

We will let Dr. Hart largely speak for himself. In April, 1887, he, with several other missionaries, started from the city of Hankow for their long and perilous journey. Hankow is on the Yang-tse River, about 650 miles from its mouth, and, including suburbs, has a population of at least 800,000. Their first run was to Ichang, 160 miles "as the crow flies," but 360 counting the bends in the river. The steamer on which they had embarked was a worn-out "tub." Her rate of progress gave poor prospects of reaching Ichang in ten days. "I asked the engineer," relates Dr. Hart, "our present rate of speed. In my innocence I had fired a bomb, and was somewhat startled by the pyrotechnic explosion which followed. 'She is doing well—quite four knots an hour,' he said."

The people of this province showed little respect for foreigners. The air was often rent with the shout of "foreign devil," while mud and clay were hurled upon the boat from every available quarter. "This portion of China," says Dr. Hart, "has often been described. The geologist, botanist, archæologist and ethnologist have crossed and recrossed this rich, alluvial basin, teeming with millions of people, and filled to plenteousness with the rich and varied products of a never-impooverished soil.

"Thousands of junks anchored along the shore give an appearance of thrift not seen elsewhere above Hankow. The Tungting, one hundred miles above Hankow, is the largest lake in China. It is the centre of a large timber traffic. Rape-seed in full bloom is seen in all directions, and fills the air with fragrance. In the distance are mulberry orchards, the trees laden with large, dark, tender leaves, while here and there are fruit trees white with blossoms. Four-wheeled waggons are drawn along the banks by water-buffaloes. A wheel-barrow of a peculiar construction, such as I have not seen elsewhere, is used here.

they arrive at the mouth of the River Yang-tse-kiang, which will occupy about twenty-eight days, it will take about two months to reach Ching-too—the principal mode of travel up the river being in native boats, which is necessarily slow.

Dr. Hart, in setting forth the advantages arising from the position of the province in which our work is to be located, gave as one, the lack of foreign element. It is disgraceful that one of the chief difficulties the missionary has to encounter is the wickedness introduced and indulged in by those representing Christian nations.

Some idea of the size of the country may be gained by observing that it stretches through over twenty degrees of longitude and from about the twentieth to the fortieth of latitude. Our readers will do well to follow Dr. Hart's travels on the map.