

## TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY MILES BY CART TOWARDS HONAN.

THE closing of navigation at the Port of Tientsin through the freezing of the river, cut off all hopes of going thither by sea, and thence inland to Pang Chiachwang, south-west, by house-boat on the Grand canal or river as the Goforths had done. A telegram from Goforth said, "Come." The question then was, *how*. To go overland alone without a greater knowledge of Chinese than to say, "lie" in a loud tone of voice, was out of the question. (This word does not imply the Chinese are a nation of liars: it means "come in.") When we were pondering over the possibilities, the arrival of Rev. F. H. James, of the English Baptist mission, put an end to our difficulties. He was on his way from England to Tsing Cheu Fu, two hundred and forty miles from Chefoo towards Honan. He at once offered to escort me, and was straightway chosen as guide, philosopher and friend. From Tsing Cheu Fu they could pass me on to the next station, and so on to the end. Accordingly he informed his "boy," (aged thirty) of my needs, viz: Two carts, one for my boxes and one for myself. The foreigners have no dealings with the Chinese in business matters. A boy acts as go-between in beating down the prices, and it is understood by all that he is entitled to a "squeeze" for his trouble. It is believed that this "squeeze" is much lighter than the one you would get if you tried to do business directly. Mr. James himself employed a covered chair, requiring four bearers, and four others to relieve on such a long journey. This more easy mode of travel his health compelled him to choose. The perils of cart-travel, diligently exaggerated beforehand by your friends, are to be endured only by the robust and those with well-knit frames. Ladies do well in rarely venturing abroad in a cart, even if it be well padded on four sides with bedding. This "ancient institution" has two wheels like those of a small locomotive which you at once think of as you speed along over the hills and plains at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles an hour. The first two or three days no trotting was possible. Even after