

first to last without making a single mistake. Also 72 psalms and hymns, etc. Thoughts suggested at the time were promptly answered. Several young men very especially showed unusual interest, exhibited rare eagerness and displayed no ordinary ability. Their parents are either adherents, deacons or elders. A few years hence and these men better grounded, qualified and equipped will no doubt take the places of their fathers as officers in the Church. Already we have young men as elders whose fathers were the first fruits here and held offices till called home above. It is inspiring to see the sons emulate the bold and consistent Christian character of their fathers. The above are simply specimens of recitations, etc., at our 17 stations in the Tamsui District. I fancy their names would only be dry reading so refrain from putting them down here.

One hundred and fifty-nine (159) boys and girls stood before me and passed very creditable examinations. This number does not include all who studied, for calling unexpectedly at the various places many were absent. That so much Gospel truth has been acquired and stored in youthful minds is evidence of faithful teaching, proof of diligent studying and a promise of Christian living throughout the Churches in the above District. But no halt is called, they no sooner uttered the last sentences than other subjects were there and then handed them on printed sheets. Cramming what will soon be forgotten is one thing. Memorizing what will be of no practical value during this brief life is like unto it; but storing eternal and precious truths in the minds of children for every day use is absolutely necessary.

---

### HONAN.

---

WE have to thank Dr. J. Frazer Smith for the accompanying sketch map of North Honan—selected as the field of operations of our Canadian Mission in Inland China—and for the following explanatory remarks which cannot fail to be interesting to our readers.—

I suppose you have thought me a little tardy in complying with your request for a map of North Honan, and I am sorry that the one I now send you is so rude. I hope, however,

that even this rough outline, will give your readers a better idea of our location, and also of the extent of the territory in which we are to labour.

Notwithstanding all that has been said about preaching the Gospel to every soul in China within *five years*, a task some enthusiasts still seem to think possible, I think a careful study of this map will convince our people at home, that, even if our numbers be largely augmented, it will be more than five years before every soul in these cities alone will have once heard the message which we bring. Besides this, there are several tens of thousands of towns and villages, and how many years will pass before Our Saviour's last command is fully carried, for mark you, it not only tells us to preach the gospel to them, but also, which is of equal if not greater moment, commands us to teach them "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." I have given the names of the three Fu cities in the district and also of the Hsien cities more adjacent to our stations, as these are the only ones likely to be referred to for some time to come.

Our first station, Ch' u Wang, is situated about a mile from the river, and is not more than 8 miles from the border of Honan. On this account we do not look upon it as a permanent location, and we cast longing eyes to Chang-te-fu, so I will not go into details. In the meantime work is being carried on vigorously at Ch' u Wang, and the prejudices of the people are, gradually, being overcome.

Hsin Chên, or as we prefer to call it New Market, is about 400 miles direct from Tientsin, or about 700 miles by water. It has a population of about 5,000, is right on the river, and is altogether such a good centre, being within fifteen miles of four cities with populations ranging from 35,000 to 50,000, that we are likely to make it a permanent station in the Wei-hui-fu district. The surrounding country is good, and the villages large and numerous. We hope to have two families settled in New Market before Christmas, but the unexpected so often happens in China, that we must not be over-confident. In looking back we can truly say, "Hitherto the Lord has helped us," and we believe that He has still greater things in store for us for the future.

Lin Ch'ing, Sept. 1st, 1891.