

"Mr. Mitchell returned, 28 June, from his trip East of the Yellow River. About three hundred miles of the way he travelled on foot, and made a trip from Chu Wang to Chang te Fu, and return, on the bicycle."

Such is the brief notice in "The Exchange," a manuscript weekly of the Honan Mission. of a missionary journey. Easily written and read, but stop and think of what it means, the many weary steps to compass three hundred miles in the dust and mud of China, the great monotonous plain, the wretched accommodation at night, the curiosity, derision or contempt of the multitudes in the dirty mud villages, and the awful fact, so patent everywhere, of hopeless heathenism shrouding land and people with a death-like pall and filling the missionary's heart with a sense of depressing helplessness in the presence of ignorance and sin so dense and so vast. But he thinks of other places where the day is breaking, and remembers the power of God, and goes on with joy telling his message, for like Abraham, he sees by faith Christ's day in Honan, even though it be far off, and is glad.

THE CUT IN EXPENDITURE, WEST.

BY REV. N. H. RUSSELL.

Some instances from India of the effect in the Mission Field, when grants from Home have to be reduced, are given by Mr. Russell, as follows:—

A school of over one hundred boys, employing three teachers, has been degraded to a primary school with one teacher. High school work has to be carried on with a reduced and insufficient staff.

Some of our medical work has been entirely closed. A large town of over ten thousand inhabitants was opened, both evangelistic and medical work being successfully begun. It has had to be abandoned.

Another city of twenty-two thousand, in a most difficult district, was opened some years ago and a grand work established. This work has been so crippled and reduced as to amount almost to abandonment.

Another missionary writes of his out-station being closed.

Again, native workers who have for some years been promised an increase, and who have won a right to it by their services and examinations, have become discouraged by constant refusal and left. Many village preachers have had to be dismissed.

These cuts do not mean that we are economising, but that we are destroying work built up by years of patient effort and at great cost in money, time, energy and often noble lives. The out-stations will be re-opened if at all, probably only after another

long struggle. The schools will in all likelihood never be re-opened as the boys will have drifted elsewhere.

The effect on public confidence among non-christians can be better imagined than described. They spell, *retrench, retreat*, and the enemies of missions are triumphant.

The effect upon our christians is different, but not less disastrous. Many of them are being dismissed, or their wages cut down at a time when, on account of famine, prices have doubled. I have no doubt from my knowledge of the reduced salaries and increased cost of living that not a few of our christians are near to starvation. Moreover, the confidence of our christians is shaken in our promises, or it is hard to persuade them that the christians at home are too poor to make up the few dollars needed for their salaries.

It is unnecessary to add that our plans for the development of the christian community have had to suffer in the same proportion. One home for boys is cut off; the Theological classes have had to be reduced, as on account of dismissals so many could not be spared. Other pressing plans for the new christians have had to be entirely abandoned.

The effect on the missionaries themselves is none the less disheartening. In the first place a false economy has been established, and missionaries have been called away from their own peculiar sphere to do work that might better be done by native Christians, and at less cost. The cut has not been applied by the Boards of the missionaries' salaries but nevertheless these have to bear their share. A man cannot stand by and see his work go to the wall if he can possibly prevent it. One of our missionaries for a considerable time carried on a dispensary that had otherwise to be dropped, another a boys' home. Others support the dismissed workers, so that in spite of the well meant kindness of the Board the missionaries personally have to bear their share of the cut.

The most discouraging feature is that these cuts have been going on for two years and from all appearance the situation is not likely to be relieved. Though we may hope that in one sense of the term there will be no further reduction; no allowance is made for natural and unavoidable growth, which practically means another cut in the course of a year or two, unless there is a corresponding increase in F. M. giving; for mission work can no more be hindered from growing than a healthy boy. So that our missionaries are face to face with, on the one hand, not only present work and that on the increase, but unparalleled openings and calls for new efforts, and on the other a state of funds which so far from giving any hope of these new calls being entertained, threatens still further injury to the work now going on.