

public road, but said, "What kind of men are you?" Mr. Slimmon said it mattered not whether we were foreigners or natives, that that was our road and we were going it. Their conduct was not according to reason, not according to custom.

After some more talk Mr. Slimmon said, "we shall see what kind of evil customs these are which you follow in the capital," and turned to the barrow. The gatekeeper at once said, "he's got a passport," and when he saw the document, without taking trouble to read it, simply told a man to follow us. Just then we met the man who had made official enquiries the night before, and he too followed us to see we went out the Sung gate.

It was, doubtless, annoying to the official pride to see that they could not stop two dirty looking tramps, as we appeared, after three days walking in hot weather, but they were acting quite illegally, and we were willing to spend a half a day in getting through if it could not be done in less, for we thought the people of the capital ought to see a foreigner occasionally that they may realize we are here by right. The people of the capital are no worse than other places, but the officials continually represent that they are so, and that it would be dangerous for a foreigner to settle there, while in reality it is the officials who are opposed to us.

Another example of the influence the official attitude has on the people's attitude was noticed the next day. The day we left the city of K'ai Feng we were passed on the road by an official cart with a rider in front and two runners by the sides. When stopping for dinner the occupant of this cart came into the inn to see us. He was the son of the prefect of the next official city, had spent his childhood in Shanghai, knew a few sentences of English, and had quite a mechanical mind, which he had devoted to the study of steam engines, photography, etc. He invited us if we were staying in his city, to call on him, and told us where the best inn was in the south suburb.

We were delayed by rain so that we did not reach the city until noon next day, and stopped at this inn to drink tea. The people looked askance at us, and one man, whom we had seen on the road the night before, whispered to us that we had better rest only a little while and go on, because all morning there had been a messenger from the Yamen waiting there to see if we had come, and he had now gone into the city with word we were there. Mr. Slimmon, however, explained the reason. He also explained to the inn-keeper in order to allay his fears.

When we started, the friend who had warned us to move along came to the end of the street, and, saying it threatened rain ahead, invited us to wait until his cart came along and ride with him for he had plenty of room. So we see the people turn as the officials look.

## THE NEWS FROM HONAN.

FROM THE "H'SIN PAO," THE "LETTER NEWSPAPER" OF OUR MISSION.

From the issue of August 7.

To-day, according to the Chinese calendar, is the establishment of autumn. A light shower of rain fell this afternoon, but the weather continues very dry and hot; and the crops—millet, beans, cotton, etc.—are being spoiled by the drought.

H'SIN CHEN.

Messrs Slimmon and Mitchell have returned from South Honan. They were detained several days by floods. Both are in good health.

Our little Margerie McClure, after two weeks of intense suffering from meningitis, was taken home on August 5th. For seven months and eleven days she was with us, and was very dear to all.

CHANG TE FU.

Weather.

Saturday, August 1..	..	..	..	109°F
Sunday, August 2..	..	..	..	106
Monday, August 3..	..	..	..	98
Tuesday, August 4..	..	..	..	99
Wednesday, August 5..	..	..	..	103
Thursday, August 6..	..	..	..	104
Friday, August 7..	..	..	..	102

Markets.

Fresh mutton is again sold on the street. Of fruits, apples and peaches are still to be had. The first grapes made their appearance this week.

We are all blessed with excellent health so far, though malaria is very prevalent among the Chinese.

Extracts from Hsin Pao, of Aug. 14.

The drought has at last broken; some heavy showers fell this week.

A subscription list for Armenian relief will be passed around the Mission this week.

The first Sabbath in September has been set apart by the Presbytery of Honan as a day of fasting and prayer in connection with Romish aggression.

On August 9 we were favored with a splendid view of the partial eclipse of the sun. The day was bright, and only occasionally did a cloud obscure the view.

Our attention was first attracted to what was going on above by an inordinate racket within the city, much greater than the everyday gong-pounding, etc., for rain. On inquiry we found that the Buddhists and Taoists were out in full force endeavoring to frighten away the huge dragon that was devouring the sun. Evidently they scared him as the sun is still intact, and quite as capable as before of producing heat.

The people here, as throughout the Empire, were apprized of the approaching catastrophe by message from the Government Meteorological Department in Peking.