

however, is the head, the boy's heads are shaven about three inches back from the forehead, and just sufficient hair left to braid into a tail, which is always finished off with cotton or silk strings, very often they are red, or, if the person is in mourning, white strings are used. The girls wear the hair brushed straight back from the forehead and twisted into a knot at the back of the head, or in some cases it is brushed to one side and done up into a sort of a bow-knot, giving the little creature a most fantastic appearance. They were studying their lessons as we entered, and as everything in China is done exactly opposite from the way we would do it, this is no exception to the rule. They begin at what we would call the back of the book and read down the columns of characters, beginning at the upper right hand corner of the page and ending at the lower left hand corner. All study aloud at the top of their voices, and when the teacher calls one of them to recite his lesson, he gets up and turning his back to the teacher goes over in a high monotonous tone the lesson he has just committed to memory. It is wonderful the number of pages the little children can recite without faltering once, but if he does falter and lose the connection he must begin at the beginning and go over the whole lesson.

Dr. Corbett has had a number of texts printed off which he intends to give the children next time we go into the village, if they commit them to memory we will give them some small reward in the shape of a book, or a few cash.

Dr. Nevins has just returned from his fall visit into the interior, and brings back most distressing accounts of the wants and sufferings among the people in the Province of Shan Tung. We sent a detailed account to one of the Shanghai papers, a copy of which I am trying to get for you. I hope it will come soon for it will give you some idea of the terrible distress among the people. The foreigners in the different posts are doing all they can, and already a good sum has been collected for them, but when we think of the thousands that are suffering for want of food the amount collected will not nearly supply the need.

We can hardly realize that Christmas is so near, the weather for the last few weeks has been delightful, very much like the last of October at home. The only thing that looks like Christmas is the amount of mistletoe which the natives have brought from the country to sell to foreigners. Great branches of it are lying along the roadside, and one can get such a quantity for a few cash. We will be well into the New Year before this reaches you, but not too late, I hope, to offer our New Year's greetings to you and all our lady friends in the "home land."