

OUR MISSION IN HONAN.

Question.—Where is Honan?

Answer.—One of the eighteen provinces of China. (See map.)

Q. What is the meaning of the name?

A. "South of the River," i.e. the Hoang-Ho.

Q. How large is Honan?

A. About 350 miles, in length and in breadth.

Q. What is its population?

A. About fifteen to eighteen millions, or three times the population of Canada.

Q. What is the character of the country?

A. Level, except one range of hills, fertile, without trees, and all carefully cultivated.

Q. What does it produce?

A. Wheat, corn, maize, cotton, etc.

Q. What is the character of the climate?

A. A little warmer than Canada. The rivers freeze for two or three months, and a little snow falls in winter; the summer is hotter than ours.

Q. Compare its produce and population.

A. All that it can produce is needed to feed the dense population.

Q. What is the result when the food supply fails in any one year?

A. Suffering and starvation.

Q. Why do they not get food from other countries?

A. There are no railways to bring it, and besides, they are too poor to buy.

Q. What sometimes interferes with the food supply?

A. Floods, sometimes caused by heavy rains that run off very slowly, the country is so level; and sometimes by the overflow of the great Hoang-Ho, or Yellow River, or other rivers.

Q. Why is it called "yellow"?

A. Because it is so muddy with soil which it carries down from the mountains far inland.

Q. How does it overflow?

A. When it reaches the plain and flows slowly, the mud settles and fills up the channel. Dykes have been built on either side to keep it in, but as it fills it sometimes breaks these and floods a large district.

Q. How frequently do such famines occur?

A. There have been 800 recorded famines in Honan during the past thousand years.

Q. How do the people regard foreigners?

A. There are only two provinces in China more hostile than Honan.

Q. How has this affected missions?

A. There were no missionaries among the millions of North Honan when our Church began work there.

Q. When did our Church select this field?

A. In 1887, eight years ago.

Q. Into how many periods may the history of the mission be divided?

A. For convenience, into two periods of four years each.

I. FIRST PERIOD, 1887-1891.

Q. What is covered by these four years?

A. Getting a foothold. At the end of it, the two chief centres of the mission had been secured and occupied.

Q. What led to beginning the mission?

A. The missionary spirit in our colleges. In both Knox and Queen's the students had chosen one of their fellow students, and offered to the General Assembly in 1887, to support them in a Foreign Field, asking, if the Assembly were willing, that they should be sent to Honan.

Q. Who were the men thus chosen?

A. Knox College chose Mr. Goforth and Queen's chose Dr. Smith.

Q. When were they sent out?

A. Mr. and Mrs. Goforth in Jan., 1888; and Dr. and Mrs. Smith in July, 1888.

Q. What other missionaries went out that summer?

A. Dr. McClure, supported by Mr. Morton, of London, England, also Miss Harriet Sutherland, a trained nurse, went out with Dr. Smith, and a little later, arriving in China 1st Dec., Rev. D. McGillivray, supported by St. Andrew's Church, Toronto.

Q. To what town on the coast did they come?

A. To Chefoo, where there were missionaries already settled.

Q. How far inland was Honan?

A. Four hundred miles inland.

Q. Did the missionaries go at once to Honan?