

## THE OUTLOOK IN HONAN.

THE eyes of the Canadian Church are turning anxiously to our little band of missionaries in China. Though so short, the history of the Mission in North Honan already presents many hopeful features. The superior class of men whom our Church has been fortunate in securing as workers, their good health so far, and their progress in the difficult Chinese language, are sources of great encouragement, while the Foreign Mission Committee express themselves as delighted with the business capacity made evident by the reports of the young Presbytery of Honan. The unanimity of the missionaries in their adoption of methods of work, and the prompt and satisfactory way in which the authorities made a settlement in the Chu-Wang difficulty have also given great satisfaction, and have led our Church to form sanguine expectations of the Honanese Mission. But many grave discouragements have been encountered. One of the most serious obstacles to be overcome by the missionaries is the strong anti-foreign feeling which is caused largely by the fears of the Chinese authorities lest the reception of Christianity will revolutionize their civilization which they regard as the highest in the world. The affairs of the Empire at present are in a very restless condition. From the despatches which are being received by the secular press, it seems that in the recent outbreaks the anti-foreign cry has been used simply as a guise, and that the popular rising is in reality directed against the authorities themselves. The rapidity with which the revolt has spread, the bloodshed which has been caused, the apparent inability of the imperial troops in some quarters to put down the rebels, and the protection which is being extended to the culprits by exalted officials are causing intense anxiety. The situation is regarded as so alarming that the Executive of the Foreign Mission Committee have cabled to our missionaries to hold themselves in readiness to retire to the Coast. In the meantime we wait in suspense, and yet in the confident hope that sooner or later in spite of all difficulties the doors of China shall be thrown open to Christian teaching, and that our representatives in Honan shall be able to do much to win that Province for Him whose are the Kingdom and the Power.