomed ears. In Mr. Fan I have a quiet, modest teacher, who is so punctual that one may always expect to hear the tips of his fingernails scratching on the door ten or fifteen minutes before the hour appointed for beginning work, and who spares no pains to make his explanations clear even if, to accomplish his object, he has to make faces that almost make one forget the point to be illustrated in the illustration itself. When he was engaged as teacher he expressed his intention of having nothing to do with our religion, but it was not long until, entirely of his own accord, he began asking questions which indicated a mental process begun, at least, with relation to this same teaching. He is now reading in the New Testament, and manifesting a certain interest which, even if thus far based, possibly, only upon desire to understand the system of teaching, we are hoping will ultimately bring him face to face with the question, "What shall I do with Jesus which is called Christ."

Miss McIntosh's afternoon class, which was originated for the instruction of the Christian women, has somewhat altered its character, because a number of other women from the neighbourhood have been attending regularly for the last few weeks, and lessons that would be helpful to Christians would be absolutely meaningless to them. They are studying now in the Gospels.

Progress in China.

At the "Ku-jin" examination at Wuchang seventy-five degrees were to be given, and about ten "half degrees," but for these more than 12,000 men competed. The Central China Religious Tract Society gave a packet of Christian books to each candidate as he left the examination hall. Only a few refused to receive them, and many asked for more. The total number of books and tracts distributed was 45,700. All these went into the hands of educated men, and will be widely distributed and read. A similar distribution was made at Nanking examinations in September,