

"Jesus loves me," of which she was very fond, she bravely tried to join in, but it was no use, the tears only flowed faster than ever, so she went home. This is one instance which came under our own notice, but there are many such. At the end of two weeks they ceased coming; no reason was given other than that the parents are not anxious to have their daughters taught to read, although quite willing their sons should learn. We were very sorry, as they were naturally quick and bright, but nothing would induce them to come back. A few days later, as Mrs. Mackenzie and I were on our way to one of the other compounds, we saw one of these girls; her younger sister was with her; we stopped to ask why she did not come to read any more but before she could answer the little one became so frightened and cried so loud at the sight of the foreigners, we were obliged to leave them.

I think the children are taught to look upon us as ogres, or that we must in reality be devils, for it is quite a common occurrence to see them run and hide behind their mothers or older sisters as we pass by. The people evidently regard us with great suspicion, and are ready to impute all kinds of evil motives to all our actions, and it is only after long years of living and working amongst them that they can be persuaded of the sincerity of our intentions.

You will be pleased to hear that I have been enabled to take the Bible class for women for several Sabbaths. They are reading in St. Mark's Gospel. It is not much, certainly, but the women understood me, and that of itself is enough to encourage me to go on.

Since Dr. Smith and Mr. MacVicar are away so often, Mrs. MacVicar and I conduct Chinese worship during their absence. We read a portion of Scripture, with sometimes a few explanations, sing a hymn and engage in prayer. The difficulties of the language make our progress necessarily slow, but we hope in time to be able to speak intelligently to the women.

I have been to the dispensary in connection with the "American Board Congregational Foreign Missions" several times, and am convinced that there is a wide field before us, once we have our own hospital and dispensary in working order in Honan. There are quite a number of women in the dispensary at present; the majority are being treated for sore eyes, so they generally stay for some days, which gives one a chance of telling them once and again the old, yet ever new, story of Jesus and His love.