

The Children's Record.

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FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE

Presbyterian Church in Canada.

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The China Mission.

MR. GOFORTH'S JOURNAL.

For the Children's Record.

LAU CHING, Sept. 19, 1889.

Dear Children:

In company with Dr. McClure, I start to-day on my second visit to Honan. We go by boat. This mode of travel though not so speedy is more profitable both for person and pocket and I may also add for mind, as we can keep on with our studies.

Sept. 20.

At *Kuntan Hsein*, 70 li from *Liu Ching*, we found a cable stretched across the river. By this means the official stops all boats passing up and down and levies a tax on the goods. The transporter of goods must run this gauntlet and get effectually "squeezed" as he passes these barriers wherever it pleases the official to place them.

We had to shew our passports before the way could be opened. We were politely received at the official's office. All were very curious to see the foreigners but they were very friendly. As soon as they looked at the passports, orders were given to let down the barriers for us to pass. They loaded us down with roasted dates, and gave besides as a special treat some preserved fruit. As the office was some distance from the river two of the officials walked with me to the boat. He asked what was my business in their country. This

gave me a good opportunity to explain Christ's command to go to all nations to preach the gospel.

Sept. 21.

This morning we stopped at a town to buy provision. The town folk soon lined the bank. We spoke, dispensed medicine, and sold books for half an hour.

About three o'clock in the afternoon we passed a company of men standing around where the river had burst its banks and flooded a large track of country. They would not listen to the gospel and invited us to pass on. The Romanists have been working in this region many years, and have repelled the people. They are the only Chinamen we have met who are unwilling to hear. We reached *Sung Wang Miao* late in the evening.

Sept. 22, Sabbath.

This town is so called from its temple to the dragon king. The temple has eleven great idols and many of less note. It is 20 li from *Tai Ming fu*, a large city in Southern *Chihili*. As this part of *Chihili* runs down like a wedge between Honan in the west and the Yellow river in the east it will most properly fall to us and will thus greatly add to the extent of our mission field.

We walked out from the river some distance to get a sight of the walls of *Tai Ming Fu*. By the way we fell in with some Chinamen, and to them preached the gospel. As we were returning we met an intelligent Mohammedan. He said there were three thousand Mohammedan families in *Tai Ming Fu*—I think this also includes the district governed by the *Fu* city—This man said, "you are just the same as we are, you worship God so do we" We replied "Yes we worship God as you profess to do, but we have what you have not, Jesus the Son of God." They all say that Jesus was a wise man but more than that they will not allow. Going through the streets of *Lung Wang* crowds soon gathered. To these we preached for about an hour, then returning to our boat we dispensed medicines and preached until darkness came on but