

longingly directed toward the *fu* cities of North Honan, especially toward 'Chang Tê Fu,' which seemed to offer a location so much more healthy than 'Wei Hui Fu,' while 'Hwai Ching Fu,' the third *fu* city in our mission field is situated too far to the south-west to attempt its occupation in the inception of our work.

The inhabitants of Chang Tê Fu, from the first treated our missionaries who visited there with great friendliness. Shortly however, before the establishment of our mission in Honan two of our missionaries who visited there were rather unceremoniously forced by the officials to leave the city. Thus the way to securing property there seemed completely blocked, and the mission temporarily contented itself with obtaining a foothold in the smaller town of Chu Wang thirty miles east of 'Chang Tê,' which has been occupied as a station ever since. The ultimate occupation of the *fu*, the chief centre, was steadily in view and to this end very little has been expended upon buildings or improvements at Ch'u Wang, where all the missionaries live in the ordinary native houses with very slight alterations. From 'Ch'u Wang' as a base, members of the mission have been constantly touring to Chang Tê and its vicinity, that the people there might become accustomed to our presence. This might have continued to be the state of affairs for many years, had not a peculiar train of circumstances opened the way for immediate occupation.

In the autumn of '93, Mr. Goforth with some natives, while touring among the hills in Western Honan, far away from Chang Tê and farther from Ch'u Wang discovered some scurrilous placards posted up in public places in towns, reviling foreigners as kidnappers and murderers of children, and warning all natives against them. These placards were taken down and brought home. Shortly after this Mr. Goforth while stopping in an inn at Chang Tê was visited by two of the chief city gentry and ordered to leave immediately. This, Mr. Goforth refused to do until he chose, at the same time appealing to the Emperor's edict of '91, a copy of which he had with him.

About this time our mission was advised by a retired missionary in Shanghai to forward to H. B. M. Minister at Peking, any evidence that we might have against the Chinese, of an anti-foreign nature, to be used by the foreign representatives there in pressing for a satisfactory settlement of the rict and murders at Sung Pu in Yang Tsê Valley. Following this advice, copies of the placards discovered by us, together with an account of the treatment Mr. Goforth had received at Chang Tê were forwarded to H. B. M. Minister O'Connor. Our intention being only that what we sent should serve as evidence to aid in the satisfactory settlement of the Yang Tsê troubles, we were pleasantly sur-

prised therefore, when we were apprised by return of mail that our matter had been placed in the hands of H. B. M. Consul under whose jurisdiction we are and that immediate redress would be demanded for us from the Chinese authorities.

Shortly afterwards the Chang Tê Fu magistrate sent over a deputy to investigate the case, to him we stated our whole matter clearly and he promised to have it settled by posting up in Chang Tê and several other large towns in our field, proclamations setting forth our rights as missionaries in Honan and forbidding the issuing of such placards as those found by Mr. Goforth. When two members of the mission visited Chang Tê a week afterwards they found most favorable proclamations posted at the four city gates, as well as at other public spots in the city.

Before the missionaries had been in the city a day, two fine premises inside and one outside the city wall were offered to them for sale. The common people, always friendly, emboldened by the proclamations, offered us land until we had no less than thirteen lots offered us. Most of them, however, being inside the city wall were considered too unhealthy for the permanent residence of foreign ladies and children, so the idea of purchasing them was not entertained. Two or three very suitable lots, however, were to be had outside the city wall in the northern suburb.

Scarcely is it possible to imagine a case in which Divine leading could be more clear. The way to purchasing property in the very part of the city we wished, was, unsought by us, opened by a peculiar and prolonged train of circumstances, which began with the finding of the placards in West Honan and ended with the possession of property in Chang Tê.

In April, 1894, the property we wished to buy was selected, the neighbours were all consulted as to their willingness to have foreigners so near them, and being found agreeable, the writings were drawn up and part of the price paid over to the landlord. The land had certain mortgages upon it which had to be redeemed before we paid the full amount.

The landlord having received the first instalment from us instead of redeeming the mortgages, as he agreed to do, spent the cash in other ways, and, apparently half-believing the common report that all foreigners would have to leave on account of the war,—though Mr. MacGillivray kept him painfully conscious of the fact that, at least, one able-bodied foreigner still remained in Honan—seemed to cherish the hope that he would finally be both cash and land in pocket by the transaction. In June the tenants in the houses vacated them and Mr. MacGillivray took possession of them and the land on which they stood, though the adjoining land was yet unredeemed.

Thus the landlord allowed matters to drag on