

testimony which he gives as to their steadfastness and courage, even unto death, is very striking. He writes:—

"We have now a martyr church in North China. Of our 700 Christians, over half of them have been chopped to pieces by Boxers, and of them all, we know of the whereabouts of less than two hundred. Daily our poor shivering refugees are coming in with their tales of woe. They have been scattered on the mountain-sides, hiding in the caves or in the high grain, where they were burned by the sun and wet with the rains. It has been a terrible experience. From June 20 to August 14 we were penned in the British Legation, 800 foreigners and nearly 3,000 Chinese, Catholic and Protestant Christians in houses near by. Of over 400 soldiers, sixty-two were killed and 132 wounded. So you see our losses of fighting men were about 25 per cent. We all came out of the legation with scurvy in our mouths, owing to our insufficient food supply. No missionary was injured, except Rev. Gilbert Reid, who received a flesh wound.

"Outside of the legation during these two months, our poor Christians were being harried in a way unexampled in church history. In some way the house of one of our deacons was left unburned. That is the only house of 700 Christians that I know which is not burned. To-day one little boy turned up, the last of a family of seven children: father and mother being killed also. Many of our people went to their death like heroes. Our Brother Hsieh of the North Church requested that he might put on his best clothes as he was going to the palace of the King. They dug out his heart to find the secret of his courage. Our former Christians were obliged to give up the deeds of their land before they were killed. It was the aim of the Boxers literally to extirpate the Church.

"We have with us about 160 Christians, nearly all who are left of our five churches. We have gathered in grain from abandoned shops and houses, and our people will have enough to eat and wear for the winter, if we are left alone. The Boxer rage has spent its force, but it means that one must start practically *de novo* in North China. In the division of the city for police purposes, we come under Russian jurisdiction, for which I am sorry, as the Russian soldiers are lawless and lustful. I have almost daily encounters to protect our Christian women from wandering Russian soldiers.

"August 28 will be a great day in Chinese history, as for the first time foreign troops entered and passed through the Forbidden City. We had an advantageous position on the Coal-hill and saw the soldiers of Russia, Japan, England, France, Germany, United States, Austria and Italy march through those precincts never before trodden by western men. The city was not looted and will be kept locked up. It was saddening to see an old empire thus humiliated,

but China deserves her fate and we cannot mourn that her glories are departed."—*Missionary Herald*.

A MISSIONARY ROUND TABLE.

S. W. Hitherington.

"You must attend our Missionary Round Table while you are here" said my hostess, the enthusiastic president of the Middleton W. F. M. S.

"Round Table!" I exclaimed. "What is that? I have heard of societies, circles, bands, etc., but this is the first time I have heard of a Round Table in connection with missionaries."

"We'll go to one this coming Friday," was the reply, "and you'll see it in working order."

I must say my curiosity was excited, and on the day appointed I gladly went with my friend to a distant part of the city where the Round Table met.

"When we first organized," said Mrs. Price, "we met in the parlor of the Church, but for the last year we have had our meetings in the parlors of the different members."

After a somewhat long walk we arrived at a pleasant home, and were ushered by the smiling maid into a parlor half filled with sweet-faced, earnest-looking ladies. Some others came, and promptly at three o'clock, the president rose to open the meeting. The reading of an appropriate selection from scripture was followed by several short fervent prayers, and then the president called for letters from our workers abroad. This Round Table was favored in having among its regular attendants the Conference secretary of the W. F. M. S., and letters sent to her from the foreign field, were retained and read to the ladies before being sent to other places. On this occasion two letters were read full of interesting facts that thrilled the hearts of all present.

Each member then contributed an item or a story gathered from her reading the previous week.

This gave the timid an opportunity to use their voices, and also furnished appropriate topics for conversation, which I noticed was bright and lively, and certainly much higher toned than the talk usually indulged in by women in their social gatherings.

The president held in her hand the latest number of the *Missionary Friend*, and gave a running comment on the contents of the new number, stimulating the interest of subscribers and arousing the curiosity of those who were not regular subscribers. A few chapters of a book were then read, the reader first giving an abstract of the story to the point where she began for the benefit of those who had been absent previously.

At the conclusion of the reading, the pleasant-faced maid entered the parlor bearing a waiter containing cups of fragrant tea, followed by her mistress with a plate of wafers. We ate, drank, and were refreshed,