

The houses which we now occupy are very different from those we have been living in belonging to the A.B.C.F.M., but they are all we need or desire. They are thorough Chinese houses. The foundations and pillars are built of brick, the walls of mud-brick and plaster, the roofs of corn-stalks, bricks and tiles. The ceilings were very ugly, having heavy, dark beams across; but we have had the Chinese make ceilings of straw mats, which cover almost all the beams, and those that are not covered with the mats we paper with white Chinese paper. The floors of our three main rooms were originally brick, but we have found it necessary to, at least, have board floors instead of the brick, and glass windows put in in place of the original paper ones. We have one bedroom, which is a fine, large room, a living room, and a study, also a kitchen and storeroom. I send you a plan which may be interesting to some. I must not forget to mention that we have a number of beautiful trees in our compound. You can hardly understand what a comfort and blessing these are, for in Canada there are trees and pleasing sights to be seen on every hand, but in China those things which might tend to relieve and please the eye are few and far between.

Since our arrival here we have had quite a large number of women come to see us. Many of them are pleasant and intelligent looking, but by far the greater number are exceedingly dirty and unwilling to try and learn. Indeed, it is often with difficulty that we can get them to even listen to the doctrine for a few minutes. They tell us, when we ask them to sit down and listen a little while to our doctrine, that they have come "sight-seeing." We tell them that if they would only be willing to learn, we would spend much time in teaching them to read; but they reply that it is not the "fashion" for women to read, therefore they do not care to. Some of the women seem very suspicious of us, indeed seem quite nervous and fearful. But we cannot wonder at this, for even the literati—the teachers and gentry—believe and circulate the most horrible falsehoods of us. Many of these stories are quite too shocking and vile to repeat, and yet they are almost universally believed. The following is a sample: They say we kill all children we can get hold of, that the Doctor takes out their eyes to make medicine, then we bury their bodies under our floors. Indeed, they say that the earth under our floors is full of children's bones. They say, further,

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