

that they cannot possibly get here before the end of the year except by overland travel, which would be most trying. We had to unlearn much that we learned in Shanghai. Some of us are not yet over our "down-river" pronunciation. There are over thirty pupils in the day-school, two of whom are girls. It is considered unnecessary for girls to have an education in China. These attend service on Sunday as well as Sunday-school, where they learn the catechism. It brings the tears to see them as they sing "Jesus loves me" and "I am so glad that our Father in Heaven," etc. Think of the influences at home or on the street. Old men and women may attend very regularly and seem deeply interested, who simply want work of some kind. One wanted to be allowed to go and tell the Gospel story to his other people. He is now in prison for misdemeanour. The real hope is in the children.

We have had some very trying experiences, but things seem quiet now. Probably the news has reached you of the man who died on the newly-bought place. The workmen being carried off in chains, the mob ransacking and destroying all of the work done, etc.

A retired official has sold Dr. Hart his own property for the mission and given the customary feast. It was really two feasts: one for the men one day, and a second for the women another. We all went but Mrs. Hart, who did not feel equal to so tiresome an ordeal. We were first treated to tea, after which pipes were brought in; but as our women had explained to them that we do not smoke they did not offer them to us. After waiting about four hours, and meeting the four other guests, in exquisitely embroidered satins and silks, we were invited to "eat rice," as the Chinese say. However, they had about twenty-ix courses before the rice was brought on. As they could not see how we could get anything into our spoon - but soup, they helped us with their chop-sticks. They also drank freely of hot wine.

The hostess asked me to "please explain the doctrine." As I had asked the Lord for an opportunity and words to use, I felt that this was the former, so made my "maiden effort." It was little I could say; but it did me good whether it did them or not. We think of having definite work among the women when we are settled in the new place.