

Missionary Intelligence.

LETTER FROM REV. DR. FRASER.

AMOY, CHINA, 21st January, 1875.

EDITOR "HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD:"

MY DEAR SIR:—You will be surprised to see the date of my letter, and to learn that we are not yet at our journey's end. You will be gratified, however, to know that we are so near our destination, and *all well*. When I wrote last we were coming into Yokohama, Japan, where we spent about twenty hours. We all went on shore, delighted to set foot on *terra firma*, and greatly interested in the strange people, and their stranger ways. In the harbour there is a great deal of foreign shipping, and in the city a great many foreigners, whose houses and places of business are very solidly and somewhat elegantly built, in a style of architecture which seems to be a compromise between those with which we are familiar *at home*, and that which is indigenous to the country. The modifications are rendered necessary by the extreme heats of summer, and the fearful gales of wind called *typhoons*, which occur at the change of the *monsoons* in spring and autumn. I cannot undertake to tell you about the natives, or their ways. Heretofore travellers have been ready to write about people whom they have only seen for a few hours, and have thus given rise to a great many false ideas. Only yesterday, I heard a book, called "*One Year in China*," pretty severely criticised by those who know how far astray the author was on many points, and how many egregious mistakes he had made, by concluding that he *had seen and knew the Chinese* through having spent one year in an out-of-the-way place in the country. All things considered, then, my best plan will be to leave "JAPAN AND THE JAPANESE" to writers who know more of them.

Our voyage from Yokohama to Hong Kong was prosperous and exceedingly pleasant. How glad and thankful we have been ever since we reached Yokohama, and heard of the loss of the steamer "Japan" by fire, between there and Hong Kong, that we have been preserved from such disaster! And the more so, because our passage had been taken by her, and we were only prevented from coming in her by the importunity of kind San Francisco friends, who insisted that we should stay, and rest a few days after our long journey by rail. How marvellously we are kept! Sometimes the very circumstances which we regret are those which are working together for our good. If we had come by the "Japan," we would have been under the terrible necessity of taking to small boats in the middle of a dark night, with a high sea. We should certainly have lost every thing but our lives, and the great probability is that some or all of us would have found watery graves! Surely, goodness and mercy have followed us! Thanks be to God for his loving kindness and tender mercy!

Our stay in Hong Kong was short, though somewhat longer than we at first expected. We reached there on Friday, the 8th of January, and thought at first to have left *en route* for Tamsui the next evening, but did not get away till Monday forenoon. In this way we were able to see something of the place; to do a little shopping, by way of completing