

### The Children's Record.

A MONTHLY MISSIONARY MAGAZINE  
FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE

Presbyterian Church in Canada.

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### MR. GOFORTH'S DIARY.

*For the Children's Record.*

*Chang te fu* is fixed upon as one of our centres in North Honan. Mr. McGillivray and Dr. McClure will most likely occupy it. A finer mission field could not be selected in China. The part which I have already seen extends a distance of fifty miles from East to West and from thirty to forty miles from North to South. It much resembles a great garden. A more populous, fertile, tract of country can scarcely exist. When one counts up its thousands of towns and villages and thinks that in them live several hundred thousand souls in heathen darkness, one is oppressed with the awful responsibility which rests upon us as a mission band as well as upon the people in Canada who have sent us here.

But this tract of which I have been speaking, and which I have seen, is only about one-half of the *Chang te fu* field. It seems like mockery to expect two men to carry out Christ's last command to such a host. And yet we cannot put more than two men in this centre, for after we cut off the *Chang te fu* field, there yet remains in North Honan more than twice the population of the Province of Quebec.

Sep. 27.

To-day has been a busy time. Crowds coming and going all day. We had scarce time to eat. Among the comers were men clothed in silks as well as in homespun cottons. The Doctor, (Dr. McClure.) had no leisure. The Chinese helper whom the

American missionaries loaned us, and I, were kept busy talking to the people.

Two literary examiners from *Kai fen fu* called to buy some books. They said they were Mohammedans, but wished to read our books on the Christian doctrine. We had some conversation, after which they went away promising to come again tomorrow. One of them seems to be specially bright and intelligent, O, that his heart may be opened to the truth. As an examiner he would have great influence over the students in this province.

Sep. 28.

The two Mohammedan examiners came again to-day. They were as friendly and pleasant as any of our home people could be. Chang, the younger and more intelligent of the two has heard a good deal about foreign inventions, &c. He has already read parts of the New Testament, and has now bought some other parts. He has also bought a book on the evidences of Christianity by Dr. Martin, and has got some medicine from the Doctor for a sick child at home in *Kai fen fu*.

In talking with some literary men to-day, I turned up the 115th Psalm and the 44th chapter of Isaiah and invited one of the company to read it aloud for others. He quite readily did so. They admitted that God's description of idols exactly agreed with that of their temple gods.

Turning to the commandments, I first read the fifth, "Honor thy father and thy mother," they all exclaimed "how! how!" (good, good.) Then we read the first, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Their temples are crowded with other gods. Then I said-- When God commands "Honor thy parents," you say, "good," The one true God gave both these commands. One you obey, the other you break. How do you think God will reckon with you? To this, one replied, "We never knew that God said we must not have idols." I then said, "However this may have been in the past you have no excuse for the future, for now you hear God's command.