

NOTES FROM HONAN.



LETTER from Rev. Murdoch Mackenzie gives some interesting and encouraging facts regarding the Mission in North Honan.

Success of Medical Work.

The work here has been most encouraging, there has been such a rush of patients for medical treatment. It would gladden the hearts of many at home who take a prayerful interest in all branches of our work here were they able to see men and women, who came here blind, able, after a few days, to go away home rejoicing in the restoration of sight to an eye, others with both eyes very much better. Tumors have also been removed from several persons. Parties afflicted with various ailments seemed to become new men and women under the treatment given them.

Many of these people heard Gospel talks in the chapel daily, and went away physically benefited, and, we trust, resolving to be nobler men spiritually also. Some had their faith in idolatry completely shaken, and asserted that idols would no more receive their homage. Others expressed surprise at hearing that God desired their salvation in time and eternity, and had so loved sinners as to give Jesus Christ to die for them.

The fact that they so eagerly desired medical relief, and came such distances to receive it, was freely made use of to illustrate the urgency they ought to show in desiring deliverance from the deadly malady of sin, with which all are afflicted. Their inability to cure their physical ailments gave an opportunity of constantly emphasizing the need of looking to God for soul cure. Some days we have between fifteen and twenty patients listening in the chapel, and many other persons besides from day to day.

I dare not say definitely that we see the emonized here, but with that exception we see large numbers of the other classes of sick persons with which our compassionate Redeemer was so familiar during His stay in Palestine.

The Young, and the Street Chapel.

Work among the young has opened up in a most encouraging way of late. Miss McIntosh has had the privilege of leading the way in that department. For several weeks between eight and a dozen boys and girls have come to her daily for instruction. They have learned passages of Scripture as well as several hymns, and have heard many truths suited to their capacity and need. Suspicion has been disarmed in this way, and it is most encouraging to hear them come in at times singing such hymns as—"Jesus loves us," "When He cometh," and other young people's favorites. We pray and hope that many of these dear young boys and girls may early be led to love Jesus, to learn of Him, trust in Him, and witness for Him.

Work in the street chapel goes on daily as usual. Its audiences vary in size from time to time, but there are always considerable numbers of persons to be met with there. All sorts and conditions of men drop in. Many of course come with no desire to hear the Gospel, and far from favorably disposed to its messengers, but experience is suggesting to us ways and means of having some words with almost all classes of hearers. It has not been given to us to see much fruit from this branch of our work, but we trust God is seeing it in places where we have not.

The Work Extending, Ho Tao.

Work is opening up for us in several villages some distance away from our central station here. Mr. McGillivray and I spent Saturday and Sabbath in Ho Tao, where the Chow family live, some twenty miles from Hsin Chen, our central station, and we enjoyed our visit very much. On Saturday afternoon we spent some hours examining the candidates for baptism, and were most favorably impressed with the spirit shown, the amount of Christian knowledge they had acquired, and the sincerity of their purpose in entering the church by a public profession of their faith.

Sabbath was a mild, pleasant day. We lodged in the city of Hsin Hsien, and went out to their houses early in the forenoon. No trace of the Sabbath in the heathen city, but in the little village so close at hand we met the little Christian community, and were refreshed by its sight.

A Delightful Communion.

I was impressed, in conducting the morning service on Sabbath, from Acts 16, 13-15, with the number of points in which our situation corresponded with that of the Apostle Paul at Philippi. As with him it was the Sabbath day. We, too, went out of the city. There was a river at no great distance from us. We went to a house where prayer is wont to be made. We spake unto the men and women who assembled together. We trust that God had opened the hearts of some of our hearers; and at the close two women were baptized.

Mr. McGillivray conducted the communion service in the afternoon, when five Chinese and the two foreigners partook together of the memorials of Christ's love and death. It was to us all a day of joy and gladness, of quiet communion and fellowship with God.

Dawning of Day in Honan.

On Sabbath last, at the close of our Chinese service, an old man, from a village six miles to the west of us, who has taken a decided interest in the Christian doctrine during the last six months, staid behind for conversation with a view to having his name recorded as an inquirer. We have now at this one station over a dozen who have entered on a year's probation, with a view to receiving baptism at the end of that period.