

ter. They say so little upon which one can take hold, and they are so incapable of seeing the force of great moral and spiritual arguments that one often feels that God alone can deal with such minds and hearts. If anywhere we have to look to the Holy Ghost for the conversion of men to Christ it is in China, and one increasingly feels the vanity of human effort apart from the effectual working of Him who gives the increase. In an ordinary talk with a Chinaman arguments such as students usually associate with Renan and Strauss constantly turn up.

We left Chu Kow on Friday and walked to a town on the bank of the An Yang river, where mules were hired to take us as far as Coa Chuan. At this place the river flows in a clear and rapid stream over a bed of limestone, and along the foothills until it turns towards Chang Te. The water looked so pure that we could not resist the temptation of drinking some. To see the point of this you must remember that the water which we ordinarily use is, as taken out of the river, at least thirty percent mud most of the year, and that it has to be boiled and filtered ere we can drink it. A drink straight out of the stream is therefore no ordinary luxury to us. Looking west from this town, with the river flowing at our feet and the hills gradually towering into mountains in the distance, we had a view which in any country would be considered beautiful, and how much more so in monotonous China. We crossed the An Yang by a long bridge made of enormous slabs of limestone securely fastened by massive clamps of iron. The mules have arrived, and we proceed to mount. Mr. MacGillivray is used to them, though that does not secure him immunity from coming down occasionally. Our impedimenta are balanced as best they may on donkeys, and make a clatter all the way—often varied by a donkey running ahead, and scattering everything right and left on the road. The Chinaman reviles the animal, gathers the dispersed, and places the whole just as it was before. For saddles we used our bedding, which being quite loose was always apt to become unbalanced, and so land us on the road. When the road is all made of huge pieces of rock, or when a man is within an inch of the edge of a precipice there is no sense of security in being thus poised, and one's enjoyment of the scenery is diminished. My teacher complained that he was too old for such roads, and was always afraid of getting a large mule. Limestone was the prevailing rock all through these hills, but apparently not rich in fossils. Other rocks may be seen too. In the bed of a stream coming from the mountains I noticed bits of quartz and blocks of gneiss. A hard stone is in common use in monuments which resembles trap rock. Breccia is very common, and we saw at different places rocks which seemed to be rich in minerals. Indeed, I have no doubt but all kinds of minerals are to be found among these hills. Coals are