

mined in Chinese fashion. Owing to a stupid set of officials the mineral wealth of China is almost wholly undeveloped, although the people are in need of any industry which could relieve their want. A curious and interesting formation is that of the loess deposits. These deposits rise in tiers as you go up the hills. The facing of each tier is perpendicular, and one wonders why the whole mass does not tumble down. The earth is of a rich yellow color and is extremely fertile. We saw a few houses dug out in the loess, and no doubt they are very comfortable dwellings for people who do not care for air. In the province of Shan Si thousands of people live in houses made in this way. Long strings of donkeys met us on the way. No vehicle can get along on this road. All the goods are carried in small packs and creils drawn by mules and donkeys.

When we reached Coa Chuan it was late and we were all very tired. Some came in to see the foreign devils, and a few had questions to put about the doctrine. We had prayers in Chinese, and then retired to sleep the sleep of the weary, and reminded in heathen Cathay of Him who bade the weary come to Him for rest. Strange that the Chinese do not feel such a weariness as would make the Gospel welcome to them! Nothing that I have ever seen of them yet has left the impression upon me that they have any profound sense of sin or that they have any pressing spiritual needs of any kind. They are seared and blighted in mind and heart, and the Gospel itself must create in them the conscience and the longing which will gladly accept and appreciate salvation through Christ. We were out on the street in Coa Chuan next day, and had a talk with a group of people who at once came round to see us. Several listened very well, and a few books were sold. There was not enough encouragement to keep us longer, as the Fair was in full swing at the county town even then. So we set out for Lin Hsein in the afternoon and once more on foot. After walking a few miles we stopped at a small village until the mules would arrive. A young man seeing us looking intently at the mountains, came where we were, and said, "Isn't the world large?" So far as we could make out, the village was to him the centre and the surrounding mountains the circumference, of the earth. The mountains attain a very respectable height in there. Almost every one is crowned with a Buddhist or Taoist temple. Religion points upward even in China, but it is certainly a sloping through darkness up to God. Taking the mildest, broadest view of Chinese religions, it is very difficult to see much light or good in them. Whatever China is she owes to the teachings of Confucius, who taught much that is excellent and that has taken an astonishing hold of the Chinese. The most clownish farmer will appreciate a quotation from the sage, and such a quotation will arouse him better than any argument or illustration whatsoever. Yet here is the