

Our brethren at Chu Wang have more encouraging tokens of the same kind at that end of the field.

In view of the foregoing, and other facts that might be named, we have abundant reason to thank God and take courage. Greater results will follow in coming days. This is God's work, and He has resources at His disposal the full extent of which His servants have not yet surveyed. May He increase our faith, give us wisdom to direct in laying the foundations of a scriptural, soul-saving, zealously aggressive Christian church in North Honan.

We pray that it may be given us to see many such Communion Sabbaths in Honan. Pray for the little Christian circle of five members in that little village that God may keep them all faithful, and enable them to shine as lights for Him in Ho Tao.

At Hsiao Chai, a Great Change.

On the following Saturday we went to visit Hsiao Chai, a village about twenty miles from us to the east. Our purpose in going was to spend a few days with those who professed to be interested in the truth of God there, and do what we could to help them. Over a dozen persons gathered as soon as they heard we had come, all desirous of being examined. A large number of curious onlookers stood around. We took those interested, one by one, and questioned them at great length on their knowledge of the gospels, their relation to Jesus Christ, their attitude to their former heathen customs, their purpose in desiring admission into the church of God, and their hope for the future. Their answers to these and other questions asked were of a most satisfactory nature, all things taken into account.

Only one year ago they were all professed idolators, and now they were rejoicing in Jesus, and ready to bear testimony for Him. We continued our work till well on in the night, and found that they were willing to stay as long as we remained with them.

The Sabbath was a very busy and very happy one. We spent part of the time in studying Matthew, 10th chap., sang a considerable number of hymns, looked into some passages that perplexed our brethren when reading them, talked several times with the onlookers, had refreshing seasons of prayer and Christian converse, and felt that it was good for us all to be there. This has been as refreshing a Sabbath as it has been my privilege thus far to spend in Honan.

A good part of the day on Monday was spent in giving gospel talks to various parties who had come anxious to see and hear the foreigners.

At night we had all the inquirers brought together again, and spent some hours with them in reading, study, and prayer.

During the last hour that we were together eleven persons led in prayer, and, while some of the expressions used were somewhat peculiar, there was a directness, simplicity, earnestness, and reverence that made a profound impression on our minds. We all felt sorry at having to part, and thanked God for the experiences we had together. Eleven persons had their names taken down as inquirers, while four or five others were left off meantime who may soon be added to the list. The ages of the parties range from sixteen to sixty. All, of course, are males, but we hope to have their wives and daughters come forward on Christ's side soon also. Out of the eleven, eight are able to read more or less. Some of the number have learned to recognize characters during the past year. They all meet for prayer twice daily, and three times every Sabbath day. What the future of this Christian community may be is known to the Almighty God alone. They have begun well. The time of testing will soon come to them, no doubt. Unite with us in praying that God will enable each one of them to persevere unto the end, and make them eminently useful in bringing many others into His kingdom.

CHRISTIAN MELA, CENTRAL INDIA.

For the RECORD.

THE annual Christian Mela for 1894 was held in Rutlam, from October 27th to 30th. The best praise I can give it is to say it was better than that of last year in Mhow. It was more than ever a Mela of, for, and by, the Native Church. A spirit of enthusiasm prevailed throughout; the meetings were well attended, the papers were carefully prepared and well delivered, and the discussions on them were earnest and practical. The outside evangelistic exercises also were more enthusiastically entered into this year than ever before.

Rutlam, though the youngest is one of the most interesting and most promising of our stations. In spite of being in some ways rather backward, its external appearance is pleasing, its officials also are friendly, and the importance of its situation is daily increasing, for here railway lines converge into three, which will soon be five, different directions. Its choice for the Mela was happy in its being the most central of our stations.

We have no Mission buildings in Rutlam and our being unable to rent any that would be suitable, necessitated the meetings being held in a large *shamiana* or square roof tent kindly lent for the occasion by the State officials. Many of the missionaries and Indian Christians were also housed in tents, which gave to the Compound round the mission bungalow quite the appearance of a canvas city. This arrangement, however, had its drawbacks, especially as it rained