

day Mr. McKay baptized nine who professed their faith in Christ, making in all thirty-seven whom he has admitted to the fellowship of the Church since he came. Do not judge of the work by these numbers. *Scores might* have been baptized, but I cannot help thinking Mr. McKay is right to be exceedingly cautious as to whom he admits to full communion. He is careful, and as yet the result is most satisfactory. None of the converts have proved unfaithful. This greatly helps the work. That Sabbath was one to be remembered. All the converts from the different stations were there. They seemed deeply impressed, as indeed we all were with the solemnity of the occasion. I wasn't able, of course, to understand the *sermon*, but I was able to *commune* with the *brethren* and afterwards to speak a few words of counsel and cheer to them by Mr. McKay, who kindly interpreted for me. I enjoyed the season greatly. At another time I must tell you more particularly about our chapels, converts and worshippers, schools, etc., etc. The last three Sabbaths I have been at home, and have assembled as many of the foreign residents as would meet for worship. This I expect to do for the first few months at any rate, whatever may be my plans afterwards. While unable to speak the Chinese language, I shall be most profitably employed in preaching to those who are able to understand English.

I have only told you how I spent the Sabbaths since I came. On week-days I have been occupied with many things. The first week was almost exclusively devoted to helping to set things right in the house, and to the reception of scores and scores of the natives who came to bid us welcome as missionaries, or to gaze at us and our things as wonders. Now, we are pretty comfortably settled, and the curiosity of the people seems to have greatly abated. Since then my forenoons have been spent in the hospital, where I am greatly helped by Dr. Ringer, the resident physician of the Port, in Foreign employ, who is skilful, and has a very kind heart. He was very helpful to Mr. McKay and the work, before my arrival, and still desires, very greatly, to be identified with it, though without thought of remuneration. The hospital work is very interesting, but I must reserve particulars till a future letter.

My afternoons and evenings are given chiefly to the study of the language, with which I am making some progress, and I should like to give all and sundry fair warning, and tell them not to expect to hear of my preaching in Chinese within a year. I have learned a few of the more common and necessary words, but have come to the conclusion, either that Chinese words are particularly slippery, or that my memory is not very retentive. All in good time, though. To acquire a language, so as to use it, is not the work of a day. In the meantime I can do a good deal of mission work.

I haven't written concerning the manners, customs, language, etc., of the Chinese. Time enough for that. I wish to *know* of what I write, and not to mislead people or create false impressions either carelessly or wilfully. There is much to be seen of which I shall be glad to write when I have revised and corrected my own impressions sufficiently. In the meantime you will be glad to know that we are tolerably comfortably situated. The house in which we live is old, and not very well built, and by no means dry, but is a hundred per cent. better than the best Chinese house that could be had in the place. Our situation is not so bad. We are within about a stone's throw of the river, and about two miles from its mouth. Every time the *tide* comes in we have coolness and fresh air, so that I think we will manage very well till our new house is built, the