

THE PRESBYTERY OF HONAN.

EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING IN JUNE.

HSIN CHEN,

June 2nd, 1892.

At Hsin Chen in the Province of Honan, and within the clerks house there, on Thursday the second day of June, 1892, at 7 p.m., a regular meeting of the Presbytery was held.

There were present, J. F. Smith, M.D., M. MacKenzie, J. H. MacVicar, ministers; W. McClure, M.D., elder.

A letter was read from Rev. J. Macdougall, reporting to Presbytery his return to Canada, and inclosing a duplicate copy of a certificate signed by two medical men in Tientsin, who express the opinion that an immediate change of climate is absolutely necessary for the preservation of Mrs. Macdougall's life.

The Presbytery adopted a resolution of tender sympathy with their brother, part of which is as follows:—"Whereas the protracted and serious illness of his wife, has made it necessary for the Rev. John Macdougall, B.A., a member of this court, to lay aside his work as a missionary and return to Canada, we would hereby express our deep sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Macdougall,"

our "sense of loss at the removal of Mr. Macdougall at so early a date from the field of labor," * * * "Though now removed from China, we trust that a door of usefulness will soon be opened to him in Canada, and that he may direct the thoughts of many there to the claims which China's unevangelized millions have on the gifts, the sympathies, and the prayers of God's servants in the Dominion."

Dr. McClure reported from Chu Wang, that since last meeting of Presbytery, Messrs. Goforth and MacGillivray, accompanied by the native helpers had made frequent and protracted tours, in the course of which all the Hsien cities in the Chang-teh-Fu District, not previously explored, were visited, besides others where they had been before. In all these places and in many market towns, they had abundant opportunities for sowing the seed. They also spent a number of days at the great fair at Hsun Hsien preaching and selling books to the crowds that annually repair thither from a wide region to worship.

On April 29th Mr. Goforth left Chu Wang for the coast to spend the summer months.

The medical work since last report has shown a slight improvement both in the numbers treated and the increasing confidence of the people, but there is still much to be desired in these respects.

Mr. McVicar reported that after the meeting in January, he had proceeded, in company with Mr. MacKenzie to Hsin-Chen. They attempted touring to surrounding points but repeated annoyances and disturbances in the market town itself interrupted this outside work.

They found, however, that owing to the favorable situation of the compound, and the steady stream of patients who came to be treated by Dr. Smith, good audiences gathered daily in the street chapel.

On the 27th of February, in the midst of a large fair, an attack was made on the mission premises which at first threatened to prove serious. Broken bricks were thrown through the street windows, and over the roof into the compound, and a persistent attempt was made for over an hour to smash the street doors.

A combination of circumstances led to a cessation of these hostilities, and for five hours thereafter, the members of the mission stood in front of the main entrance, till the ten thousand persons, said to be on the main street, dispersed. Whenever an attempt was made to reopen the hostilities, friendly neighbors effectually interfered.

Shortly after this Mr. McVicar went to Lin-Ch'ing, and returned with a good load of lumber for finishing repairs.

A few days before his arrival, a series of riots occurred, occasioned by stories, attributing the withholding of rain to the presence of foreigners. An oath was taken in an adjoining temple to boycott both the foreigners and all natives in their employ, and prevent them from securing food or water.

On Tuesday, April 12th, a mob gathered in the rear of the compound and threw bricks and stones over the wall into the yard. Dr. Smith and Mr. MacKenzie went out personally to remonstrate, and succeeded in dispersing the crowd.

Next day Mr. MacKenzie visited Hsun Hsien to appeal for protection. A new Mandarin who has come to office promised to issue a proclamation. Before there were any signs of the fulfillment of this promise, on the following day, another mob gathered in the rear of the compound, and with still greater boldness than before, sent in a shower of missiles. The Missionaries again went out to remonstrate, but found the ring-leaders this time less amenable to reason. They finally, however, prevailed upon the rioters to withdraw, and not half an hour later a proclamation arrived and was posted up in the temple where the disturbances had been plotted. Subsequently, the Mandarin issued special orders to the local constables and gentry to prevent a recurrence of such disturbances. There have not been any of a serious nature since.

The daily attendance in the street chapel has kept up well, and patients continue to come in large numbers and from considerable distances. There have been several important operations in which Dr. McClure has assisted.

In May, Dr. Smith and Mr. MacKenzie visited Lin Ch'ing to move in their household effects, and during their absence Dr. McClure took charge of the medical work.