

Dr. Hart thus concludes his fascinating narrative. "The reader, having followed my footsteps over comparatively unbeaten paths in this marvellously interesting empire, cannot have failed to form a very high estimate of the province of Sz Chuen, for its natural resources, for its almost tropical luxuriance and unrivalled beauty. Secluded as it has been by natural barriers from that free intercourse with other provinces, which electricity and steam are about to remove, it has remained up to the present time a sort of wonderland—an undefined territory even to the average Chinaman. Steam will tame the wild rapids of its mighty river, and bring an unimagined commercial prosperity to its wealthy centres. Railroads will convey its rich products safely and quickly into Kansu and Thibet. All central Asia will hold out eager hands for its multifarious productions, and thus it will become a highway of nations. Looking at this province in its present and possible future



TRAVELLING IN THE RAINY SEASON.

relations, it challenges the world for a grander field in which to test the heroic spirit of modern missionary enterprise. It presents to the eye of faith a picture of sublime grandeur, the realization of which must come through devotion at home and stubborn conflicts there; through gifts and prayer by those who would support so good a cause, and by more than ordinary sacrifice by those called to enter this distant field. There is no short road to the coveted goal. It will only be reached through sore trials, such as come to every ardent and successful worker of reform—in sacrifices not to be weighed in the little balance which determines the value of separation from country, friends and Christian civilization. Here, as elsewhere, there are presented problems which require mature thought from gifted men and women, to solve which will demand long and patient endurance in well-doing. To plan, to work, to pray is the lot of the intrusted ambassador, even when the heart is bursting with grief at the indifference around him; at the stubbornness and hatred manifested on every face. We shall see