

## JOTTINGS FROM NORTH HONAN.

By REV. W. HENRY GRANT, MISSIONARY

## FOR THE RECORD.

THE scorching weather of Summer, when the temperature sometimes rose to 101° and 105° in the shade, is now past, and we are all well, enjoying the delightfully bright and cool weather which continued from the first of September, to Christmas. We no longer fear the attack of "malaria" the dread scourge of native and foreigners alike on the Great Central Plain of China.

## A CONVERT'S DEATH.

We have to mourn the departure of one of our converts. So far as we know it is the first native christian's death, from all the millions of Honan. He was the only son of teacher Wang, and had been suffering for many months from an incurable disease.

He with his father united with us last January; he died in August, at his distant home in Lou Cheng. He passed away firmly trusting in Christ, and we hope and pray that this sore trial may serve to lead his mother, who mourns, into the full light of the Sun of Righteousness.

The Chou family at Hoa Tao, hold out bravely, though they are being tried by many persecutions, so far mainly of a petty kind.

The enquirers at Hsin Tu'un and Swang Miao, exhibit an increasing interest in the Christian Doctrine. These, Messrs. Goforth and McGillivray intend to visit this and the succeeding weeks, and examine with a view to taking them on a years probation preparatory to baptism.

There are also some enquirers in the Hsin Chên district. In these we see the small beginnings of what must finally be a complete victory for Jesus, the Captain of our Salvation.

## LIBELLOUS PLACARDS.

Declaring the foreigners to be "Kidnappers of Children," from whom they extract the hearts and eyes, have been posted upon the gates of many towns and cities throughout North Honan. Of these we now have three in our possession which were obtained in a recent tour. They are written in a most deceptive style by those who profess to be friends of the people and enemies of the foreigner.

The specimens we have claim to be produced by different authors who sign themselves anonymously.

The placards have an influence over the people which can only be rectified by living more among them and letting them know us better, while at the same time we demand protection and justice from the native authorities, which they are so loath to give, against these libels.

## A PREACHING TOUR IN N. W. HONAN.

Mr. Goforth and I, with teachers Wang and Le and Colporteur Su', had a very pleasant and we

trust a very profitable tour among the mountains in North West Honan, 200 li (70 miles) West of Ch'u Wang, Sept. 1,—26. We met with quite a friendly reception at all the towns and cities in which we stopped. In some cases we thought it wiser to remain in our inn and allow the natives to come to us; in other cases, to go out on the street preaching and selling books, and thus meet them.

Whichever plan we adopted, we were always surrounded by a curious and apparently interested crowd. Much of the seed thus sown we hope will bear abundant fruit hereafter.

We enjoyed very much the beautiful scenery, the mountain-climbing, the swimming in mountain streams, the long walks, and the donkey riding, all so novel, after the dull monotony of the Plain.

The mountain population are terrible wrecks from opium, which seems to be much more generally used than in the Plain, according to their own estimate, nine out of every ten men being addicted to its use.

## CLIMATE AND CROPS.

Old inhabitants say that this Summer while not reaching the high temperature of former years, yet had more extended periods of heat, and that the rainfall was not so heavy as usual, hence no disastrous floods occurred here, and crops are excellent.

## THE MURDER OF TWO MISSIONARIES.

The brutal murder of the Swedish Missionaries, Messrs. Johannsen and Weckholm, by an infuriated mob, with hoes, clubs, &c., at Sung pu', 500 miles south of here, and threatened riots elsewhere have naturally excited the intensest interest throughout China, and not least among them those who dwell inland. But the vigorous measures which are being taken by the Foreign Ambassadors of all nationalities situated at Peking, give every promise of procuring condign punishment of those officials who were remiss in affording protection to the "helpless foreigners," and also for all those who in any way participated in the murders. If these demands of Foreign Representatives for the fulfilment of Treaty rights are rigidly enforced, the position of foreigners in Central China will be rendered more secure (humanly speaking) than it has been for many a day.

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"How do you get such beautiful sheep?" was a question put to a farmer. "I take care of the lambs," was the reply. There is a word for pastors in that reply. "If I was to repeat my ministry," said an aged pastor, "I would give my chief attention to the young." Says Dr. Rainsford: "We must put our strength into work among the children. We cannot do much with the people over twenty-five years old. The only way to do is to build the children into a church."