

disposed to us. But our Heavenly Father opened up the way so that from first to last nothing but kindness was received.

We were absent seven weeks, and travelled over twelve hundred miles in Chinese carts. We returned to Chefoo 1st November, and found Dr. McClure, who had arrived in the meantime, and the ladies, hard at work at the language. We must now have patience, and work diligently at this most difficult tongue."

#### Moving Nearer the Field.

Immediately on the return from the tour of exploration, the Goforths moved inland, 250 miles, to P'ang Chuang, a station of the American Board, about 150 miles from Honan, to learn the work of the missionaries there and to try to engage a teacher from Honan in order to study the Honanese dialect.

They were followed soon after by Rev. D. McGillivray, who, as above noted, reached Chefoo December first. In telling of his inland trip by Chinese cart, Mr. McGillivray writes:

"The cart has doubtless existed in China 'from ancient times,' and is on the whole well adapted to those snares called roads in China. The road is in some places fairly level, in the others it would finish a lady unless there were voluminous padding on the sides, back and bottom of the cart. In that case she might survive.

"There is an immense traffic along this road. Strings of barrows, man propelled, mule and donkey-drawn in combination, a row of dromedaries, pack mules, ad infinitum, served to vary the monotony of the ruts and the pangs of hunger."

Of the 250 miles he had travelled when he wrote, he says:—"Every two miles on an average since leaving Chefoo a town or village was passed, and, in only two or three, any Christians. How gross the darkness of the people is I am seeing more each day. The marks of their superstition are stumbled on everywhere: tablets, temples, shrines, in repair and out of repair, abound on every side.

Rev. Dr. Smith and Dr. McClure remained during the winter in Chefoo, as there was a better opportunity in the Mission Hospital there for doing medical work, while they studied the language.

Dr. McClure, on the 7th Feb. of that winter, 1889, won for himself and the mission an excellent wife, Miss Baird, a missionary of the American Board in Canton, who was gladly welcomed to our Mission Band; while in September of the same year Rev. Dr. Hunter Corbett, American missionary at Chefoo, made matters even by taking from our workers Miss Harriet Sutherland.

The work to which the missionaries this winter bent their greatest energies was the language, that they might be able to speak

to the people. Of the task Mr. Goforth writes:

"No missionary can afford to stop short of being able to read the Bible in the language of the people. But this requires the memorizing of 5000 different characters. Any one who has seen these must admit that it is more than a holiday task to manage them."

Of the same hindrance, the language, Dr. Smith writes:—"You have no idea how difficult it is to remain unable to satisfy the intense longing to preach the glorious gospel of peace and pardon through the blood of Christ, which the perishing millions so much need."

In the spring of 1889, the McClures moved into P'ang Chuang to join the Goforths and Mr. McGillivray, and, while studying the language, these brethren helped to make preparation for further accommodation at Lin Ching, another station of the American Board, fifty miles nearer to Honan but still one hundred miles from it.

#### Another Tour and More Missionaries.

In the fall of this year, 1889, Dr. McClure and Mr. Goforth made the first tour for work into Honan. On this tour some four or five towns were visited and quite a large number of patients treated; and the missionaries were well received wherever they went. In one city the mandarin invited them to a feast in his own house.

Towards the end of this year, 1889, came quite an addition to the Mission staff, the men all graduates of that year from the Presbyterian College, Montreal, and all supported in Montreal. Rev. Murdock Mackenzie and wife, supported by David Yuille, Esq.; Rev. John H. and Mrs. McVicar, supported by Crescent Street Church; and Rev. John and Mrs. McDougall, supported by Erskine Church. With these came two lady graduates of the Toronto Training School for Nurses, Miss Jennie S. Graham and Miss Maggie J. McIntosh. The newcomers were welcomed at Lin Ching 5th Dec., 1889.

#### Forming the Presbytery of Honan.

On the evening of their arrival Mr. Goforth, by authority of the General Assembly, convened them and formed the Presbytery of Honan, though as yet they had not obtained a foothold within the borders of their chosen province.

The chief matter before this meeting was the all-important one of establishing missionary centres in Honan. Two points which had from the first been fixed upon as most desirable for the opening of stations were now formally approved; and then for some weeks, until the opening of boat navigation, all devoted themselves to the language and to Mission work where they then were.