

From the Missionary Friend.

NOTES OF MARGUERITE WHONG'S
JOURNEY.

MISS MARGUERITE WHONG, the Chinese young lady who recently visited this country, and whose winsome manner and bright pure Christian character endeared her to many hearts, sailed for her home September 14, in company with Miss Hartford and other Foochow missionaries. His Excellency, Li Hung Chang, was a fellow passenger as far as Japan. Miss Ruth Marie Sites has just received a long letter from her little friend which she shares in part with us, as follows:—

“S. S. EMPRESS OF CHINA, Sept. 14, 1886. Surely this is a delightful starting; the stateroom is large and comfortable for two persons to occupy. What a long time it seems since I started from the dear Newton home, and how much has happened! At Vancouver we had the honor to walk under the beautiful arches made of palms and flowers, which the people had put up for His Excellency Li Hung Chang; we also found our steamer bright with gay-colored flags. But I feel queer to be among so many Chinese men, and must again be a very proper Chinese lady.

“September 16. We stopped for an hour at Victoria, just on account of Li. Miss Hartford took me up on deck, and what a crowd of people rushing along near the boat to see him! Many Chinese came aboard to greet him. Each knelt before him to show respect. One man brought along his little boy only four or five years old, and when the little fellow knelt he was so cute everybody admired him.

“Li is very sensible, and dresses and acts like any ordinary Chinese gentleman. I rather like him; he doesn't put on any airs, as I thought he would. What a great surprise to me this ‘letter box’! I know you are the foundation of it all. Miss Hartford hands me a letter each morning. Yesterday when I opened my letter I found it came from one of the dear girls at Island Heights. They did not know me very well, and yet they have shown in so many ways they do care for me. Strange! This morning when I woke our port-hole was closed, so it was pretty dark; but I got up, sat on my bed, and first thing I did read my text book and say my prayers.....Oh, I am so glad I can tell my dear Heavenly Father everything, and that He is with me all the time. To-day such a wonderful thing has happened. How I wished for you when the great man Li walked past your little girl and turned round and looked at her with a real grand-papa-expression. Immediately afterward he sent his interpreter to inquire who I am, where I come from, how long have I been abroad, what school I enter, etc. We talked in English, as he could not talk our dialect. Then he went and brought Mr. Lo, the Foochow secretary of whom Dr. Baldwin told us. We had quite a little talk, for although he was a stranger and a Chinese man, I was so happy to meet one who could speak to me in my own dear native dialect. After Misses Hartford and Trimble join in the talk, I went down to our cabin and got the ‘yellow book’ which you remember I put all ready, when I packed my steamer trunk, for a chance just like this.” [The “yellow book” was a little volume

printed by her father, as is the custom of the Chinese, when he acquired his second literary degree in the national competitive examinations. It tells the official or literary rank of all his family for generations back, also the fact of his brother, a first lieutenant aboard one of the largest Chinese men-of-war, having lost his life in the battle at Port Arthur in the late Chinese war. R. M. S.]

“Mr. Lo took the book in to Li, and came back saying His Excellency wished to look it over, and was much interested to find I am the daughter of a title man.

“September 17. Oh! my heart is still jumping, and my hands still trembling. I've just come down from Li's room. This morning he sent word he wanted to see me at ten o'clock. Well, I want to tell you about the little private affair in his room. Soon as he sent for me I came to our cabin and put on my pretty silk suit, then asked Miss Hartford to go with me. When we came before him I knelt down real low, but the dear man, he rose from his seat, come and assist me up, and, bless you, he want to shake hands with me, and we did.

“We sat down, and he asked me all about the family from my father down to little Sa Muoi. He asked me how old I am, who is my English teacher; I told him you, Siek Guiong, my only teacher. I must not forget to tell you that Mr. Lo said he knew Dr. Sites in Foochow; so you see there is some one with this great man to whom your dear father preached the gospel. After many more questions Li said he wished to appoint me to represent our dear China in the World's Congress of Representative Women to be held in London in 1898. Just think of it! Your little girl have something to do with the Chinese Government!

“Miss Hartford, who was with me this morning, told Mr. Lo about our Dr. Hu King Eng, and recommended her to go with me to London, and I think she will. The reason Li wants me to go is because he read my father's yellow book and knows who I am—my father's daughter and my uncle's niece; and most of all because I am your little girl. You taught me the English, brought me to America, and now send me back at this time give me the chance to meet Li.

“His Excellency gave me three big English books—histories of the World's Congress—to keep. I am so glad I can have something from him, such a great man, next to our Emperor. I am glad, too, he has given me such an honor to carry home. I think father will be very pleased. You know he cares so much for honors; and this is from our government.

“This is really the first time I feel any happy to come home, and I think I understand now, God has the arrangement made before already, and put me on this ship with Li, and is going to use me to shine His light for China. Don't worry about your little girl should be proud or any thing like that, for she will learn to be more meek than ever from her Jesus her Master. I tell you it will be a great change for China on account of Li's visit to America and England. Why should China send women to meet with ‘Representative Women of ‘the World’? I thought Chinese government shall never have anything to do with women, and now so soon this new way is opened for all the poor women and girls of my dear country to be accounted side by side with men.

To be Continued.