

"The Advantage of Medical Skill."

BY REV. JONATHAN GOFORTH, HONAN.

Concluded from May Number.

We have good reason to believe that many in every city visited desire us to come again. Several asked why we could not come and stay among them. Many of those whose diseases were of such a nature that the Doctor could not undertake them for lack of sufficient time to carry through an operation, will certainly welcome our return. One of these is an official in Chan-tefu, who has a tumor on his face which the Doctor promised to cut off the next visit. The official in turn said he would use his influence to secure a compound for a hospital by the Doctor's return. This may mean something or it may not. However, we may count on having

FRIENDS AMONG ALL CLASSES,

who will be more or less helpful in the beginning of our work. A man at Weihui-fu offered to sell his compound to us for a hospital. We did not deem it good policy to notice any offer on our first trip. Yet the offer might not make a bad bargain, because the sight is one of the best in the city. But that which perhaps gives the best indication as to how we were regarded is the fact that we were able to secure three Honan teachers. Two are already here awaiting the new comers, and another, a Chinese B. A., is expected in a fortnight.

Such has been the favor everywhere shown that we are impressed with the belief that we are likely to gain an easy settlement in Honan. But when we glance at the extent and populousness of the field,

WE ARE OVERWHELMED

with the vastness of the work. The section of Honan north of the Yellow River alone, gives a field 180 miles in length and from fifty to seventy miles in breadth. The towns and villages are legion. It is not easy to arrive at the exact number. The Mandarin of Hsui Hsien told us he governed 1,000 towns and villages, but that five neighboring cities Hui Hsien governed 4,000 towns and villages. He said his district was small in comparison with some other Hsui districts. But taking 1,000 towns and villages as the average for each Hsien district, there would be 25,000 in Honan north of the Yellow River. If we allow of an average of 200 people to a village, which is certainly low—for we have seen many villages having two and three hundred families—there would be a town and village population in North Honan of 5,000,000. Besides there are twenty-nine cities. These cities would perhaps average a population of 40,000 each.

The Lord of Missions has indeed answered prayer.

HE HAS OPENED THE WAY

and disposed the people to favor us. We trust the whole Church will accept it as a privilege to pray that this leading of God's providence may be the indication of abundant favor in this new work. A multitude of souls greater than that which peoples our Dominion from Vancouver to Halifax await the reapers. What could appeal more eloquently for aid than these millions dying in heathen darkness.

The official expressed wonder at the doctor's surgical instruments and then showed us some of his ousins centuries old.

The Mandarin's sons, in company with an official, came this afternoon and sat and listened for upwards of half an hour and looked through the Scriptures.

CROWDS CAME ALL DAY.

The doctor treated eighty patients. Among these were several surgical operations to the amazement of the on lookers, and a call to see a man dangerously ill about nine o'clock in the evening. He was evidently of the wealthy class.

Greater numbers came this forenoon than at any time yet. We were kept very busy, the doctor attending to the bodily ills, I telling of the soul's physician. The doctor performed a surgical operation which

WONDERFULLY SURPRISED THE PEOPLE.

His fame is spreading rapidly among the sick folk. He cannot attend to all. Two physicians would have more than enough to do these days.

The Mandarin was very pleasant. He asked if we had brought passports. Having produced them, he compared them with the notice he had received of our coming, and laughingly remarked, "I see you are no myths but realities." Among other things they asked about our religion.

One of the temples was the Myriad-spirit temple. The gods within run up into the thousands. One of the priests, the head of these temples, an intelligent man asked me if we had any gods like theirs. "No," I replied, "formerly we had." "Oh," said he, "after Jesus came you ceased to worship this kind." "True, and now we come here to tell you all of Jesus, so that soon you will turn from these false gods to the true God." This place is indeed the centre of heathen power for a wide region; but these idols must fall. We came here to conquer.

Crowds to-day greater than ever. The doctor

PRESCRIBED FOR 148,

and examined upwards of fifty more whose diseases were beyond the range of human skill. Each day it is becoming easier to speak in Chinese, and with each day the presence and power of God is more visibly present. I spoke altogether, about five hours, and felt weary by nightfall, but each morning have a fresh vigor. Well might one be envied who is sent to tell the heathen of God's amazing love in Jesus!

During these five busy days the doctor has treated 456 patients. Much of the seed of the Kingdom has been sown, which shall bring forth a harvest to glorify our Master.

Some of the people ask, "Why don't you come and

LIVE AMONG US?"

We have reason to hope that this our first visit has made many friends in Hsui Hsien.

Oct. 10.—Tao Kou, a city of 50,000, has a large trade.

We arrived here during the night and commenced work before nine o'clock this morning. We were crowded from the start. The sick readily flock to the foreign healer. The Mandarin of Hsui sent his cartfor the doctor to go and see his wife who is very ill.

The crowd to-day was so great that we had great difficulty in carrying on medical work. Several important surgical operations were performed. The helper and I were by turns speaking mostly all day. An old teacher, aged seventy-seven years came, and read through one of our small doctrinal books, and told the people that what we said was good for all to hear.

Oct. 12.—

TO-DAY SURPASSES EVERYTHING

we have experienced in this town. We commenced work shortly after eight o'clock. From the first there was a crowd which grew to such an extent that we feared that